



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF DORSET

GENERAL GUIDANCE NOTES

FOR THE ABANDONMENT OF MEETINGS

PREVENTION OF A LODGE MEETING

From time to time in exceptional circumstances there may be reasons why a Lodge meeting cannot take place. For example, the Lodge building might have suffered a fire or been flooded making it physically impossible to hold a meeting of the Lodge. There might even be a national pandemic which threatens the lives of the Lodge members meeting in close proximity.

Notwithstanding these contingencies, no Lodge has the power to cancel a meeting in advance of the day or time of the meeting; it may only be abandoned in the light of circumstances prevailing at the time for which it has been summoned.

As such, even if it is likely, that for some reason, a Lodge meeting will not take place, a summons convening the meeting must still be issued.

QUORUM REQUIRED FOR A LODGE MEETING

The minimum number required for a Lodge meeting (known as a “quorum”) is five apart from the Tyler and the Candidate. Two of the five must be members of the Lodge and one of them must be an Installed Master.

The Installed Master does not have to be a member of the Lodge, but if he is not, and neither of the Lodge Wardens is present, then one of the members of the Lodge should act as Senior Warden to conduct the business of the Lodge.

If there is no Installed Master under the English Constitution present, an Installed Master under the Irish or Scottish Constitution may be requested by the officer in charge of the Lodge to perform any ceremony which the Warden is not competent to perform.

If only five Brethren are present, then the administrative business of the Lodge can be transacted, but neither a Passing nor a Raising may take place (since the candidate will be one of the five), although an initiation may (since the Candidate, not being a Mason, will have been disregarded for the purpose of counting the quorum). This equally applies to an installation provided that there are three Installed Masters present (apart from the Master Elect and the Tyler).

If only three Installed Masters are present, including the Tyler, he may be one of the Board of Installed Masters, whilst one of the Master Masons acts as Tyler.

ABANDONMENT OF MEETING

If the quorum is not present the Lodge may not be open and the Lodge meeting must be abandoned. A

statement recording this must be entered in the Lodge Minute Book . The suggested wording of this minute is as follows:-

“The meeting of the Lodge on ... was duly called in accordance with the attached summons. Owing to a fire at the Lodge building/adverse weather conditions/national pandemic the required number of Brethren to open the Lodge could not be assembled and the meeting was abandoned.”

POSTPONEMENT OF LODGE MEETING

The Lodge may move the date of its regular meeting to any date within twenty-eight days before or after its regular meeting date provided a dispensation is obtained from the Provincial Grand Master through the Provincial Grand Secretary.