

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee meeting – Minutes

13th June 2023 at 19.30 hrs in Stowmarket church

Present – C Davies (Chair), C McArthur (Sec), M Steggles, W Girling, J Taylor and R Coe.

Apologies – Z Gray, J Stevens, D Rose, A Moulton, J Flatters, C Birkby, N Wittell, C Girling, and K Mossop.

1. Minutes of previous meeting – 17 March 2023. These were signed and agreed with the following proviso. N Dodge wished to add to those minutes that St Peters Sudbury were supportive of further ringing despite reconfiguring works involving the tower, and a peal is to be rung on 16th Sept for the reopening of the church. An inspection by BAC prior to that event is requested.
2. **BAC membership** – The Chair expressed concern about some poor attendance, and this was discussed at length. The meeting agreed to a new BAC Rule. **In future a minimum of one attendance in three will be required for continuation of membership.** The following are to retire for BAC but would remain linked, the meeting thanked them for help over the years. C Nunn, Z Gray and N Coleman. The chairman felt this committee had full membership and recruitment would not be instigated currently. After the retirees it would still be 16 members. Membership for clarity is *C Davies, C McArthur, R Coe, C Girling, W Girling, A Moulton, M Rolph, D Rose, M Steggles, J Stevens, J Taylor, N Whittell, P Lock, K Mossop, C Birkby and J Flatters.*
3. **Grants** - Blythburgh grant application was discussed and BAC help is offered for the mechanical side. This will be cleaning bearings and refurbishing pulleys. Locals and NE district will assist Nicholson's with frame painting. A 5% grant was recommended unanimously and rounded up to £1000. Thornham St Martin scheme is progressing well and will start later this year. Westhorpe is going ahead also, with Taylors taking the bells out and BAC helping on just the refit.
4. **Health and Safety** – C McArthur has been in contact with Taylors, and their Risk Assessments have been offered for our guild web site. All agreed that we would put them on BAC site, and this would provide some Health and Safety guidance. On occasions we work under bellhangers H and S documentation, but occasionally Suffolk Guild work does not involve them. Action CIM.
5. **District Reports** – Much detail is covered in the Chairmans report to management that is [appended](#) to these minutes, but the following additional works was noted. Stowmarket work by BAC and other guild members had taken place over five weeks and the refurbished ten are close to being complete. Considerable daily effort by some of the BAC was noted and Winston expressed his heartfelt thanks. At Haughley a new wheel has been fitted to No 2 bell. Barham No 1 bell has been reported as difficult, although Nicholson's have inspected this month and find it to be correctly installed. Framsdon was discussed and agreed as a 2023 project, to spend a day

getting the eight in ringing condition again, this involves additional safety flooring below two bells. J Taylor would like to help the team.

6. **Next Meeting at Hintlesham** – Friday 6th October 2023 at 19.30 hrs with ringing prior at 19.00 hrs. Neville to arrange access. He has just completed new bearings on all six bells, that were grant aided on materials only. Thanks was given to Stowmarket church for the kind welcome for this meeting. Previously arranged for Sudbury but then late working at Stowmarket was the convenient option for all. The new year meeting is likely to be at Tostock.