

Minutes of the Regular meeting of Alwarestoch Lodge 7805, held on 14th February 2024

1. The lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Stuart Aitkenhead, at 18.54hrs.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8th November 2023, having been circulated electronically, and no comments or clarifications having been received, were put to the Brethren for confirmation, and duly passed by a show of hands.
3. There were no Grand Officers present. The salute to Province was given by Bro Roland Joseph.
4. There were no matters arising. There was no Correspondence. Apologies were heard from: W. Bro's Paul Speak, Robbie Harbert, Paul Adams, Tom Aitkenhead, and Bro's Mark Proud, Steven Spillett, Martin Docherty, and Ed Dade.
5. This item was to be the raising of Bro Steven Spillett to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, but having received his apologies for his absence, a demonstration of a 3rd degree ceremony was carried out.

W. Bro Mikey Abban took the chair of King Solomon and commenced with the ceremony, opening into the 2nd degree. There were no entered apprentice to retire. As there was no candidate, Bro Steve Jayne kindly stood in and was perambulated around. W. Bro Malcolm Berry asked the questions before raising, which Bro Peter Turnbull as Junior Deacon answered as if prompting the candidate.

After having invited all fellowcraft to retire from the Lodge until recalled, the Worshipful Master opened the Lodge in the 3rd degree. The exhortation and explanations, were carried out by W. Bro's Cyril Davey, Maurice freeman, and Chris Vaughan, in an excellent and informative manner.

After having been entrusted with the signs and secrets of the degree, the candidate figuratively retired and restored himself to his personal comforts. On his return, he was invested with the distinguishing badge of a Master mason by Brother Roland Joseph. W. Bro's Gerry Mansell, and Bryan Aitkenhead, then gave an excellent explanation of the 3rd degree tracing board. W. Bro Gerry then presented the working tools of the degree. The ceremony being complete, the acting Worshipful Master carried out the full closing from the 3rd degree to the 2nd, and all fellowcraft were invited back into the Lodge. He then invited W. Bro Stuart Aitkenhead to resume his place as Master. W. Bro Stuart then proceeded to carry out the full closing from the 2nd to the 1st degree.

6. A notice of motion was put to the Brethren, to confirm a proposal to donate an amount of £900 split between three charities. The Elson Library community space, The Elizabeth Foundation, and the St Faiths community hub, had all been put forward and proposed at the General-Purpose committee meeting.

This proposal was passed by a show of hands in the Lodge.

7. The Visiting Officer, W. Bro Mike Izzard, kindly gave a presentation of two Grand Lodge certificates to Bro's Steve Jayne, and Terry Coatsworth. His explanation of the certificates, was very informative.
8. As the Treasurer was absent, and his report having been circulated electronically, W. Bro Chris Vaughan stood in for him, and gave a brief overview of the accounts. He also expressed his gratitude to W. Bro Paul Speak for having taken over the position of Treasurer. Thanks were recorded to W. Bro Chris, for his years of service as treasurer previously.

The Almoner, Bro Terry Coatsworth, had received a card from Margeret Page thanking the Lodge for her Christmas card and gift. He also said that he had sent a card of condolence and

some flowers on behalf of the Lodge to Pennie Goddard after the passing of W. Bro Derek Goddard to the Grand Lodge above. The Charity Steward, W. Bro Bryan Aitkenhead, asked the Brethren to submit ideas for this years charitable giving, and suggested the Lodge should try and achieve its silver award from the Masonic festival.

The Lodge of instruction Preceptor, W. Bro Cyril Davey, thanked the brethren for their continuing support for the rehearsals and instruction nights. He said he was pleased with the progress that was being made in the ritual.

W. Bro Sydney Ainsworth as a representative of the Gosport Masonic hall company, gave an update on the ongoing upgrades to the hall, and said that the financial situation was improving after a new supplier to the bar was secured, and also the costs of running the hall were coming down to more sustainable levels.

9. There was nothing from Province on the first rising.

There was nothing from Grand Lodge on the second rising.

On the third rising, the Worshipful Master thanked everybody who has taken part in the ceremony, and also W. Bro Ray Matelko for his organ music.

W. Bro Sydney Ainsworth, then stood and took the Brethren to task for leaving the Lodge tools and regalia in the temple after the meeting had ended. He asked that more care be taken, and that some Brethren would stay behind and pack the Temple properly, so that the Lodge equipment was not lost.

10. The labours of the evening having ended, the Worshipful Master closed the Lodge in Peace Love & Harmony at 21.00hrs.

Worshipful Master

Secretary