



Belfry Advisory Committee
Minutes of meeting at St Mary the Virgin & St Lambert, Stonham Aspal
10 October 2008 at 7.30 pm

Ringling took place before the meeting.

Present

Jonathan Stevens (JS) (Chairman), Richard Coe (RC), John Taylor (JT), Bruce Wakefield (BW), Neville Whittell (NW)

Minute Secretary: Suzanne Stevens.

1. Welcome

JS welcomed members and thanked Winston Girling in his absence for all his hard work as Chairman of the committee over a long period of time. Stonham Aspal were thanked for their hospitality and for the heating in the church.

2. Apologies for absence

David Salter, Winston Girling, Chris McArthur, Alan Moulton, Chris Nunn.

3. Minutes of the 13 June 2008 meeting (previously circulated)

These were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Sub-committee report

5.1 Changes to grant conditions (previously circulated)

JT said that he would like the new grant conditions to come across in a friendly advisory way to the parishes and would like some wording amended accordingly.

JS explained that it was a draft document, prepared by the sub-committee which was a basis for discussion.

The draft document was discussed and redrafted paragraph by paragraph by the committee.

- **Action point. JT will look at the Health & Safety paragraph and email alternative wording to JS by the evening of Monday 13 October.**

RC left the meeting at 8.30 pm.

Discussion continued until 9.00 pm.

5.2 The role of the BAC

In view of the time it was decided that a full discussion would be postponed until the next meeting. JS suggested that it would be helpful if there were a BAC members' area on the Suffolk Guild website where items that needed to be shared about current projects could be accessed. This would mean that members would be able to spend time assessing them without time pressure rather than trying to look at them within the committee meetings.

- **Action point. JS will speak to the Webmaster, Chris Garner, about setting up a BAC Members area on the Suffolk Guild website.**

6. District Reports

6.1 North East

Chediston. Expect to install frame and bells in January 09

Cratfield. Site meeting 2 August 08 with Architect Donald Peacock, Naomi Shaw, Bob Carr (DAC Archaeologist), Graham Pledger, Alan Moulton and Self to establish what can and can't be done. The bell frame has to remain where it is, which is a disappointment, and Bob Carr was most resistant to the Clock Case, at present on the ground floor, being moved. Retaining its present position makes the project close to untenable. We await the opinion of the Council for the Care of Churches.

Fressingfield. The baffles fitted in June made a little difference to the external sound balance. They need to be much larger although this raises bracing difficulties as the frame moves too much to be braced off. The treble is going to be put on the upper layer, the draw on the sixth improved, the clappers are all to be machined and safe walkways are to be installed. Part of the grant has been approved; the balance will be paid when the above works are complete.

Great Glemham. The parish is proceeding with the ringing floor; their present difficulties are the conflicting opinions as to whether the tower inner skin should have pockets cut in to support the floor beams or whether the structure should be completely independent of the tower.

Halesworth. The cannons on the Treble broke and the bell has been made safe. They are ringing on the back six only.

Kelsale. A temporary repair has been made to the rope spider. The parish is still thinking about a restoration project.

Theberton. A rope has been spliced for them.

Wissett. Are trying for a lottery grant before they commission the design of the ring beam.

6.2 North West.

Bacton. Winston fitted new shaped stay to fifth.

Buxhall. Winston and David Steed Re-hung the Treble with new bolts and sorted clapper.

Eye. They have got a plan out for a re-hang and augmentation. They are waiting for a copy of our grant conditions.

Mendlesham. There is no faculty yet but the ringing floor and access have been agreed by the PCC. They want to glaze in the arch, but this has yet to be approved by English Heritage.

Stowupland. Winston is to re-route the rope to a different floor.

Ixworth. They are having a site meeting 2 November prior to Whites replacing the bells.

6.3 South East

Campsea Ashe. This project is moving ahead nicely. The only concern of the Technical Officer, not shared by the Parish or Andrew Nicholson, is that the bells will be too quiet externally when the project is complete.

Dennington. Following a review of the project a number of issues were raised with regard to sound, safety and the grouting in of the frame. They have chosen not to install a ringing floor at this time.

Easton. Chris McArthur is modifying the pulley boxes; at present the design is such that the cheeks pinch the pulleys.

Framlingham. Some of the clappers have been re-bushed.

Grundisburgh. The first peal has been rung on the new tenor. All the bells are now hung on ball bearings.

Hacheston. Ropes have been spliced. The back three clappers still have their counterbalances.

Ipswich St Mary le Tower. Clapper on the eleventh has broken for the sixth time.

Ufford. The parish intends to have new headstocks fitted to the back four bells and the gudgeons replaced on the fourth. They have asked if this work could be considered for a grant.

Woolverstone. The bells are ringing again after some work.

6.4 South West.

Lidgate. Did an inspection of two bells hung dead with chiming hammers in August, spliced and adjusted the ropes.

Sudbury All Saints. Still have not received paperwork for faculty approval from diocese. Winston would like Michael and Neville to help remove headstock.

Sudbury St Gregory. Tenor difficult to ring. Neville to help?

Woolpit. Have discovered tenor is cracked where struck by clock hammer. Is a difficult tower to remove bells as has no trap.

7. Technical Advisor's Report

This is included in item 6 above.

8. Grant Applications

8.1 Helmingham

The bellhangers work is costed at £76,647 and the building work at £31,000 but there is no breakdown of what the building costs involve. It was decided to base the grant on the cost of the bellhanger's work, and to recommend a grant of £7,600 to the General Management Committee (GMC).

8.2 Grundisburgh

JS had received an email from Stephen Pettman (SP) requesting a grant towards the work that has just been completed at Grundisburgh. SP explained that he had not originally asked for a grant as he had found other funding, however, costs of materials had risen substantially and a loan had been rescinded.

BW pointed out that Grundisburgh is readily available for use by the Guild.

The committee decided to recommend a grant of £1,600 to the GMC.

8.3 Ufford

Had requested guidance from the BAC as to whether they should apply for a grant for the work outlined in 6.3 above. The committee decided to recommend to the GMC that they should.

8.4 Woolpit

Had requested a grant towards the simulator already installed. This would be referred to the Pipe Trust which deals with educational grants.

9. Any Other Business

None.

10. Action List

- **JS will speak to the Webmaster, Chris Garner, about setting up a BAC Members area on the Suffolk Guild website.**
- **JT will look at the Health & Safety paragraph and email alternative wording to JS by the evening of Monday 13 October.**

11. Date and venue of next meeting.

Friday 6 February 2008. Venue to be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.