

Belfry Advisory Committee Minutes – 27th September 2012 at Earl Stonham

Present - J Stevens - Chairman, C McArthur – Secretary, W Girling, C Girling, J Taylor, D Rose , C Davies and R Coe.

Apologies - N Whittle A Moulton, D Salter, M Croucher and J Pereira.

1. Minutes of meeting 24 May 2012 at Woolpit agreed and signed as a true record.
2. Matters arising- None
3. Correspondence- None
4. Technical Advisors Report - Jonathan reported that he had attended the “Bell Advisors Conference” and had found it very useful. Bells are now to be included in all church architects CPD and technical clarification on bell frame securing into wall structures has now agreed. HLF grants are now available for rebuild/rehang projects of between £3000 to £100,000 and some notable successes have already been achieved. Other local work by Jonathan has included completing the new bushes on treble and third clappers at Blythburgh, with help from M Rolfe. Thurston was visited in August when the grouting was found to be cracked and some frame movement detected. A new church architect is working with the guild on this matter.
5. District Reports

North East - Beccles is having new bearings on all bells by Whitechapel and No.3 bell appears to be cracked and will need attention. Aldeburgh has had all bearings removed for cleaning and inspection although only three bells required new bearings. Other work was done by Taylors, with help from committee members and the go of the bells is now found to be excellent.

North West – Pettaugh have had work done by Winston including a new rope and levering. Wetherden has issues with No 1 bell being loose on the headstock, action is being sought. The project at Redgrave continues with the planning approval decision being imminent. A local petition was used to good effect to support the change of use. Haughley bells have clapper issues and a small working party will resolve this shortly led by Richard.

South East - Copdock inspection remains outstanding following a parish request after a peal earlier this year. St Mary le Tower has masonry issues on the facing preventing ringing at present. Clopton contract has been placed and bells will be removed early in the New Year following a very successful fund raising appeal, including a major grant from HLF and the Guild.

South West – Woolpit now intends to have the tenor welded at Soundweld and hope to support this work with a guild grant application shortly. Long Melford has serious problems with the tenor bearings and Neville is helping with lifting and inspection.

6. Grant applications – None for this meeting, although Redgrave will apply when planning approval is granted.
7. Any other business – The belfry maintenance day at Rougham is going ahead and there is a need for volunteers’ to help Jonathan. Some discussion took place on the problems with Nylatron clapper bearings at Palgrave and it seems this is only resolved by reaming out the bearing. This is generally only an issue when temperatures are above 24 C.

8. Next meeting – **Tuesday 22nd January at Kersey** starting with a ring at 7.00pm. In the event of very cold weather the meeting at 7.30pm will be in a warm venue in the village.
9. Chris McArthur has volunteered to be minute secretary in future so please send him agenda items for the next meeting seven days prior to the meeting. Many thanks to Susanne Stevens for all her valuable assistance over many years.