

Minutes of Belfry Advisory Committee – 14th May 2013 at Bredfield Parish Church

Present – J Stevens (chair), C McArthur (secretary), C Davies, J Taylor, M Croucher.

Apologies – M Ralph, W & C Girling, C Nunn

Remembrance – All remembered David Greenfield who died recently. He was a very active member of BAC and much involved on various projects.

Minutes - 4th February 2013 agreed and signed by chair.

Matters arising from 4/2/13 meeting – Copdock bells inspection still outstanding (*subsequently completed on 20/5/13 by JS/CM*).

Correspondence – None, although a letter from Campse Ash PCC noted that “after two years we have no concerns about the installation at all “. This relates to the rehangng.

Technical advisors report –

At the AGM a most interesting talk had been be given on the benefits of keeping old frames.

Huntingfield have now agreed to implement the proposed works arising from JS inspection.

Oakley is installing broadband in the belfry and JS to provide advice on minimising impacts.

Falkenham await an inspection.

Hopton have asked JS to assist with the design of a second stage of sound control following a number of local concerns.

Ringsfield have asked for an inspection

Beccles are considering sound control in memory of Barry Pickup.

The CBC bell advisors conference is in York June 2/3 and JS will attend.

Palgrave clappers need attention.

District reports

North East – Stradbroke have been checked over and are in good order.

North West – Eye have had clappers tightened. Redgrave discussions continue on the positioning of the new bells. A second opinion is now being sort from Alan Hughes of Whitechapel re old frame use or new. Bardwell have had stay repairs. Wickham Skeith has a complete set of stays made and fitted. Thelnetham have pulley noise problems and CD proposes to make a new set for the cost of materials. Cotton now has restricted ringing. Thornham Magna goes well following some recent work. Rickinghall have asked for an inspection. Stowmarket awaits a new frame tie rod. Mendlesham have been rung for a limited amount and local interest in a restoration is apparent.

South East – Pettistree problems with swift rope wear resolved by installing softer rope. Brandeston tenor clapper, new washer installed. Clopton new pad stones have proved to be excellent, new

frame work installation in May and the bells back early summer. Bredfield minor go issues and require an inspection in due course.

South West – Woolpit tenor is repaired and back in the tower, although the frame in that area has yet to be rebuilt.

Grants - Clopton has been allocated an extra £250 to help with repair of the cracked bell. The grant for Thelnetham was approved as an initial £75 for pulley block materials, although a quote letter will now be sought and could mean we review that figure.

AOB - Adrian Cradock of Bredfield has ash lengths available to guild towers for laying down as stays.

All thanked Anne Pilgrim of Bredfield for a pleasant ring/arrangements and use of the church hall afterwards.

It was noted that some members had a low attendance record and we do request that attendance is improved in order that we can maximise the expertise available for discussions at meetings.

Hopton have 220m of guild rope supplied from the guild for local splicing.

Next meeting – Redgrave church Thursday 17th September 2103 at 7.00 pm, for a ring prior to the meeting.

Agenda for meeting of BAC, 17th September 2013, Redgrave Church.

19.00hrs. pre meeting ringing

19.30 hrs. talk by Jed Flatters (approx. 20 mins.) Entitled “the hang of church bells”

1. Apologies
2. Agree previous minutes
3. Matters arising
4. Correspondence
5. Technical advisors report
6. District reports
7. North East
8. North West
9. South East
10. South West
11. Grant applications
12. AOB
13. Date of next meeting