

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting held at Preston St Mary PH on 11th August 2021

Present – C Davies (chair), C McArthur(sec.), A Moulton, M Steggles, G Flatters, C Nunn, N Whittle, K Salter, J Taylor, Z Gray, R Wilson. In attendance P Stannard.

Apologies – M Rolph, J Stevens, and C Birkby.

Prior to the meeting all had rung on the refurbished eight at Hitcham and found them to be a fine ring. Thanks to many on this committee for much assistance given to Taylors during the installation

At the start of the meeting, we remembered those currently unwell with connections to this committee. The chair welcomed everybody to the meeting after such a long absence due to Covid restrictions. It was his first meeting as incoming chair of this committee.

1. Previous minutes from Haughley 6th Feb 2020 signed and agreed, no matters arising.
2. **Guild management feedback** - none currently, as it had a period without grant applications being made. Website improvements had been signed off and are now correctly ordered and updated grant documentation included.
3. **Grants** – None had been tabled for this meeting, but several are expected shortly including St Gregory's, Sudbury and Westhorpe.
4. **Health and Safety** – This is a long-standing item and D Salter had been collating other guilds and associations best practise. As he had been unwell of recent **C McArthur offered to pull together this work together** in order that minimal documentation can be put on the website soon.
5. **Technical Advisors Report** – Our two advisors have been busy on a good number of matters and those are included within district reports below.

District Reports –

Northeast: Laxfield are completed by Taylors and look to be a very fine ring of eight. Much local involvement has made the project possible. Leiston have been inspected and minor adjustments made. Westhorpe have a derelict five that the parish have been in discussions to augment, potentially to six, in a lowered tower position. Hoxne have been talking to our advisors about a rehang project, although it is at a very early stage.

Southeast: Falkenham had two clappers refurbished by Taylors, reinstalled by BAC and general adjustments, frame is to be painted soon following clearing of the bell chamber. Felixstowe had an inspection and new ropes fitted. Framlingham had frame and fittings tightening and rebuilding of one defective bearing box. Framsden is actively moving forward with a scheme to refurbish, and bell hangers have been looking at the project. Barham are largely completed although clappers need to be sorted, frame pockets finished etc. Grant paperwork trail is still not satisfactory. St Mary at Elms will shortly have bells set on new

steel members for safety reasons, led by Nicholson's. Levington have asked for guild advice and **CM will write with inspection dates for the parish**. Little Blakenham is in progress with assistance to get two bells back in use.

Northwest: Stowmarket is still progressing well and has been held up by CV issues at Nicholson's. Start date is mid Jan with help from BAC members. Combs is also still going forward with Taylors running this project, a faculty variation is currently being progressed. Buxhall is now ready for work to commence, and it is a Taylors project to improve and augment to eight. Gazely has a chiming bell that we have been asked to assist with improvements to. Dalham need a BAC inspection in view of pulley problems and a need for general maintenance potentially. **Our secretary will write to the vicar** requesting a visit by our members. It is a recent rehanging project that potentially needs some adjustments to improve the go.

Southwest: Hitcham are now complete and a very fine ring. Hintlesham are still progressing slowly with bearing work on all bells. Many discussions have been ongoing about St Gregory's Sudbury by our technical advisors, and a grant application is imminent. St Peters Sudbury are having church remodelling work done imminently, but this will improve usage of the building and potentially enhance the ringing potential, the tower is not affected.

AOB – None

Date of next meeting - Thursday 6th January 2021 at Laxfield, commencing with a ring on the new eight at 19.00hrs. Meeting nearby.