

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting - 9th October 2019 at Earl Stonham church

1. Present – W.Girling(Chair), C.McArthur(Sec),J.Taylor,C.Nunn,M.Rolph,J.Stevens, D.Salter,N.Whittle,C.Davies,M.Steggles,R.Coe.
2. Apologies – Z. Gray,A.Moult,T.Scace,P.Rose D.Rose,C.Girling.
3. Thanks, were given to J. Taylor for organising the arrangements for this meeting.
4. Minutes agreed as accurate and signed, for 4/6/19 BAC.
5. GMC feedback – Winston explained that matters relating to bell restoration grants in point 8 of the previous meeting notes had been taken to GMC and agreed. The need for the R&T committee to work with BAC when progressing bell restoration projects was agreed, in order that local ringers are in place for completion of works. It was noted that £65720 was in the bell restoration fund of which £43550 had already be allocated to approved projects. These accounts will be brought to BAC on each occasion a grant is being considered. Many felt that fund raising in the guild was currently not at sufficient levels to maintain our current levels of grant awards.
6. Grants for the meeting to consider – No applications were tabled, although Winston informed the meeting that Combs bells were now subject to some delay.
7. Technical Advisors report – Attached to these minutes from Winston.
8. South West district – St Gregory’s, Sudbury was in the initial stages of costing a potential rehang. A M.Higby inspection is to take place soon. St Peters, Sudbury has had a meeting to discuss reinstating a gallery around the church, including the ringing chamber area. Advice had been given on the m2 needed for the ringing chamber.
9. South East district – Work continues at St Gregory’s Ipswich and it was noted that clapper problems continue at St Lawrence. St Nicholas have had a detailed survey of the bells, but the situation is unclear as the diocese are moving out soon. Stonham Aspal have had difficulties with headstock fittings that have been resolved.
10. North West district – Stowmarket 10 bell project is now close to funding completion and Nicholson’s are due to start around Easter 2020. Winston asked that members of the BAC assist with the project at that point.
11. North East district – Huntingfield have work done on loose headstocks and wheels. Benhall have had a stay break following a loose bearing housing. South Elmham St Margaret and Blythburgh have had satisfactory inspections, together with pulley maintenance.
12. Health and Safety – David Salter told the meeting that in his spare time he had completed a draft set of health and safety guild documents for bell work and these had been passed to the bell hangers for comment. In due course they would be put on the BAC web site as standard guild reference documents. The meeting thanked him for his work.

13. Chairperson – Winston wished to retire from chair of this committee and as technical advisor with effect from the next guild AGM. He wished us to consider suitable nominations for his replacement. The meeting thanked him for his considerable work in this respect over the years. Please come back to the secretary or Winston with any suggestions for replacements. It was noted in future these two posts may be separated and not held by one person.
14. Faculties and bell works – D Salter felt (and the meeting agreed) that we lacked a full and complete understanding of the detail in respect of bell works and the different levels of agreements and faculties required. At a future meeting this will be a major agenda item, with a register then maintained of those completing that training.
15. Next meeting – Thursday 6th February 2020 at 19.00 hrs for a ring at Haughley church, followed by the meeting at 19.30 hrs.