

THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

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Minutes of a Regular Meeting of THE PORTSMOUTH LODGE NO 487

Held at the Masonic Hall, Queen's Road, Fareham, on Friday 16th October 2026

1 Opening

The meeting was opened by the WM W Bro Joshua Letzer at 6.40 p.m.

PRESENT: There were present: 14 Officers, Past Masters, 3 Member & 0 Visitors

APOLOGIES: W Bros: M Childs, Andy Morris, Kevin Hunt, Pete Ambrose, A Bentley, H Bownes, B Blackman, Chris Ford & D Jenkins, Bros: Bobby Letzer & Andrew Spottiswood

2 Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 25th September 2026 were confirmed by the brethren and approved by W Bro Joshua Letzer

3 To Receive Official Guests

Unfortunately, the brethren from Dorking Lodge No 1149 were unable to travel down and gave their apologies.

4 To Call Off – the Lodge was Called Off in due form

5 To Perform the 1st Degree Tracing Board Lecture

The WM and Officers then gave the Lecture was found interesting to those present and it was a shame that we had a number of brethren unable to attend this evening. The Lecture will be added to the website for those who want a copy.

6 To Call On – the Lodge was Called On in due form

7 To Read Correspondence

The Secretary advised that all correspondence had been sent to the Brethren

8 The Almoner Report

W Bro Gareth provided an electronic copy of his report which is available on the website. He did however, mention:

- Barry Filer had been in Hospital again but was present with us this evening.
- He had spoken to Howard and wished him and Dot well. She has been in hospital but home again now
- That he had been informed of the sad Passings of Bro Ed Watkin and W Bro Chris Russell
- He then gave details of the funeral for Bro Ed which will be at Portchester Crematorium on Monday 2nd November at 10.45 then after at Cams Mill (1 mile away). All brethren are welcome but please advise W Bro Andy Dollery so he can collate numbers. In addition his widow, Sheils, asked for flowers from Family members only or donations to Dementia Support Hampshire – Eastleigh Branch and PLEASE mention 'In Memory of Ed'

9 The Charity Stewards Report

The Charity Steward, Bro Mike Crick advised that a copy of his report was on the website. He did however, mention that:

- Festival figure was £22432: 95% to Silver Award
- Charity £1874 of which £490 is earmarked for the Masters Charity
- Relief Chest has £1983
- There is a Box in the Bar for the Scratch Charity if Brethren want to give wrapped/unopened presents for Children this Christmas

10 Proposition to Donate £250 to Connors Toy Library

The Charity Steward Proposed that the sum of £250 be donated to Connors Toy Library which was seconded by W Bro Bob Cullen and passed unanimously by a show of hands.

11 To Collect Alms

The Alms collection raised £ 19.30 which will be donated to the Almoners Fund.

12 AOB

The Secretary then asked the WM to take the apologies as read to which he agreed. He then reminded the brethren of the **next GP Meeting was at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 2nd November followed by a rehearsal at 8.00 pm. The next Lodge Meeting is on Friday 27th November**

RISINGS

The WM rose for the first time and there were no further communications from Grand Lodge.

The WM rose for the second time and there were no further communications from Provincial Grand Lodge.

Due to a family bereavement our Brother VO was unable to attend but sent his apologies and wished everyone a good evening.

The WM rose for the third time and thanked those who had stood in for absent officers and taken part in the lecture.

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:

The LMO W Bro Roger Barnard mentioned that unfortunately we had to cancel the meeting with our 3 prospective candidates but they were still interested and this would be picked up again at a later date. He then gave a short address to our new made Brother Stephen Burt and presented him with the Lodge 175th Booklet and badge of the first meeting place.

The Charity Steward Bro Mike Crick gave a notice of motion that at the next meeting he would propose a sum not exceeding £250 be taken from the Charity Account and given to Lifehouse Portsmouth

The Treasurer rose to give a Notice of Motion that he would propose that the Subscriptions for 2027 would rise by £10 to £205 from 1st January 2027. Country members will be advised of the new fee but likely to be £185.

Lastly, W Bro Gareth Manson rose to advise that he had been tasked with organising a Xmas event for Portsmouth Chapter and floated the idea of having a Joint ‘Stand Up Sit Down’ Carols evening after our Lodge Meeting on 18th December. The Brethren thought this was a great idea and hoped we could get sufficient interest to make our usual White Table evening worthwhile. W Bro Gareth would distribute a flyer for occasion.

The Secretary then advised that he had sent the invitation to our Xmas evening to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and hoped they would come along. The evening would be The Portsmouth Lodge & The Portsmouth Chapter with The Portsmouth Lord Mayor and The Portsmouth Band. A truly special evening.

W Bro Barry Filer thanked W Bro Gareth for trying to arrange this joint venture.

13 Closing

The Lodge was closed at 19.55 pm and the first verse of the National Anthem was sung followed by the closing ode. brethren afterwards dined with their guests where the raffle raised £75.00 .

Worshipful MasterSecretary.....

Date: