

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee, and special joint meeting with R & T Committee.

Minutes of meeting - Tuesday 4th June 2019: Redgrave 19.30 hrs.

Present –

W.Girling(Chair),C.McArthur(Sec),C.Davies,J.Taylor,M.Steggles,J.Stevens,Z.Gray,N.Whittell,C.Nunn.

Apologies-

T. Scase (car breakdown half way) and D.Salter

Welcomes – R. Wilson (Guild Chair)

1. Winston thanked Chris D for his warm welcome, refreshments, and the delightful ring on his refurbished bells and particularly thanked Rowan for facilitating this special meeting.
2. Minutes of Stowmarket BAC meeting 4/2/19 were agreed as accurate and signed by the chairman
3. **Grant application** - Combs has made a full application and the tower has been given a Warner 8, with two new trebles being added to make the 10, at a cost of £97717 (Taylors) with VAT. It was noted that Alan M had asked for the new trebles to make a light front six for learners. After debating it decided to suggest a grant of £8000 – proposed by Jonathan S and seconded by Chris D. This equates to 10%, without VAT and self help. Meeting agreed.
4. **Grant application** – Hitcham has also made a full application for a scheme to restore a derelict six at a cost £85957(Taylors). Fund raising is more advanced than at Combs. After debating it was decided to suggest a grant of £6700- proposed by Chris D and seconded by Chris Mc. This equates to 10% without the self help, chimes and VAT. Meeting agreed.
- 5 **Grant application** – Yaxley has a BAC project led by Winston G to rehang bells - 5 and 6. Chris Mc took the chair for this item. A grant is sort for the cost of materials only, for new bearings, sleeves etc, with reworked pulleys. The project has cost £454.18 ex VAT. Prior to the work these back bells were very difficult. In line with procedures a grant to cover these costs is suggested, proposed by N Whittell and seconded by Jonathan S. The meeting agreed, noting abstentions by Winston G., Zoe G., Chris D., Mark S. and Carol G. They are closely involved with this project.
- 6 **Technical Advisors Report** – Previously circulated and no question raised at the meeting. (Attached to these minutes)
- 7 **Changes to bell restoration fund: grant mechanisms** - Winston G introduced this topic and it was needed to reflect the low reserves position of the guild currently despite a rise in subscriptions agreed for 2020. Rowan W then told us about a useful meeting of the R and T committee the previous week when many ideas as had been discussed, although no one topic had a majority view. It is clear that all new schemes need to have a plan finalised for teaching new recruits that runs sequentially with any proposed restoration project. Equally parishes need to more heavily involved and be committed to detailed project planning. The meeting agreed that previously some magnificent restoration projects had been completed in Suffolk with guild grants and that the system should continue, but with changes to reflect the guilds current circumstances. Much debate ensued from the floor and it was noted that sparsity of ringers was not always a problem, since in a decade's times for example; newcomers to a village could form the basis of new band. Teaching personal are however thin on the ground in the county.
- 8 **Resolutions agreed as our preferences to go forward (Re. grant mechanisms.)** - Firstly, proposed by Jonathan S and seconded by Chris Mc was the following. **For any specific bell restoration project being taken forward, the R and T committee would work with BAC to ensure that the parish and the guild have initiated training and development of a new, or a supplemented band of ringers. This must be started at the same time as site work commences.** This new way of working would need to be developed in detail as a methodology, in due course, by a working group. Secondly proposed by

Alan M and seconded by Chris D is the following. **At BAC meetings the chair will come to each meeting with the latest financial position as advised by the guild treasurer. The meeting will be informed of these balances at the commencement of discussions. A grant offer will be made proportionate to the funds position at that time and will not exceed 10%. This will be only for bell restoration projects (ex VAT) and to include the possibility of the cost of only up to one new bell.**

Alan M explained the current simple grants system worked well with the parishes and they find it relatively easy to understand and complete the application process. This is a refinement of that.

Both above proposals were extensively discussed, but at the end of the meeting we unanimously agreed upon them both, and Winston G will pass them back to management for their consideration.

No abstentions. Rowan W had taken part in the discussion and thanked the meeting for coming up with some proposals to work on at other guild committees. Chris Mc would send a draft of these minutes to all BAC members in the next ten days, in order that, particularly those absent could quickly pass any comments to our chairman. It was felt this process was important at such a crucial meeting and some members had not attended because of poor health.

9 The chairman concluded the meeting at 21.00hrs and no other business was discussed.

10 **Our next meeting will be at Earl Stonham, for a ring at 19.00 hrs, on Wednesday 9th October 2019.**

John T will kindly investigate whether we can hold the meeting in the church. It should be noted that Neville W asked that his full grant detail, of restoration at Hintlesham, be considered at that meeting.