

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Friday, February 7th, 2003 at Wheatley Haugh Lane Woodbridge at 7.30p.m.

Those present: Winston Girling (chairman) David Greenfield, David Moyse, Neville Whittell and Dr Bruce Wakefield.

Apologies were received from: George Pipe, Stuart Harrison, Alan Moulton, Chris McArthur, Chris Nunn, Julian Colman and Richard Coe.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending and grateful thanks were given to Bruce and Gillian Wakefield for inviting the Committee to hold the meeting at their home.

Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting held on September 27 2002 had already been circulated to members and were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Chris McArthur had reported earlier to the chairman that he was concerned about the amount of time that it was taking to finish **Easton** and asked for the matter to be raised at the February Meeting. Winston Girling reported that Alan Moulton is doing the work at this tower where the bells are to be rehung in the existing wooden frame which now has new metal support beams. He has drilled out the old crown staples and the new metal headstocks, ball bearings, clappers and other parts needed are already on site. Because of the large amount of work needed and minimal time available the job is taking a long time to complete and this is something that Alan has agreed with the Parish.

District Reports

North East: Rumburgh – David Greenfield and David Moyse reported that there had been a trial ring 2 – 3 months ago. Frame movement is severe. Moves to rehang and possibly augment with new frame.

North West: Thurston – Winston Girling reported that the rehang and augmentation to 6 is going ahead and that Eayre and Smith have been given the job. The work will include a new 6 bell frame easily increased to an 8 bell if necessary, and the present treble will be replaced with a new bell together with one other new bell to make 6. Neville Whittell commented on the inadequate frame by Bullock of Ixworth.

South East: Melton Old Church – GWP had reported that a spare rope from SMLT had been given so that the single bell could be chimed. He also mentioned **Felixstowe St John**, where it is hoped that the 8 bells will be in by May 2003. A recent trip to Loughborough to see the bells cast was a great success and a 50 seater coach was full. Also **Earl Stonham** restoration is all going ahead, application for Guild grant to follow shortly. **Ufford** – Bruce Wakefield mentioned that the Parish are trying to get 2 extra bells for existing 10 bell frame

South West: Sudbury All Saints – here the Guild Technical Advisor has advised that the bell should not be rung owing to the rotten headstock which has a large interior void caused by water dripping through the previously defective tower roof. Winston Girling reported that it is possible to insert a probe some 10 inches into the headstock and that a great deal of interior wood is missing in an area subject to great stress when the bell is rung full circle. Neville Whittell said that the headstock should be scrapped and suggested that a new wooden headstock be made and fitted. Winston

Girling has spoken to Richard Knight and Alan Mayle and would enquire about the possibility of a new laminated wooden headstock for this tower. The Committee had fitted these at Old Newton and they were excellent. In the meantime there is the possibility of the old headstock failing if the bell is rung full circle, and the resultant damage would be severe. At **Layham** (5 bells) Neville Whittell and Andrew Cummings are about to work on the chiming apparatus, and Neviile intends to go and repair the 5th clapper at **Haverhill** shortly.

Technical Advisor's Report: None.

Date and Place of next Meeting: 7.30p.m. Friday, 6th June 2003, at 6 Cavendish Road Stowmarket.

Any Other Business: Bramford – Neville Whittell mentioned that there had apparently been a meeting recently re tower problems but no details to hand.

The Meeting closed at 8.55p.m.

Winston S. Girling
Chairman

AGENDA for 6 June 2003.

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Confirming and signing minutes
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) District Reports NE NW SE and SW
- 5) Technical Advisors report
- 6) Application for Grants
- 7) Date and Place of next Meeting
- 8) AOB