

Suffolk Guild of Ringers – Belfry Advisory Committee - meeting notes

Thursday 6th October 2016 in Stowmarket Church.

Apologies- Chris Nunn, Neville Whittell, Derek and Penny Rose.

Present- Winston Girling (Chair), Chris McArthur (Secretary), Carol Girling, Mark Steggles, Alan Moulton.

1. Management Committee meeting feedback- WG

reported that the meeting had agreed that VAT would not form part of any grant consideration. However in the case of St Margarets Ipswich they had revised the grant back to £12,000 from £9000 in line with the original recommendation of BAC after further consideration. They had also suggested that BAC work to the following guidelines for grants - 100% for materials only projects, 20% for smaller projects and 10% for larger projects. This meeting of BAC agreed with those guidelines after considerable discussion, with the following extra text. *For materials only grants, limit it at £1000 max. , for smaller projects this would those below £5000 ex vat. Larger projects would be those above £5000 ex vat.* This was the unanimous view of the meeting and would hopefully be endorsed by the next management meeting. It was noted that materials only projects frequently had the labour gifted to the parish from BAC members.

2. **BAC materials storage** – Due to limitations on storage it was agreed the bell rope would no longer be held by WG and that the existing stock would be sold to towers as the current practise but then not replaced.
3. **Grant applications** – St Mathews Ipswich has asked for a grant towards new clapper bushes and reprofiling. BAC will provide labour. It was recommended that the guild award a 20% grant of £325 for a £1614 project.
4. **Training matters**- No events are currently planned, but AM agreed to hold a maintenance meeting with Newmarket tower following a request from the Tower Captain.
5. **Technical advisors report** - Melton Old Church has had a Miles Gray bell modified for chiming. Stowmarket PCC is agreeable to a new steel frame with a new peal of 10, although some of the existing bells are to be retained. Chevington has had problems with No. 4 bell and extensive gudgeon movement means it cannot be rung until repaired, hopefully by BAC members. A rehang in due course is proposed. Wrentham have been inspected by JS and can be rung if Iroko stays/sliders are replaced with ash.
6. **District reports – North East**, no items to report. **North West** – Horringer are out of tower and at Taylors Loughborough, hopefully back in around Christmas time. Redgrave are out to tender with the existing wooden frame to be removed and repaired. Work will start in September of next year. **South East** - Framlingham have had clapper and slider work completed. Iken were

unringable but extensive work on all clapper bushes has resolved the problem, and a successful quarter peal has been run as a test ring. St Mary at Quay Ipswich has had a large church project completed for Mind and it is understood that ringing can still take place in the office/ringing chamber by arrangement. **South West**- no items to report.

- 7. Next BAC meeting - Friday 3rd February 2017 at Horringer church.** It is hoped that we can have a ring at 19.00hrs although we may still hold the meeting there even if completion of the reinstallation is delayed. CM to talk to Sally Crouch to confirm arrangements. It was noted by the Chairman that some members were finding meetings attendance difficult and he would follow this up with the people concerned.