

ADVICE ON BAD WEATHER ABANDONMENT

The cold in January 2013 forced several Lodges and Chapters to make alternative plans with regard to their scheduled meetings.

There follows a reminder on the procedures that you need to follow in such circumstances as laid down in the Book of Constitutions and in the booklet "Information for the Guidance of Members of the Craft." (for ease of reference I will call the Guide Book).

Most importantly, NO Lodge or Chapter has the power to cancel a meeting in advance.

RULE 137. (See also RA Reg 58)

The by-laws shall specify the regular days and place of meeting of the Lodge, also the regular meeting for the election of Master, Treasurer and (if he is to be elected) Tyler, and the regular meeting for the installation of Master, which shall be the regular meeting next following that specified for his election. **There is no power to cancel any regular meeting, nor may any meeting of the Lodge be held other than at the specified place and on the specified day, except as otherwise provided in these Rules. No meeting of a Lodge may be adjourned.***

* Nor is an adjournment of any Masonic Meeting permissible.

RULE 119.

(c) If, on the occasion appointed for any meeting of a Lodge, no Installed Master is present to occupy the Chair, the meeting shall be abandoned and the fact recorded in the Minute Book of the Lodge.

The minute should say "*the Meeting regularly called for the xx-xx-20xx was abandoned as it was not possible to form a quorum due to bad weather*" – or something of the like.

This may seem strange but if your Lodge or Chapter is ever entitled to receive a centenary Certificate or similar, it must be proved that you have met continuously in accordance to your By-Laws.

In summary, every effort must be made to hold all scheduled meetings. If on the day of your meeting the attendance is such as to be unable to form a **Quorum**, then you need to record that fact in your minute book and advise Provincial Grand Lodge.

The 'Guide Book' defines what is required to make a Lodge or Chapter Quorate so please read Page 53 for Lodges / Page 55 for Chapters. Whilst the Book of Constitution is not exactly 'bedtime reading' it is well worth re-acquainting yourself with the 'Guide Book' as it contains some helpful advice.

Tom Gittins

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