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# BYE-LAWS

OF THE

## VERNON LODGE,

NO 819,

HELD AT DUDLEY.

1862  

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No 560  

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DUDLEY:

ALICE BOGLE, PRINTER, WOLVERHAMPTON-STREET,

1856.

## LIST OF OFFICERS.

1856-7.

BRO. THE REV. A. G. DAVIES, (M.A.),	P.M., 730.,
And Prov. G. Chaplain	. . . . . W.M.
„ „ J. H. ILES, (M.A.)	. . . . . P.M.
„ GEORGE HENRY DEELEY, P.M., 838,	S.W.
„ ELLIOTT HOLLIER, P.M. 213	. . . . . J.W.
„ THE REV. E. A. GWYNNE, (M.A.),	P.M. 435,
And P. G. C. Staffordshire	. . . . . CHAPLAIN.
„ WILLIAM THIMINS	. . . . . TREA.
„ WILLIAM WIGGINTON	. . . . . SEC.
„ ZEPHANIAH B. SMITH	. . . . . S.D.
„ BENJAMIN BAGLEY	. . . . . J.D.
„ GEORGE B. LOWE	. . . . . M.C.
„ WILLIAM FINCH	. . . . . ORG.
„	STEWARD,
„ HENRY C. ROPER	. . . . . I.G.
„ JAMES JEFFS	. . . . . TYLER.

## LIST OF OFFICERS,

1857-8.

W.M.

P.M.

S.W.

J.W.

CHAPLAIN.

TREA.

SEC.

S.D.

J.D.

M.C.

ORG.

STEWARD.

I.G.

TYLER.

## LIST OF OFFICERS,

1858-9.

W.M.

P.M.

S.W.

J.W.

CHAPLAIN.

TREA.

SEC.

S.D.

J.D.

M.C.

ORG.

STEWARD.

I.G.

TYLER.

LIST OF OFFICERS,  
1859-60.

W.M.

P.M.

S.W.

J.W.

CHAPLAIN.

TREA.

SEC.

S.D.

J.D.

M.C.

ORG.

STEWARD.

I.G.

TYLER.

## BYE LAWS.



- Title &c. I. That this Lodge be henceforth entitled  
"The Vernon Lodge."
- Time and Place of Meeting &c. II. That this Lodge shall meet regularly at the  
"OLD TOWN HALL," in DUDLEY, upon the third  
Wednesday in each month, at six o'Clock in the evening,  
or at such other hour as the W. M. for the time being  
may decide.
- Lodge of Emergency. III. That it shall be competent for the W. M., or  
in his absence the S. W., or in his absence the J. W. upon  
the requisition of any two members of this lodge, to sum-  
mon a "LODGE OF EMERGENCY," for which  
purpose seven clear days notice shall be given by circular to  
each of the members, stating the object of such meeting;  
and the party for whose convenience (if of a personal  
nature) the lodge is summoned, shall pay towards the  
expenses incurred the sum of ten shillings.
- Property and Insurance. IV. That the furniture and all other property shall  
be insured in some Fire Office to be approved by the  
Lodge, and for such sum as may from time to time be  
determined.
- Clothing, Badges, Jewels, &c. V. That every Brother shall appear in dark clothing,  
and with the necessary badges, jewels, &c. pertaining to  
his rank as a Craft Mason.

Ballot.

VI. That all questions in any way affecting this Lodge, shall be brought before it in due form, and, if required, shall be decided by ballot, for which purpose a ballot box shall always be kept in the lodge, the following method determining each question:—for “Ordinary business,” a simple majority of black or white balls, the W. M. having an additional, or “casting vote.”

In the proposal of Candidates, or “Joining Members,” vide B. C., page 80, in the 1855 edition.

Intermediate  
Committee  
Meeting.

VII. That an intermediate Committee Meeting of the members of this lodge shall be held between the regular lodge nights, without the customary lodge furniture or formalities, to discuss all matters relating to projected lodge business, or in which the lodge has any interest, and to frame such recommendations to the lodge as may be deemed expedient, and especially to receive the names of any candidates for “Initiation” or for “Joining” previous to such candidates being proposed in open lodge; to confer with the intended “Proposer” and “Secunder” on these occasions, and to determine upon such course of proceeding as shall be considered most expedient, by reference to a ballot or show of hands.

Election of  
Officers.

VIII. That the election of the W. M., Treasurer, and Tyler, shall take place annually, by ballot, at the regular meetings in August.

The Installation and Investiture of the W. M. (in due form, and according to immemorial usage of the Craft) at the next following meeting in September; upon which latter occasion, the W. M., having been properly installed, shall forthwith invest the Treasurer and Tyler, and appoint and invest his other Officers.



It is however, hereby, and specially appointed that the Installation of the first W. M. of the "Vernon Lodge" shall take place on the Third Wednesday in the month of September, A.D. 1856, A.L. 5860, that being the day set apart by the Provincial Grand Master for performing that Ceremony.

Mode of Election.

IX. The mode of electing the W.M., Treasurer, and Tyler, shall be, as above ordered, by Ballot, a simple majority of the members present being required for the latter Officers, and three fourths for the W.M.

Master and Wardens.

X. The W.M., his Wardens, and Officers, generally pledge themselves individually and collectively to a strict and regular attendance to the duties of the Lodge at the time appointed in the summons for each meeting, unless prevented by inevitable and urgent causes, to adhere rigidly to the provisions of the law for enforcing fines as herein-after mentioned, and generally to act up to, and enforce the Eye Laws in their application to the interests of this Lodge.

Treasurer.

XI. The Treasurer shall keep a strict, clear, and distinct account of all receipts and disbursements, and during the term of his appointment produce the same, together with all vouchers, or papers, as often as may be required by the lodge, submit annually, or as often as may be deemed necessary, such a Financial Statement to the Auditors, for their inspection, as may be satisfactory to them, and finally surrender all such books, papers, vouchers, cash balance, &c. to his successor at the close of the financial year of this Lodge. He is on no account to make any disbursements, unless the same shall have been approved

in open Lodge, and the order for payment countersigned by the W.M., except in cases where the signature of the W.M. shall be deemed sufficient, or upon receipt of an order for any payment under the amount of £1. from the duly appointed examining officer of this lodge to any distressed Brother.

Secretary.

XII. The Secretary shall make returns to the Clerk of the peace before the 25th of March in each year. He shall likewise keep constantly for the inspection of the Brethren a Tabular Statement of the Subscribing Members of the Lodge, their age, the date of their "Joining," "Initiation," "Passing," "Raising," or Withdrawal. The sum of Two Guineas, and Postages, &c. shall be paid to the Secretary annually at the end of each financial year for the due performance of the duties attached to the office.

Chaplain.

XIII. The Chaplain will be expected to sanction and chasten by his presence every lodge meeting, and as no Brother shall be appointed to this office who has not previously rendered distinguished service to the craft in general, or this lodge in particular, he shall be allowed annually the sum of 35s.

Organist.

XIV. That an Organist be appointed annually, to whom the carrying out the musical arrangements, decided upon by the lodge, shall be left.

Deacons.

XV. The Deacons shall be regular and punctual in their attendance, and swift to perform the duties allotted to them by those holding authority under this warrant.

Inner Guard.

XVI. The Inner Guard shall be constant at his post guarding the entrance of the lodge; and shall be bound hereby to see that no Candidate is admitted unless properly prepared.

Director of  
Ceremonies.

XVII. The Director of Ceremonies shall see that Brethren take their seats on all occasions, in accordance with their respective ranks, and also that no Brother is admitted without being masonically clothed.

Steward.

XVIII. The Steward shall be considered as strictly appointed to carry out such arrangements as the Brethren may from time to time decide upon.

Relieving Officer.

XIX. That a Relieving, or Examining Officer, who shall be a P.M. of some standing, be annually appointed to investigate the claims of Brethren seeking relief, and report the same to the lodge, unless in cases of extreme necessity when he is to make such an order upon the Treasurer, not exceeding the sum of £1., as he thinks the case may demand.

Tyler.

XX. The Tyler shall understand his business so thoroughly as not to admit any Brother visiting the lodge except upon "proof," to be given by such visitor in the presence of the Senior Past Master, or such other Brother as may be appointed by the W. M., nor allow any of the members of this lodge to enter without having previously signed their names, and the hour of their attendance, in the Tyler's book, to be kept for the purpose of determining the number of all Brethren actually present during lodge hours. N.B. The salary of the Tyler, and mode and time of payment shall be annually fixed by the lodge.

Auditors.

XXI. That the accounts of the Lodge shall be audited by a Committee consisting of the W. M., Past Masters, and Wardens of the lodge, (annually) previous to the Installation of the W.M.

in open Lodge, and the order for payment countersigned by the W.M., except in cases where the signature of the W.M. shall be deemed sufficient, or upon receipt of an order for any payment under the amount of £1. from the duly appointed examining officer of this lodge to any distressed Brother.

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Inner Guard.

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Inventory, &c. XXII. Such Committee shall likewise examine and report upon the condition and value of the furniture and other property of this lodge, and certify to the correctness of the inventory of the same.

Fees, &c. XXIII. That proposers of Candidates shall pay the following fees:—

	£.	s.	d.
For Initiation . . .	10	0	0
Joining . . .	1	1	0

which shall, in the event of the Candidate being elected, be considered as part payment of the fees stipulated for hereafter in these Bye Laws. That immediately upon such Candidate being received by the lodge, the entire sums shall be completely paid, and in case of the rejection the proposition fee shall be returned.

Withdrawal. XXIV. Any Member of this Lodge desirous of withdrawing, must give to the Secretary, upon either half-yearly financial night of the lodge, three months' notice of such his desire, at the expiration of which time (if his arrears be all paid) his resignation shall be accepted.

### FINANCIAL REGULATIONS:---

Fees. XXV. That the following shall be the scale of fees payable for "Initiation," viz:—

Grand Lodge Fees (as per Book of Constitutions)	10	6	
Certificate from the same . . . . .	6	6	
Copy of Book of Constitutions . . . . .	3	6	
Provincial Grand Lodge Fee . . . . .	5	0	
Private Lodge Fee . . . . .	3	14	6
Total "Initiation Fees . . . . .	£5	0	0

Joining, viz :—

Grand Lodge Fee (as per Book of Constitutions)	2	6
Provincial Grand Lodge Fee . . . . .	1	0
Private Lodge Fee . . . . .	17	6
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Total "Joining Fees" . . . . .	£1	1 0

Fees Continued.

XXVI. "Ordinary Subscribing Members" shall likewise pay as follows, viz :—

Grand Lodge Fee, as quarterage . . . . .	2	0
Provincial Grand Lodge Fee . . . . .	2	0
Private Lodge . . . . .	17	0
Library, &c. . . . .	4	0
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Total Subscription . . . . .	£1	5 0

Time of Payment.

XXVII. That the financial year shall commence at the installation night in September, the subscriptions being payable half yearly at the March and September meetings, and that the subscriptions of new Candidates shall be so calculated as ultimately to fall due on these nights.

Joining Brethren  
who have been  
Initiated or  
Passed only.

XXVIII. Joining Members already Initiated, having paid these fees in the Mother Lodge (which must provide their Grand Lodge Certificate) may complete their 2nd or 3rd degrees, or both, upon being duly proposed and accepted, subject to the following fees :—

	£.	s.	d.
Grand Lodge Fee. . . . .	2	6	
Provincial Grand Lodge Fee . . . . .	1	0	
Book of Constitutions . . . . .	3	6	
Private Lodge Fees . . . . .	2	16	0
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	£3	3	0

Freedom of  
the Lodge.

XXIX. The Freedom of the Lodge may be annually voted to such Brethren whomay haverendered distinguished service to the Craft in general, or to the "Vernon Lodge" in particular.

Penalty in case of  
Arrears.

XXX. No Member being twelve months in arrear, either in respect of subscription, fines, forfeits, &c. shall be permitted to hold office, make or support any propositions, or to vote upon any lodge business.

Fines.

XXXI. That if any of the Officers fail to attend to their respective duties in this Lodge at the times appointed unless prevented by *sickness* or *wegen* business engagements, (of which they shall apprise the W. M., or Secretary in writing before the opening of Lodge) the following scale of fines shall be enforced, viz:—

The W. M. . . . .	2	0	The J. D. . . . .	1	0
„ S. W. . . . .	2	0	„ M. C. . . . .	1	0
„ J. W. . . . .	2	0	„ Organist . . .	1	0
„ Sec. & Trea. . .	1	0	„ Steward . . .	1	0
„ S. D. . . . .	1	0	„ I. G. . . . .	1	0

That every Member not rising, and saluting the W. M. previous to speaking, shall be fined one Shilling.

Forfeits.

XXXII. That in the event of a candidate for Initiation failing to present himself for that purpose within three months of the date of his election, the proposition fee shall be forfeited. That should the Candidate, being Initiated, fail to present himself for the 2nd degree within three months from the date of his Initiation, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of 2s. 6d., and in like manner if the Candidate should fail to present himself within six months

from his Initiation for his 3rd degree, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of 5s., and for twelve months, 10s, in addition to the subscription accruing during these periods.

Donations.

XXXIII. That all donations to this Lodge shall be recorded in the Minute Book with the name of the donor, and that a Charity Box shall be in view of the Lodge each night of meeting for the reception of casual donations, the key of which shall be kept by the W. M. for the time being such donations to be considered as made to the "Private Lodge Fund."

Alteration of Rules.

XXXIV. No alteration shall be made in any of these Rules or Bye-laws, except the same shall be determined by two thirds of the Members present in open lodge; such alteration having been especially mentioned in the circular convening the lodge meeting. In this question also the W. M. shall have a second vote if such is necessary to decide it.