

Meeting of Steering Committee.

Held at The Beagle Hotel, Hitchfield on Monday ~~16th~~^{16th} October 1967.

Present. Wor. Bro. Patterson: Wor. Bro. A. J. Wilkins, Wor. Bro. R. Nobbs, Bro. H. Morgan, J. Hawkins, D. Sanders, D. Freemantle, J. Carpenter, S. Harris, V. J. Estlin.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, approved and signed by the Wor. Master designate.

The Secretary informed the committee that the M. Wor. Dep. Prov. Grand Master was unable to carry out the consecration ceremony in January but could do so either during the first two weeks in December or during March. The only vacant date for use of Foxham Masonic Hall was Tuesday 5th December 1967. and an application had been forwarded to the M. W. Dep. Prov. G. Master for this date. This was approved by the committee.

The Secretary reported that he had received a letter from Bro. Muncie tendering his resignation from the office of Senior Warden and from the lodge. He said that he had written to Bro. Muncie accepting the resignation from office but asked him to reconsider his resignation from the lodge, suggesting a more junior office might be found for him. Bro. H. Morgan said he had seen Bro. Muncie since his receipt of the Secretary's letter and he would continue in the lodge.

Wor. Bro. Nobbs said that he did not wish to be Immediate Past Master in view of his many commitments as he felt he would not be able to do justice to the office and suggested that Wor. Bro. Wheeler be approached regarding the office. The Secretary said he would write to Wor. Bro. Wheeler.

The Secretary said that it was with regret that he thought he should bring to the notice of the committee the conduct of Bro. W. G. H. Bell. There had been quite a number of unpleasant references to the committee by Bro. Bell when enquiring ^{by telephone} why a Brother

from his Lodge, Forest Green Lodge, had not been circulated for enquiry prior to proposal as a joining member. He would not accept the Secretary's assurance that he, the Secretary, had not assured this Brother that he would be the first joining member, but insisted that the Secretary had written a letter to this effect. During the conversation he was aggressive and remarked "the Littlefield crowd think they are going to run the Lodge". The Wor Master designate said that later on the same day, he had a telephone call of a similar nature from Bro. Bell and had referred him to the Secretary and during the conversation a similar remark was passed regarding the committee. Several other Brethren reported incidents and remarks by Bro. Bell which had come to their notice. This matter was given thorough consideration and it was agreed that the conduct of Bro. Bell had caused some embarrassment to a number of members and that his conduct was not conducive to good order in the Lodge. It was decided that in view of all the circumstances Bro. Bell should be informed that the Steering Committee could not approve his proposed appointment as Senior Deacon.

As there was no other business the meeting closed at 9:50 PM.

V. H. Eaton
Secretary

G. H. Peterson
21. 12. 67.