

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes – 22 May 2024 at Tostock, 19.30hrs.

1. Apologies received only from C Davies and N Wittell.
2. In attendance - C McArthur (temp. chair & sec.), J Flatters, M Steggles, C Kirkby, and A Moulton.
3. Minutes of meeting at Stowmarket BAC on 30 January 2024 were agreed as accurate and signed.
4. **Matters arising** – the bell maintenance course was successfully run at Framlingham tower with two sessions on 18 May 2024, 22 people attended. Good feedback has been received and thanks was given to the trainers from BAC who gave up a day. Another similar event will be held in the autumn as have 20 plus on a waiting list. Two attended from Bedfordshire and were very welcome.
5. **Management feedback** – the BAC grant application from St Mary le Tower, for training bells and computers has been deemed to be a special case and not applicable for a bell restoration fund grant. It may be assisted from a new special projects fund that is under consideration. BAC felt that some consideration of special projects would be appropriate in future by this meeting, but we would follow guidance from A Moulton as this arose.
6. **Technical Advisors reports** – Bedford bells have been test rung recently and much frame movement was observed so they are considered unringable. A local project to restore is ongoing but not imminent. At Rattlesdon recent church work in the lower tower meant rope positions had to be changed. This has resulted in a better rope circle and easier go.
7. **Grants** – No applications received for this meeting
8. **District reports** - *Westhorpe* is complete, and A Moulton has test rung them, they go well. The parish have considerable lottery funds and as a result will not be drawing down the guild grant. *Wrentham* have been inspected and a project to allow some ringing later this year is ongoing. They need a tower movement inspection, but the fittings look reasonable. *Cavendish* have had one pulley repaired and refurbished. *Bure*'s tenor clapper was welded locally and is now back in the bell. *St Peters Sudbury* have been in discussions regarding ten bells ringing from the ground floor, this looks to be impossible. *Framsden* need floor work on one bell to prevent clapper fall, this will be undertaken in the summer. *Wetherden* need an inspection, M Steggles will oblige. *Old Newton* clapper washers changed and rectified. *Haughley* has had a new slider fitted. *Fornham All Saints* progressing well and bells to be returned this summer from Nicholsons. *Tattinstone* inspected and new frame needed, as excessive

movement. *Copdock* project ongoing but no site work yet. *Ipswich St Lawrence* still not ringing as tower problems are ongoing. *Ipswich St Clements* have had sound complaints and sound control measures now being considered. *Levington* chimers have been rung for a wedding, but a full inspection is still required. *Drinkstone* now have sufficient funds for the entire project and have met the guild training criteria. Removal of the bells this summer will be led by A Moulton and BAC members. Taylors have this contract. Grant by guild to be given shortly we understand. *Mendlesham St Mary the Virgin*: Reports of a cracked clock chiming bell. BAC Chairman spoke with the tower captain and a churchwarden to warn them of the danger and the risk to the ancient 1575 Steven II Tonne bell. No action appears to have been taken by the parish, and the bell is still being chimed as the clock hour bell.

9.

10. **Next meeting** – **Tuesday 15th October 2024** at Westhorpe at 19.00 hrs for a ring, then meeting. Action in respect of poor attendance at BAC meetings will be taken at our next meeting.
11. Next bell maintenance course, Saturday 21st September at Framlingham and helping those on our waiting list from previous event overspill.
12. Meeting ended at 20.35hrs and thanks were given to Tostock tower for the use of the bells giving a very pleasant ring.
13. Please note secretary has a new email address - chrnrcar@outlook.com