

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes - Little Cornard church, Friday 5th October 2018

Present – C McArthur (chair for this meeting) , D Salter , N Whittel , J Taylor ,
and M Rolph.

Apologies - J Stevens , P Rose , M Rose , M Croucher , W Girling , C Girling , M Steggles , A Moulton , T Scase.

1. Prior to the meeting an inspection of the new frame for the rebuilt ring was undertaken, led by J Taylor. Bells are expected back very shortly, and all the work looked impressive. (Cost £120,000)
2. All present agreed that C McArthur would chair this meeting due to the absence of W Girling.
3. Minutes of the meeting at Cretingham on 14/6/18 were agreed as correct and signed as a true record.
4. **Management committee feedback** - none as WG not present due to family illness.
5. **Grant applications** – One received from N Whittel for Hintlesham bells restoration. It was explained that a grant request for future materials at a cost £750 was asked for, with BAC providing labour. This is for a second phase of the refurbishment following completion of the first phase. It was noted that the PCC had provided funds for these previous works and would continue to support the project. The proposal was put forward by DS and seconded by JT; all present supported the grant application for management consideration.
6. **Health and Safety** - D Salter reported that he had looked in the insurance issues of bell workers in Suffolk and had concluded that no alternative cover would be significantly different from our current terms. This related to diminishing payments as age of claimants increases. The meeting concluded that the matter would be kept under review. Julian Coleman could not attend this meeting to discuss health and safety but CM/DS will take forward an action of putting on the guild web site the best examples of central council web site documents in this area. No other health and safety matters were raised.

- 7. Technical advisors report** - Great Barton clappers are out for refurbishing at Taylor's currently, and considerable work was done on Harkstead bells recently to help the locals, as well as providing advice to them.
- 8. NE district report - Great Glenham** has had work done on the wheels etc to improve them for armistice ringing. Theberton has had one slider improved. Marlsford has had all ground pulleys refurbished and the bells are considerably improved. Mildleton have requested the bells be lifted but, M Rolph had visited recently and no danger of bells falling is apparent, chiming is still possible and this facility will be maintained for the time being.
- 9. NW district report** - Great Barton clappers are being refurbished and odd stuckness is hopefully going to be improved. Redgrave rehangng work continues with the timber frame repairs (off site) being more extensive than planned.
- 10. SE district report** - Tuddenham has had an inspection and although reasonable, a return visit with alternative ropes is planned. St Clements, Ips. have had new ropes and clock chimes are now active, although locals have made comments about chiming and this will be investigated. All redundant historic churches in Ipswich are currently having a full architect's survey, including tower/bell matters. St Mary at Elms bells need to be lowered at some stage according to the parish, but this work is not currently planned by BAC but will be kept under review. Hintlesham have had work done on gudgeons etc by N Whittel but further work by BAC and him is planned, with a grant application for materials pending. Little Cornard are progressing well with completion towards the end of October 2018, and finance for all works now in place.
- 11. SW district report** – No representatives present, but a scheme for Wickhambrook is ongoing we understand. Hitcham and Combs are also progressing schemes that are well advanced but not yet at grant application stage.
- 12. AOB** – None. All present thanked J Taylor for his hospitality at Little Cornard and congratulated him on an excellent augmentation scheme nearing completion.
- 13. Next meeting – Monday 4th February 2019** Stowmarket church 7.30.