

Minutes of the Alwarestoch general purposes committee
meeting held on Friday 24th January 2025

1. The Worshipful Master, W. Bro Terry Coatsworth, opened the meeting at 19.00hrs.
2. The minutes of the previous GP meeting, having been circulated to the Brethren electronically, were put to the committee for confirmation, and were duly passed by a show of hands.
3. There was correspondence from Province, stating that the Solent Area Chairman, W. Bro Clive Dobson, wished to attend the regular meeting in February, in order to present a 50 year certificate to a Brother in the Lodge. Apologies were heard from W. Bro's Stuart Aitkenhead, Tom Aitkenhead and Mikey Abban, and Bro Terry O' Shea.
4. The arrangements for the February meeting were discussed. The Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro Cyril Davey, asked that all officers and members taking part in the ceremony attend rehearsals, and if they could not attend, to please contact him and let him know, so that other arrangements could be made. It was also decided that the assembled brethren at the meeting would be asked not to prompt during the ritual, as this has proved to be off putting to the people taking part. There would be one designated prompter during the ceremony. Following the success of previous meeting where the

ritual has been shared out between several members, it was decided to continue with this format.

The Worshipful Master will open the Lodge, take any matters arising & correspondence, and appoint and invest his officers not present at the installation meeting. W. Bro Gerry Mansell will then take the chair of King Solomon to continue the ceremony. The charge after initiation will be split between W. Bro's Bryan Aitkenhead, and Maurice Freeman.

5. The preliminary arrangements for the April meeting were discussed. There is the possibility that following a successful ballot, there will be an initiation. If this is the case, the ritual format will be the same as for the February meeting. There will also be an official Provincial visit, details of which will follow.
6. Under the heading of reports:
The Treasurer, W. Bro Paul Speak, briefed the committee on his ongoing conversations with Province regarding the Lodge accounts. Based on these conversations, and after taking advice from the Provincial Treasurer, he is recommending that the Lodge opens a relief chest account within the MCF for any charity money held by the Lodge, as this would be administered by Grand Lodge for free, and would alleviate any bank charges on the charity money. (A detailed proposal sheet is included in the minute book.) The proposal was put to a ballot by the members present, and was duly passed by a unanimous show of hands.
7. Any Other Business:

The Dining Secretary, Bro Ed Dade, asked that more of the Brethren donated prizes for the raffle at the festive board, as it seemed to be the same few members who did, and the prize pool was quite poor.

W. Bro Maurice Freeman reminded the Brethren that there is to be a Lodge visit to Kawan Lodge in Fareham on 26th March, and that if enough Alwarestoch members attended, the Lodge could claim the Travelling Gavel. He also gave an update on the Lodge website, and said that he now had the capacity within it to send out group emails to the members. He has also been paying the hosting fee for the website, and asked if he could be reimbursed for this.

Worshipful Master

Secretary