

## **SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS BELFRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 6, Cavendish Road, Stowmarket, on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 at 7.0p.m.**

Present: Carol Girling, Winston Girling (Chairman) Christopher Nunn, Jonathan Stevens, Dr. Bruce Wakefield, Neville Whittell, David Salter, John Pereira, Richard Coe, John Taylor.

**Apologies for Absence:** David Moyes, David Greenfield, Chris McArthur, Julian Colman.

**Confirming Minutes:** The Minutes of the previous Meeting, held at Bildeston in October 2007, were confirmed and signed.

**Matters Arising:** Bruce Wakefield asked about the bell in the porch at Charsfield. Winston Girling said that he had written to the authorities at the Church pointing out the risk of theft but had so far heard nothing back. Also, Chris McArthur had attended as requested at Framlingham. He had carried out much needed maintenance and tightening and advised as to what was required to keep things in order. Also Jonathan Stevens has assisted Bruce at Woodbridge to tighten the clappers on 5 and 6.

### **District Reports:**

**North East:** Jonathan Stevens mentioned that Adrian Dempster had attended at a trial ring at Cratfield. Graham Pledger wishes to have an ancient windlass, present on the floor above the ringing chamber, preserved. Current plan to restore and use 5<sup>th</sup> as tenor of peal of 6. Jonathan has also visited Sternfield (unringable 4) there are 4 people there who would like to learn to ring and arrangements will be made to do this elsewhere.

**North West:** Winston Girling reported that an 8 bell simulator had been ordered for Stowmarket, the Guild have agreed to pay £150 towards the cost.

**South East:** Winston Girling said that the bell frame and supports had now been repaired at Stonham Aspal. He had been asked to attend to advise on where to fit the slider runs on 7 and 8 as the replaced materials no longer indicated the previous positioning. John Pereira said that the clapper had fallen out of the tenor at Stutton and was found to be slightly bent. It was straightened and replaced. Bruce Wakefield mentioned that when they had recently gone to St. Mary at Quay, Ipswich, to ring they had found that the ropes were pulled up to the floor above the ringing chamber and had problems getting the sallies back down.

**South West:** Winston Girling said that he had been in touch with Tony Baines who has found a piece of timber large enough for the 7<sup>th</sup> bell headstock. Unfortunately the Church have not obtained a Faculty to do the work and do not appear to be particularly interested in getting the bell done. He has written to the Churchwarden. Neville Whittell said that one of a set of handbells at Monks Eleigh seems to have been given away by the vicar. He is going to establish which one is missing. Alan Moulton had reported that he is going to inspect Stradishall following the recent restoration but bells may have to be 8 or 7 because of present frame.

**Applications for Grants:** St. Lawrence, Ipswich, discussed. Whitechapel to carry out work. Also Dennington, Whitechapel also to do work there. Committee happy with

suggested work at both towers. Grant aid recommended to GMC. Long Melford had also asked about grant aid. They have apparently already spent £20,000 on strengthening the existing wooden frame and wish to rehang the bells in this frame with all new fittings etc. Winston Girling said that he had written to the tower captain pointing out that there were still doubts about the stability of this high diagonally placed frame, and that the Guild would need to have a test ring to establish present movement before considering grant aid. Wissett were also working towards restoration but there are problems with an ancient floor and bell frame, both of which have to be removed. Winston Girling had spoken to Peter Eagle-Bott and it seems that the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings are objecting to removal, although English Heritage are in agreement. The Parish are recommended to apply for a Faculty as soon as possible and will do this.

**Technical Advisor's Report:** Advisor not present and no report received from him.

**Any Other Business:** Winston Girling said that he was concerned that the Guild Insurance arbitrarily refused to insure BAC members over 65. David Salter said that he thought that the insurance actually reduced incrementally from 65 to 75. Winston said that he considered that all BAC Members should be fully covered and that there were Members who were over 65 who still worked on bells. This was surely the most important part of the insurance. He would ask Keith Ashton-Jones to clarify the cover so that the matter could be considered at GMC.

**Date and Place of Next Meeting:** Cratfield, to have a short test ring, subject to agreement by Church and ringers.

The Meeting closed at 9.0p.m.

Winston S. Girling  
Chairman.