

Lodge of
Stability

No. 564

BY-LAWS

Copyright Worcestershire Masonic
Library and Museum Trust

BY-LAWS

Adopted by Resolution in Open Lodge
18th December, 1974

1. PLACE AND DATE OF MEETING.

The Lodge shall meet at the Talbot Hotel, Stourbridge and shall hold regular meetings on the fourth Tuesday in January, February, March, April, September, October and November and on the third Wednesday in December, at such hour as the Master may direct.

2. ELECTION OF MASTER, TREASURER, TYLER, INSTALLATION MEETING.

The Master and the Treasurer shall be elected by ballot at the Regular Meeting in December. Subject to the provisions of Rule 113, Book of Constitutions, the Tyler shall also at that Meeting be elected by show of hands. The Master-Elect shall be installed at the Regular Meeting in January.

3. LODGE COMMITTEE.

The Lodge Committee shall consist of the Master, Wardens, Subscribing Past Masters of and in the Lodge, Treasurer, Secretary and two other

Members to be elected annually by the Lodge at the Regular Meeting in December. This Committee shall consider and report to the Lodge on all proposals for membership and on any matters specially referred to it by the Lodge. Five members of the Committee shall form a quorum.

4. AUDIT COMMITTEE.

The Audit Committee shall consist of three Members of the Lodge who shall be elected annually by the Lodge at the Regular Meeting in December. The accounts shall be made up to 31st December in each year and shall be presented to the Lodge duly audited at the Regular Meeting in February. A copy of the accounts and of the Audit Committee's certificate that all balances have been checked and that the accounts have been audited, shall be sent to each Member with the summons convening the meeting.

5. ADMISSION OF CANDIDATES.

Any person desiring to become a Member of the Lodge shall notify the Secretary in writing on the prescribed form. Such communication shall be

considered by the Lodge Committee. The admission of candidates for initiation and joining shall be regulated by the provisions of Rules 157 to 166, Book of Constitutions. A Brother desirous of becoming a Joining Member must first have been received as a Visitor at Banquet. On the ballot for a candidate for initiation or joining, three negative balls shall exclude and disqualify for twelve months.

6. FEES AND ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS, ETC.

(a) Initiation, Joining, Re-joining.

The Initiation fee shall be sixteen pounds; the joining fee twelve pounds; the re-joining fee three pounds; such fees to be exclusive of the current annual subscription.

(b) Annual Membership.

The annual subscriptions, the visitors' fees and dining supplements shall be such amounts as the Lodge shall from time to time determine by resolution after notice on the summons. The Master shall have the privilege of inviting to each meeting four visitors and the Secretary one visitor free of the visitors' fee. Subscriptions become

payable in advance on January 1st annually. Candidates commencing membership of the Lodge at the Regular January, February, March or April meetings shall be liable for the full year's annual subscription. For those commencing at the September, October, November or December meetings, the subscription shall be levied at half the full rate for the year.

The Secretary's services shall, if he so desire, be deemed equivalent to payment of subscription.

(c) Non-dining Membership

Any Member who, for reasons acceptable to the Lodge, is not in a position to enjoy the privileges of the Lodge regularly, may on written application to the Secretary and by resolution of the Lodge be considered a "non-dining member" until such time as the resolution is revoked and shall pay HALF the full current member's annual subscription. When attending the Lodge and dining, such non-dining member shall pay the current Non-dining Members' dining fee.

(d) Non-payment of annual subscription.

Any Member whose subscription is unpaid for one year shall be liable to

be excluded from the Lodge, after due notice, in accordance with Rule 181 Book of Constitutions.

7. RESIGNATION PROCEDURE.

A Member desirous of terminating his membership of the Lodge shall tender his resignation in writing to the Secretary, or orally in open Lodge, in accordance with Rule 183 Book of Constitutions and he shall be entitled to the certificate mentioned in Rule 175 Book of Constitutions, stating the circumstances in which he left the Lodge. Should he at any future time wish to rejoin, he shall be subject to the rules relating to Joining Members.

8. BANKING PROCEDURE.

All monies received on behalf of the Lodge shall be paid into the Lodge Bank account and all payments on behalf of the Lodge shall be made by cheques drawn on that account, such cheques being signed by both the Treasurer and one other Member authorised by the Lodge.

9. LIMITATION ON UNAUTHORISED PAYMENTS.

Payment of any sum exceeding £20, if for other than ordinary purposes, may be made only by resolution of the Lodge, of which notice has been given on the summons, except in a case of emergency, when such payment may be authorised by the Master and reported to the Lodge at the next Regular meeting.

10. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS.

Except as otherwise required by Rule 141 Book of Constitutions, amendment of these By-laws, or any of them may be made only in the following manner:—

(a) Notice of motion in writing stating the precise amendment or amendments proposed shall be given in open Lodge at a Regular Meeting.

(b) The motion shall be set out in the summons for the next Regular Meeting, or for an Emergency Meeting summoned for the purpose and shall at such meeting be put to the Lodge.

(c) A resolution for amendment, of which notice shall have been given as

aforesaid, shall be carried if a majority of the Members voting shall vote in favour of it, but it shall not be effective until approved by the Provincial Grand Master and by the Grand Master.

Should there be any objection to the introduction of a candidate for initiation, or a Brother for joining, it is recommended that such objection be mentioned privately to the Master or Secretary who may communicate with the proposer and give him the opportunity of withdrawing his candidate.

APPROVED :-

F. N. GRIFFITHS, O.St.J.,
Provincial Grand Master
for Worcestershire.

APPROVED by the M.W. Grand Master.

J. W. STUBBS,
Grand Secretary.

22nd January, 1975.