

Suffolk Guild of Ringers – Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting held at Haughley Church, 19.30 hrs, 6th February 2020

Present – W. Girling(chair), C. McArthur (Sec), J. Stevens, R. Coe, M. Steggles, C. Davies, J. Taylor, T. Scase, C. Girling.

Apologies- M. Rolph, D. Salter, A. Moulton, M. Croucher, N. Whittle, Z. Gray, D&P Rose.

1. At the start of the meeting Richard Coe was thanked for his hospitality and a pleasant ring on Haughley bells.
2. Peter Brasier from Barking was invited to speak at the start of the meeting regarding St. Mary at Elms, Ipswich. Nicholson's are to do work making the bells safe and retaining two for chiming. The other will be set on new timberwork but kept up in the tower. Help is required to organise the tower for this work and Chris McArthur and Chris Birkby are to help on the 14th April at the commencement of this project. Additional volunteers would be welcomed. A new steel frame has been costed but is unlikely to proceed soon.
3. **Minutes of meeting 9th October 2019** were agreed and signed as correct.
4. **Management committee feedback** – Stephen Cheek has given an updated list of grants approved at: St Clements Ipswich, Stowmarket, Laxfield, Fornham St Martin, Combs, and Hitcham. After these grants just over £26,000 is still available in the Restoration Fund. However revised subscriptions this year should improve this situation.
5. **Grant Applications** – none received.
6. **Technical Advisors Report** – Previously circulated and attached to these minutes.
7. **Health and Safety** – David Salter has completed a set of risk assessments and these are in the final stages of consultation with bell hangers. To be tabled at our next meeting.
8. **District Reports** – **North East**, Mendham and Huntingfield have had general works undertaken, and inspections with pulley works at South Elmham St Margaret and Blythburgh completed. **North West**, Chedburgh chiming bell needs a new headstock and Chris Davies is working on this. Hopton have had some clapper repairs. Chris told the meeting he had successfully sold old bell wheels at auctions for good prices. Stowmarket project is on track and will start with Nicholson's on 14th April and hopefully back in on 10th June. Help from this committee has been organised. Combs has an approved grant application and bells agreed from Yorkshire, although additional works may now be needed. **South East**, Woodbridge have had a significant overhaul by Taylors, Lt Bealings needs an inspection (CIMc) and Henley are due works shortly on clappers and stays. (CIM, MS and CD). **South West**, Little Cornard have had new clappers put in by Taylors and a minor improvement has been noticed

9. **BAC officers** – Winston Girling is retiring as Chair of this committee from this year's AGM but will stay as Technical Advisor. Chris Davies has agreed to take over as Chairman subject to AGM ratification. Winston was thanked by all present for his very considerable efforts over many years. Chris McArthur had a request from Chris Birkby of Ipswich to join this committee and this was agreed. He has previous experience in this area when living in the Midlands.
10. **Next meeting** – Hitcham 19.00 hrs ring on these fine new bells, followed by meeting 19.30 hrs in the church, **Monday 8th June 2020**. Chris Davies to finalise arrangements as he is kindly teaching their learners at his tower. Agenda items to secretary by 1st June please.