

Suffolk Guild of Ringers Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 7.30p.m. on Friday, February 6th, 2004, at 10, Mitre Close, Woolpit, by kind invitation of Margaret and Alan Moulton.

Those present: Winston Girling (chairman) Alan Moulton (technical advisor) Bruce Wakefield, Chris McArthur, Chris Nunn and Neville Whittell.

Apologies were received from: Julian Colman and George Pipe.

The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Minutes: The Minutes of the previous meeting held in October 2003 had already been circulated to members and were agreed and signed.

Matters arising: Chris Nunn - congratulations are due to Alan Moulton, Chris McArthur and all concerned for the tremendous effort at **Easton (6)**. Bruce Wakefield queried the current position at **Felixstowe (8)** and Alan Moulton reported that there is still some woodwork to be completed by the builders involved.

District Reports

North East: Alan Moulton has visited **Middleton (5)** Not interested in restoration at the moment but are getting some work done on the access to the bells and other tower repairs so that restoration can be considered in the future.

North West: Letter received from Colin Cooke of Bury St Edmunds who has carried out a great deal of work in the ringing chamber at **Ixworth (6)** and has also completed a number of items on the bells, including installation of lights in the bell chamber, cleaning out bearings, tightening frame and fittings, cleaning throughout and fitting new ropes. He has also cleaned out and re-packed the self-aligning bearings at **Rougham (6)** and the bells now go much better. Winston Girling mentioned that restoration will commence at **Wickham Skeith (6)** on May 17th and will attend with Carol to help provide local assistance. Chris Nunn said that he should be able to help also. Winston has visited **Gipping Chapel (1)** and reported on the serious state of the frame and supports and warned that if urgent repairs are not carried out the bell will have to be removed and stored safely. (Ranald Clouston MBE recommended similar repairs nearly 40 years ago and nothing at all has been done since then. Restoration at **Thurston (5)** is due to commence on Monday, 9th February.

South East: George Pipe had requested that the following be reported at the Meeting: 1) **Parham (3)** are going ahead with the installation of new frame and using two of the present bells plus four new bells to make 6, with the possibility of 8 for the future. An Auction of Promises is to take place shortly. 2) Both **St Lawrence (5)** and **St Stephens (3)** Ipswich (redundant Churches) are to have ringing platforms/floors fitted. **St. Mary le Tower (13)** now has Faculty and money for scaffolding to reach spire to repair corroded tracery on windows which has resulted in pigeons getting into bell chamber. Help with cleaning the resultant mess in due course would be appreciated. Bruce Wakefield had been asked by PCC to visit **Bromeswell (2)** to ascertain which of the bells was cracked. One bell has a lip crack but this is not the 1530 Dutch bell. These bells were re-hung in the early 20th Century. He also mentioned **Woodbridge (8)** where the nylon ground pulley has worn to the point where the spokes of the pulley are showing through. Alan Moulton said that

Whitechapel should be able to supply a new nylon wheel which will resolve the problem. Chris McArthur said that together with Alan Moulton they have now finished the chiming bell at **Easton (6)** and this will be hung above the other bells soon. He has also been asked to have a look at **Charsfield (5)** where one bell is on the ground and the Churchwarden/Architect may ask for a full inspection shortly.

South West: Neville Whittell said that **Assington (6)** have been approached by Donald Mills who now has permission to go and look at them, so this will be arranged shortly (bells not rung for some years due to local objections) and also that Peter Blofield is no longer Churchwarden at **Hitcham (6)** but Friends of Church did express interest in restoring these bells

Technical Advisor's Report: Alan Moulton has taken out approximate weights in Guild Report and rounded to nearest cwt (or quarter)

Applications for Grants: Parham, Rumburgh and Earl Stonham (augmenting to 8) were discussed and agreed and will be put to GMC.

Date and Place of next Meeting: 7.30p.m. Friday, 11th June 2004, at 6, Cavendish Road, Stowmarket.

Any Other Business: Alan Moulton asked if reports are completed by anyone could he please have them (electronically is possible) to store. Neville Whittell said that the open rails of the ringing floor at **Monks Eleigh (6)** may become the subject of Health and Safety scrutiny and the central opening filled in.

The Meeting closed at 9.20p.m. and the chairman thanked Alan and Margaret for their hospitality.

Winston S. Girling
Chairman

AGENDA for 11 June 2004.

- 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