

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WILTSHIRE



BY-LAWS OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WILTSHIRE

1. The members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire shall, in all things not provided for in the Book of Constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of England, be guided and governed by the following By-laws.

2. The Provincial Grand Lodge shall Consist of the following:

The Provincial Grand Master

Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Grand Officers who are subscribing members of a Lodge in the Province

The Provincial Grand Officers of the year

The Past Provincial Grand Officers who are both members of Grand Lodge and subscribing members of a Lodge within the Province

The Masters and Wardens of all Lodges in the Province

The Past Masters of any Lodge under Grand Lodge who are both members of the Grand Lodge and subscribing members of a Lodge within the Province.

3. Provincial Grand Officers, present and past, shall take precedence amongst themselves within the Province in the order specified in Rule 71 of the Book of Constitutions.

4. The Provincial Grand Lodge shall meet annually at a time and place to be fixed upon by the Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence by his Deputy or Assistant; at which the election of Provincial Grand Treasurer and the appointment of other Provincial Grand Officers shall take place.

The Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence his Deputy or Assistant, has power to convene Special Meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge whenever special circumstances or the good of the Craft may so require.

Brethren who are not Members of the Provincial Grand Lodge, if Master Masons, may be present by permission of the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant, but they shall not vote on any resolution.

Members of Provincial Grand Lodge and Visiting Brethren attending Provincial Grand Lodge shall sign the Register or Signature Book.

Fourteen clear days' notice of any special Meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge, shall be given by the Provincial Grand Secretary to the Secretary of each Lodge in the Province which pays dues to this Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Secretary of the Lodge shall forthwith send the notice to reach each member of the Lodge being a member of Provincial Grand Lodge.

5. The Provincial Grand Lodge having been opened, the minutes of the last Annual Provincial Grand Lodge, and of any intervening Provincial Grand Lodge, shall be read and put for confirmation, and the business of the Lodge regularly proceeded with. All Motions and Resolutions, which shall be adopted at any meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge, shall require no further confirmation.

6. Every Brother on appointment or promotion to office in Provincial Grand Lodge, Acting or Past rank, shall pay a registration fee of £25.

7. There shall be payable by each Lodge under the Provincial Grand Lodge of

Wiltshire annual dues to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire and annual contributions to the charitable funds under Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire in respect of each subscribing member whose name appears on the annual return referred to in By-Law 7 (irrespective of whether or not his Lodge subscription has been paid) of £10.00 or such lesser sums as may from time to time be determined by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire in accordance with Rule 83 of the Book of Constitutions.

Note: The current per capita subscription is £8.50

To the Charity Fund an annual payment for each subscribing Member, as defined above of **£2.00**

Registration of a new lodge **£100**

8. Each Lodge shall on or before the 31st January in each year transmit to the Provincial Grand Secretary a Return of all its members up to the 31st day of December last with such particulars as are specified in the forms provided for that purpose, together with the relevant fees and contributions payable.

Every Lodge which shall without reasonable excuse fail to make such Returns and pay the said fees by the 31st January in any year shall receive a reminder and if the returns and dues

are still not submitted the Lodge shall be liable to admonition or suspension under the provisions of Rule 74 of the Book of Constitutions.

9. The Provincial Grand Treasurer shall be nominated in writing by two members of Provincial Grand Lodge, and such nomination to be sent to the Provincial Grand Secretary on or before the 31st August, but if there be no valid nomination a Brother may be nominated in Provincial Grand Lodge. The Provincial Grand Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

All contributions, fees and other monies, transmitted with the annual returns, or otherwise, shall be credited to the accounts of Provincial Grand Lodge at such Bank or Building Society as the Provincial Grand Lodge shall determine. All payments shall, as far as possible, be made by cheque signed by the Provincial Grand Treasurer.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer shall maintain proper Books of Account which shall be open to the inspection of every member of this Provincial Grand Lodge at every Annual Meeting, and at any other time when the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant may direct.

The Annual Accounts shall be duly audited by the Audit Committee appointed for that purpose, and submitted for consideration by the Provincial Committee, and presented at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Audit Committee shall consist of two Brethren not below the rank of Master Mason, either or both to act, and to be elected annually at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge.

10. There shall be a Provincial Committee consisting of the following:

Provincial Grand Master

Deputy Provincial Grand Master

Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Grand Officers who are subscribing members of a Lodge in the Province
Provincial Grand Officers of the year

Past Provincial Grand Wardens

Worshipful Master of each Lodge in the Province

Charity Representative of each Lodge, or one other representative who is a member of Provincial Grand lodge.

Master Masons who are members of the Province shall be entitled to attend by permission of the Provincial Grand Master but have no right to vote.

The Committee shall meet not more than one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge or at such time as may be decided by the Provincial Grand Master, and shall examine the accounts of the Provincial Grand Treasurer and report thereon to Provincial Grand Lodge. It shall also examine the accounts of the Charity Fund, consider and recommend in what way the monies available for distribution shall be applied, investigate all petitions and applications for relief from the Charity Fund, submit a Charity Report to Provincial Grand Lodge.

The Committee may originate and recommend to Provincial Grand Lodge whatever it may deem necessary or advantageous to the welfare of the Province, and make arrangements for the well conducting of the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, subject to the approval of the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant.

In cases of emergency distributions from the Charity Fund can be authorised by the Provincial Grand Master, or in his absence by his Deputy or Assistant, such cases and the amounts of such distributions to be reported to the subsequent meeting of the Provincial Committee.

All Transactions of the Committee shall be recorded in the Minute Book by the Provincial Grand Secretary.

11. Every Lodge shall cause to be sent to the Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary the summons of every meeting of the Lodge at the same time as it is forwarded to the members of the Lodge.

Apart from the summons, all official correspondence and applications to the Provincial Grand Master or his Deputy or Assistant shall be made through the Provincial Grand Secretary.

In order to ensure due observance of these By-Laws, every Provincial Grand Officer, and also every Lodge in the Province shall be supplied with one copy by the Provincial Grand Secretary.

12. No By-Law of the Provincial Grand Lodge shall be altered or repealed, or any new one introduced, unless notice thereof shall have been given to the Provincial Grand Secretary three calendar months before the next meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, and the particulars of the proposed alterations inserted in the agenda of the Summons for such Provincial Grand Lodge meeting.

No alteration or amendment of the Provincial Grand Lodge By-Laws, when adopted by Provincial Grand Lodge shall be effective until it has received the approval of the Provincial Grand Master and the Grand Master.

All previously existing By-Laws are hereby repealed.

Provincial Grand Secretary

Provincial Grand Lodge of Wiltshire 6th October 2022