



**Belfry Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting at St Lawrence, Ipswich
30 September 2010 at 7.30 pm**

Members rang before the meeting.

Present

Jonathan Stevens (JS) (Chairman), Carol Girling (CG), Winston Girling (WG), Chris McArthur (CM), John Pereira (JP), Michael Rolph (MR), Bruce Wakefield (BW), Neville Whittell (NW)

Minute Secretary: Suzanne Stevens.

1. Welcome

JS thanked everyone for coming to St Lawrence.

2. Apologies for absence

Alan Moulton, Chris Nunn, David Salter, John Taylor.

3. Election of new member

JS proposed from the Chair that Carol Girling be elected a member of the BAC. She and Winston often worked together on belfry maintenance and it was right that she should officially be a member of the committee. Carol was welcomed to the BAC.

4. Minutes of the 1 July 2010 meeting (previously circulated)

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

5. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

6. Correspondence

None.

7. Technical Advisor's Report (JS)

July 7 Wilby Checked installation over and changed rope prior to College Youth peal attempt.

July 9 Dennington modified nylon sleeve to reduce rope noise on fifth. Rejected sleeve and sanded rope hole with flap wheel on double extension.

July 14 Ixworth third difficult to ring. Wheel hitting clock hammer. New spring needed.

July 29 Hopton with Andrew Mills setting up striking
Wissett sound measurements

August 14 Belfry training day Laxfield and Fressingfield

August 28 Hopton grant inspection

August 31 Metfield clock weight fallen through two floors, stopping in ringing chamber.

September 29 Campsea Ashe observing and recording condition of tower in pockets for beams.

8. District Reports

8.1 North East

Wissett JS reported that sound pipes and barriers using sound slab had been fitted. The ringers want to bring sound tubes through the sound room but the archaeologist does not want this to happen.

Chediston The external sound control has been installed but the tongue and groove has shrunk apart. Will need to block this up if there are further complaints.

8.2 North West.

Cotton WG reported that the new ropes are much better than the old.

Stonham Aspal WG stated that there are loose clappers. These will be done in early Winter.

Bacton These have a new set of Whitechapel pulleys and the bells have been transformed.

Stowmarket Thirteen of the fifteen tie rods have now been replaced. The pulleys need new bearing.

Fornham St Martin In a bad condition, need rehangng.

Thornham Magna should have its condition reduced in the Annual Report from 7 to 6. They have been improved by being tightened up on the headstocks.

8.3 South East

Helmingham were sorted in time for Lord Tollemache's daughter's wedding. WG was thanked by JS.

Campsea Ashe Four bells were stolen while at Nicholson's.

Tattingstone have enough money to replace the treble so they are going to go for the rehang.

St Mary at Elms There has been a fire in the tower but the bells haven't been damaged. JS has offered to look at them but hasn't been requested to do so.

Brandeston CM said that there was an 18' draft and wanted to know if a faculty was needed for rope guides. Yes.

Easton On the third the rope was off the wheel. A quarter of the wheel was scraped, so is the frame rubbing it? JS offered to help.

Charsfield The bell is still in the porch. A letter should be written to Charsfield highlighting the theft of Campsea Ashe bells.

Stutton When learners were ringing the second the rope would come off the wheel and hit the frame. Installation of a flapper board has cured this.

Woolverstone are still ringing three.

8.4 South West

St Gregory's, Sudbury NW reported that the work on the tenor has been completed and is OK. The bearings have 1/2" of wear.

Rushmere The tenor clapper has been given to Neville. There was some discussion on this clapper.

JP reported that an ash tree had been felled in the churchyard so there was spare wood for stays if anyone needed some.

9. Grant Applications

9.1 Applications.

Beccles They have had three quotes but none of them include any sound control.

John Taylor is quoting £8,605 and £8,500 for cleaning and painting the frame.

Whites are quoting £11,912/£18,238.

Whitechapel are quoting £26,353/£27,282.

The meeting felt that it would be a good idea to get all the work done at once but would go for Whites. The tower wants to use Whitechapel.

10. Routine Maintenance

10.1 The maintenance notes are available by email from JS.

10.2 Training seminar. There was a good attendance. Lessons were learned from the previous seminar. Thanks were recorded to those who gave hospitality at Laxfield and gave us the use of Fressingfield. Thanks were expressed to everyone who helped.

11. Update on work done in previous bell restorations (DS)

DS has got up to 2005. The list shows that a great deal of money has been raised and spent on bell restoration in Suffolk.

12. Steeple keeper's lunch/supper. JS suggested that it would be an idea to have this and to have a speaker. It would raise the profile of steeple keepers and give them a chance to meet others. The Cedars in Stowmarket was suggested as a venue; there is a private room. Possibly March/April – need to check with Guild Calendar.

13. Any other business

- JS mentioned the AGM fringe meeting. It was hoped to have a debate: 'Bellframes – repair or renewal'. Eg SPAB v Mark Regan. JS asked for other names of people who would do a good job. Chris Pickford was suggested as a partner for Mark Regan.
- NW suggested that discussing the need for faculty applications was not appropriate at BAC meetings as it is the minister's responsibility to be granted a faculty not the contractor's. WG agreed. JS expressed concern that if an archdeacon's inspection found that there was no faculty then the work would have to be undone with attendant costs.

14. Action List

- **JS to send letter to Charsfield PCC.**
- **JS to consider Steeplekeeper's Supper.**

15. Date and venue of next meeting.

Thursday 10 February 2011, at St Gregory's Sudbury. 7.00 pm ringing, 7.30 pm meeting.

JS thanked everyone for attending and George Pipe for making chairs available.

The meeting closed at 8.47 pm.