

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS BELFRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee meeting held at St. Mary's, Kersey, on Saturday, 10th June, 2006.

Present: Winston Girling, Neville Whittell, Alan Moulton, Carol Girling, John Taylor, David Salter, Chris McArthur, Richard Coe. Members had a ring on the bells by kind permission of Neville Whittell.

Apologies for absence had been received from Chris Nunn and Michael Rolph.

Confirming Minutes: the Minutes of the Meeting held at Stowmarket 2nd February, 2006, were confirmed and signed.

Matters arising: None.

Applications for Grants: Dealt with out of sequence in view of number of applications.

Ixworth: chosen bellhanger White's. Rehang present 6 bells in existing Bullock wooden 8 bell frame. Possible augmentation to 8, all in old frame. Bullock had works at Ixworth so frame considered historically interesting. Will be strengthened, clamped down and RSJ's introduced underneath as part of work. There are real problems with introducing a steel frame lower down. Neville Whittell pointed out that Bowell had carried some re-hanging at Ixworth. David Salter expressed reservations about re-using old wooden frame as there have been problems with doing this in other places. Committee agreed to recommend grant aid to GMC, based on two levels, 6 or 8 bells.

Stradishall: chosen bellhanger White's. Remove bells to works to drill out crown staples, etc. Vertical tie rods to be fitted to frame. Strengthen and re-rim wheels, all other fittings new. Alan Moulton said that he was not entirely happy with what is being suggested re wheels. Suggested Michael Rolph be asked to have a look at this proposal and matter of grant deferred. Committee agreed.

Fressingfield: Grant aid originally refused because expert reports cast grave doubts on viability of re-hanging any bells in rickety upper frame. Dr. Paul Cattermole from Norfolk has now visited and made recommendations based on new steel frame underneath present lower wooden frame. Heavier bells to go in steel frame, including one small bell, and lighter bells to be installed in present lower wooden frame, which will be suitably strengthened. White's have been chosen as bellhanger but their new report on the latest proposals is not to hand. Reservations were expressed on the overall cost of this project (around £100,000) when most restorations seem to be much less. Committee recommend that we see final report from White's before deciding on grant aid.

Bardwell: Hayward Mills chosen bellhanger. New 6 bell steel frame underneath (extendable to 8) re-hang with all new fittings, replace or recast 3rd (poor bell). Grant aid recommended to GMC.

Chediston: Nicholson chosen bellhanger, steel frame underneath, restore 6 bells, weld cracked 5th, tune and rehang. Grant aid recommended to GMC.

Potential Grant Applications in pipeline – Rattlesden, Stowmarket, Ipswich St. Margaret, Ipswich St. Lawrence, Felsham.

District Reports:

NE

Laxfield – Alan Moulton asked if there was likely to be any action on proposed restoration. No knowledge of anything happening at the moment. **Gislingham** – Richard Coe asked for an update on this tower. The bells are at White's and work is progressing ahead of schedule.

NW

Stowmarket – (Winston) attending meeting with PCC re potential rehang and augment to 10.

SE

Stonham Aspal – (John Taylor/Alan Moulton DAC have visited. Suggestion to repair frame supporting 7 and 8 and rehang with all new fittings.

Parham – new 6 installed and rung, still a few jobs to be done.

SW

Felsham – new ringing floor almost in, 8 bells proposed to be tuned to downward melodic scale.

Sudbury All Saints – (Neville) are there any developments re proposed site meeting.

Richard is on Committee so hopefully things will move along soon.

Rattlesden – first fund raising event has been held, EH have agreed with proposals, Taylor's E & S chosen bellhanger.

Assington –(Neville) PCC refuses to allow bells to be checked or rung. As far as is known no problems with tower or bells? Suggested that an eye be kept on situation locally and hopefully eventually things may change.

Technical Advisers Report – Nothing extra.

Any other business: None.

Date of next meeting: Friday, October 6th 2006, at Parham St. Mary, 7.0p.m. Agreed that we can have a short ring on the new bells before meeting.

The Meeting closed at 8.45p.m.

Winston S. Girling
Chairman

BAC Meeting – Parham Church, 7p.m. Friday, October 6th 2006.

AGENDA

- 1) Apologies for absence
- 2) Confirming Minutes from 10.06.06
- 3) Matters arising
- 4) District reports – NE NW SE and SW
- 5) Technical Adv report
- 6) Grants
- 7) Date and place of next Meeting
- 8) AOB