

Minutes of the regular meeting of Alwarestoch Lodge 7805 held on Wednesday 8 February 2023

- 1 The Lodge was opened by the Worshipful Master, W Bro. Michael Abban, at 1845
- 2 The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 were put to the brethren and confirmed by a show of hands
- 3 There was no correspondence nor matters arising. Apologies were heard from W Bros Dale Collins, Jason Davey and Bryan Aitkenhead
- 4 Grand Officer present W Bro Ray Bezani. Provincial Officer present W Bro Mike Izzard (VO). The salute to Grand Lodge was led by W Bro Cyril Davey(?) and the salute to Province by Bro Roland Joseph(?)
- 5 The WM enquired whether any brethren desired advancement and Bros John Wilson and Martin Docherty indicated that they did. The answers to the required questions were given by both brothers in an excellent manner, and they both retired from the Lodge to prepare. The WM then opened the Lodge in the 2nd Degree at 1910, and both candidates were readmitted to the Lodge at 1915. They progressed eagerly(!) through the ceremony; an excellent explanation of the 2nd Degree Working Tools was given by W Bro Chris Vaughan, then both candidates retired from the Lodge to attend to their personal comforts. They were then readmitted to the Lodge at 2005 and the explanation of the 2nd degree tracing board was given by W Bro Gerry Mansell in an exemplary fashion. Bros Wilson and Docherty were then placed in the Southeast of the Lodge. The WM then resumed the Lodge in the 1st Degree
- 6 Reports
 - 6.1 Treasurer: W Bro Chris Vaughan gave his report and explained to the Lodge how the Energy Surcharge was to be levied. He also encouraged the brethren to ensure that their Lodge subscriptions were paid in a timely fashion. W Bro Syd Aynsworth updated the Lodge on the Energy Surcharge in his capacity as Management Committee Lodge Representative(?)
 - 6.2 Almoner: Bro Terry Coatsworth updated the Lodge on two of the Lodge Widows and advised Bro Stuart Aitkenhead that he would be contacting W Bro Bryan Aitkenhead within a few days
 - 6.3 Charity Steward: There was no report from W Bro Bryan as he had been taken ill shortly before the meeting. W Bro Ray Bezani informed the Lodge that £8900 had been banked for the Lodge for the Festival and that a bronze award was achievable (*Jason, I don't think I correctly noted the remaining figure - £10, 500 seems a great deal to be telling us that the bronze is "in our sights"!*)
 - 6.4 LOI: The Preceptor, W Bro Cyril Davey, congratulated the team on an excellent ceremony and on attendance at the recent rehearsals, and encouraged all brethren to attend future LOIs
 - 6.5 The WM took the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Risings. There was no correspondence from Grand Lodge or Province. On the 2nd Rising, W Bro Ray Bezani told the Lodge that the Member Survey carried out recently was now closed and that the results were being collated and examined and the findings would be disseminated to in due course. The VO, W Bro Mike Izzard, advised that there was to be a cheque presentation in May, and further information would be sent out shortly; he also advised that there was to be a "Dine a Friend" at Fareham Masonic Hall on 31 March 2023. On the 3rd Rising, the WM thanked W Bro Ray Metalco for his wonderful organ music during the ceremony, he also thanked the team for the ceremony and additionally thanked those brethren who had stepped in at the last minute to make the ceremony a success.
- 7 The WM closed the Lodge in Love, Peace and Harmony at 2045