

Minutes of the Regular meeting of Alwarestoch
Lodge held on 10th April 2024

1. The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Stuart Aitkenhead, at 18.47hrs.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th February, having been circulated electronically to the Brethren, were put by the Worshipful Master for confirmation, and were duly confirmed by a show of hands.
3. There being a Grand officer present in the person of W. Bro Ray Bezani PAGESuptWks, a salute to Grand Lodge was given by W. Bro Cyril Davey. A salute to Provincial officers present, was given by Bro Roland Joseph.
4. There were no matters arising or correspondence under this item. Apologies were heard from W. Bro Tom Aitkenhead, and Bro's Mark Proud, Martin Docherty, & John Wilson.
5. After enquiring whether any brother sought advancement, and inviting all entered apprentice Masons to retire from the lodge until recalled, the W. Master opened the Lodge in the 2nd degree. W. Bro Malcolm Berry proceeded to put the questions before raising, to Bro Steven Spillett. Bro Steven made an excellent effort answering the questions, only requiring a couple of prompts.
At this point, W. Bro Mikey Abban took the chair of King Solomon, and having asked all fellowcraft to retire from

the Lodge until recalled, proceeded to entrust Bro Steven with the password and pass grip leading to the degree into which he sought admission. After Bro Steven retired from the Lodge to be prepared for the ceremony of raising, the acting Worshipful Master opened the Lodge in the 3rd degree.

Having been prepared for the ceremony, Bro Steven returned to the Lodge and was conducted by the Senior Warden, Bro Peter Turnbull, and assisted by the Junior Warden, W. Bro Malcolm Berry.

The ceremony of raising was commenced with.

On completion of the ceremony, Bro Steven retired from the Lodge to restore himself to his personal comforts, and on his return, was presented with an explanation of the traditional history of the degree, by W. Bro Bryan Aitkenhead. The working tools of the degree were presented by W. Bro Gerry Mansell.

The acting Worshipful Master proceeded to carry out full closing ritual, from the 3rd to the 2nd degree, ably assisted by the Senior Warden, Bro Roland Joseph, and the Director of ceremonies, W. Bro Cyril Davey. He then handed the gavel back to the Worshipful Master, who then resumed his seat in the chair of King Solomon.

The Worshipful Master asked the senior officers to stand, and with their assistance, closed the Lodge in the 2nd degree, and resumed it in the 1st. He then continued with the agenda.

6. Having circulated his report to the Brethren electronically, the Treasurer, W. Bro Paul Speak, gave a concise and brief overview of the Lodge accounts. The Almoner, Bro Terry Coatsworth, informed the Lodge that the funeral of Grace Merit, one of the Lodge widows, was taking place, and that he would be sending flowers on behalf of the Lodge, and that a sum of £25 would be donated to cancer research, as requested by the family.

The Charity Steward, W. Bro Bryan Aitkenhead, asked for as many Brethren as possible to attend the upcoming charity cheque presentation event at the Fareham Masonic hall. He also asked the brethren for more ideas for future charitable giving.

The Lodge of instruction Preceptor, W. Bro Cyril Davey, thanked the Brethren for their continued attendance at Lodge of instruction, and the rehearsals before meetings. He said good progress was being made, and the ritual in the Lodge is improving as a result.

7. There was nothing from Grand Lodge on the 1st rising. There was nothing further from Provincial Grand Lodge on the 2nd rising.

On the 3rd rising, the Worshipful Master thanked all the officers who took part in the ceremony, and W. Bro Ray Metelko for his excellent organ accompaniment. He also thanked all private and official guests for their attendance.

On this rising, the Treasurer asked that the Master put to a vote, the proposal discussed at the last General

Purposes committee meeting, that the Lodge adopt electronic payments both into and out of the Lodge accounts, as defined in the book of constitutions rule 153(A). This would streamline the paying of Grand Lodge returns and other Lodge expenses and reduce the reliance on cheques. The Worshipful Master put the proposal to a vote, and the motion was passed by a unanimous show of hands.

8. After having enquired whether any Brother had any other business to conduct, the Worshipful Master closed the Lodge in Peace Love & Harmony, at 20.55hrs.

Worshipful Master

Secretary