

Minutes of the regular meeting of Alwarestoch Lodge  
Held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

1. The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Mikey Abban, at 18.40hrs.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023, having been circulated to the Brethren, were put to a vote, and duly confirmed.
3. The Greeting to the Provincial Grand Master, was given by W. Bro Cyril Davey. The Worshipful master gave greetings to all the other visitors, both official and private.
4. There were no matters arising. Apologies were heard from; W. Bro's David Cousins, Paul speak, Maurice Freeman, and Tom Aitkenhead.
5. The Provincial Grand Master, R W Jonathan Whitaker, kindly presented a Grand Lodge certificate to Bro Ed Dade.
6. Before the ceremony of passing for Bro Steven Spillett could commence, the usual question were put to him, which he answered with confidence and in an excellent manner.  
After having received the password leading to the second degree from the worshipful Master, Bro spillett retired from the Lodge to be prepared for the ceremony, while the Lodge was opened in the second degree. On his return, the Deacons directed Bro Steven in good order throughout the ceremony. After having taken the solemn obligation, the Worshipful Master entrusted Bro Spillett with the secrets of the degree. After the Senior Warden, Bro Stuart Aitkenhead, had invested Bro Steven with the distinguishing badge of a Fellow craft Freemason, W. Bro Jason Davey gave an explanation of the working tools of the second degree. After having retired to restore his personal comforts, and after his return to the Lodge, Bro Steven was given an excellent explanation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree tracing board, by W. Bro Gerry Mansell.

On concluding the ceremony of passing, the Worshipful Master closed the Lodge using the full closing ritual.

7. The Secretary announced that the only nominations for the positions of Worshipful Master and Treasurer for the forthcoming year, are Bro Stuart Aitkenhead as Master, and W. Bro Paul Speak as Treasurer. As no other nominations were forthcoming, according to rule 105 in the book of constitutions, it is the intention to declare these worthy Brother's elected.

8. W. Bro Sydney Aynsworth in his capacity as a representative of the Gosport Masonic Hall company, had given a report at the previous GP committee meeting, in which it was mentioned that the other Lodges in the Masonic centre had voted to lend the GMH a sum of money to cover the losses and shortfalls caused by the covid pandemic, and the increasing running cost incurred.

It was decided at that GP meeting, that Alwarestoch Lodge should also offer a loan of £1000 to help cover the costs. The motion was put to the members of the Lodge by W. Bro Chris Vaughan, and was seconded by W. Bro Jason Davey. The Worshipful Master put the motion to the Brethren and it was passed unanimously with a show of hands.

9. The Treasurer's report had been circulated electronically to the members, but W. Bro Chris gave a brief overview, and Proposed that the yearly subscription be increased from £150, to £170 in order to cover increasing costs, and ensure the financial future of the Lodge. The motion was seconded by W. Bro Paul Speak. It was also his sad duty to inform the Lodge, that at the next regular meeting, a member would have to be excluded for non payment of the subscription. The Almoner, Bro Terry Coatsworth, informed the Lodge that he had visited Sushia Phillpot, and delivered some flowers to her, and said that she was in good spirits. He also informed the Lodge of the sad passing of Joan Thyson, another Lodge widow.

The Charity Steward, W. Bro Bryan Aitkenhead, informed the Lodge that we are just £100 short of achieving the Bronze award for the Masonic Grand charity. It is hoped that figure will be reached by the next regular meeting.

The L.O.I preceptor, W. Bro Cyril Davey, reported that rehearsals and Lodge of instruction's had been going very well, and he thanked the past Masters going along and giving there assistance.

10. On the first rising, there was nothing further from Grand Lodge.

On the second rising, the Provincial Grand Master congratulated W. Bro Sydney Aynsworth on having achieved 70 years in Freemasonry. He presented him with a framed certificate, and a lapel badge. He also took the unusual step of giving a field promotion, and promoted W. Bro Sydney to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden, with immediate effect. The visiting officer W. Bro Mike Izzard, gave a report on the Grand Lodge charity festival, and spoke about the need for a membership pathway in Freemasonry.

On the third rising, the Worshipful Master thanked all the members who had taken part in the ceremony, he thanked the Provincial Grand Master for attending to honour W. Bro Sydney, and he thanked all the guests for attending the meeting.

11. Having concluded the business of the evening, the Worshipful Master closed the Lodge in peace, love, and harmony at 20.30hrs.