

**APPROVED Minutes of the North East Annual District Meeting held at Stradbroke
Saturday 12 November 2016**

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chairman, Ed Rolph, welcomed 19 members to the meeting. He thanked Veronica Downing, Lay Elder, for taking the service. He said that members' thoughts and prayers are with the Rev Susan Loxton and the Rev Bill Mahood, and that we wish them both a speedy recovery.

The Chairman received apologies from Graham Downing, Valerie Eagle-Bott, Kathy Farrar, Ian Harris, Trevor and Julie Hughes, Hal Humphries, Matthew Rolph, Sarah Plummer, Julie Rapior, Jonathan Stevens, John Tesh, Ambrin Williams, Ann Williams, Graeme Williams.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 May 2016

The Chairman said there is one amendment to the minutes, as there were 42 members present, rather than 32, as stated in the minutes. The minutes of the meeting were agreed as an accurate record of discussions, proposed by Suzanne Stevens and seconded by Sal Jenkinson. The Chairman signed the minutes.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 14 May 2016

There were no matters arising.

4. Review of the year – Ringing Master

The Ringing Master, Philip Gorrod (PJG) referred to his written report. Liaison meetings had been held in January which had been very well attended. Focused practice sessions had been set up and Graham Nabb had led Module 1 of ITTS, which 10 district members attended. He expressed his thanks to Jonathan Stevens for running the District Striking Competition at Wissett in May. Congratulations were due to Sal Jenkinson for ringing her first peal, and to Barry Kimber, Caron Harris and Dominic Parkes for ringing their first quarter peals. PJG invited any questions on his report.

Sal Jenkinson commended the focused practices which had been held during the year, which had concentrated on bell handling, call changes, Plain Hunt and Plain Bob Doubles. She thanked PJG for running these.

Veronica Downing commended the Ringing Teachers' Module 1 of ITTS course held in July and said this had been an excellent learning experience. PJG said that he will arrange a follow up session in early 2017.

5. Election of New Members

Membership forms were received from the following, who were duly elected as members to the Suffolk Guild, North East District.

Ann Williams	Chediston	Proposed V.Downing	Seconded G. Downing
Graeme Williams	Chediston	Proposed V. Downing	Seconded G. Downing

Members approved their election as members. Their membership forms and subscriptions were passed to the Treasurer.

6. Election of District Officers

Chairman

Ed Rolph advised that he will be stepping down as Chairman.

Ed Rolph proposed Mike Cowling as Chairman. There were no other nominations. Veronica Downing seconded the proposal. Members voted on the proposal and Mike Cowling was duly elected.

Secretary

Michelle Williams said that she will be stepping down from the position of Secretary. Michelle Williams proposed Kate Gill as Secretary. There were no other nominations. Ed Rolph seconded the proposal. Members voted and Kate Gill was duly elected.

Treasurer

Julie Rapior had indicated her willingness to stand again as Treasurer. Michelle Williams proposed her and Mike Cowling seconded. Members voted on the proposal and Julie Rapior was duly elected.

Ringing Master

Philip Gorrod indicated his willingness to stand again as Ringing Master. Suzanne Stevens proposed him and Hilary Stearn seconded. Members voted on the proposal and Philip Gorrod was duly elected.

Deputy Ringing Master

The post of Deputy Ringing Master is not required by the Constitution, although PJG said that it has been useful as a means of training and shadowing the Ringing Master. Jonathan Stevens currently occupies this role, but it is not known whether he wishes to stand again.

Members agreed to leave the post vacant for the time being, and for PJG to have discretion to appoint to the post if he needs assistance, without the need for further reference back to members.

Magazine Correspondent

Ambrin Williams has said she is stepping down from this role. Following discussion and advice from Alan Stanley on the workload and critical dates, Michelle Williams offered to take on the role. This was proposed by Philip Gorrod and seconded by Mike Cowling. Members voted on the proposal and Michelle Williams was duly elected.

GMC representatives

The current representatives are Ed Rolph, Michelle Williams, Ambrin Williams, Philip Gorrod and Jonathan Stevens.

Ed Rolph and Michelle Williams will be stepping down. Ambrin Williams will stay on the GMC.

Veronica Downing asked about Central Council representation on the GMC. It was agreed that the GMC needs to be asked if they wish for Central Council representation.

It is hoped that Jonathan Stevens will remain as a GMC representative. Philip Gorrod proposed him, seconded by Ed Rolph. This was approved by members' vote.

Mike Cowling was proposed by Ed Rolph, seconded by Philip Gorrod. This was approved by members' vote.

Philip Gorrod was proposed by Suzanne Stevens, seconded by Michelle Williams. This was approved by members' vote.

Ambrin Williams was proposed by Philip Gorrod and seconded by Catherine Draper. This was approved by members' vote.

R & T representatives

Philip Gorrod is the only representative at present and is willing to continue. He was proposed by Michelle Williams and seconded by Ed Rolph. This was approved by members' vote.

Philip Gorrod proposed Fiona Shuttle as the second representative. She indicated her willingness and was proposed by Philip Gorrod and seconded by Ed Rolph. This was approved by members' vote.

Co-opted committee members

Co-opted members are currently Trevor Hughes, Richard Rapior and Kate Gill.

Richard Rapior is willing to continue and was proposed by Veronica Downing and seconded by Michelle Williams.

It is not known whether Trevor Hughes wishes to remain as a co-opted member. It was agreed he can be co-opted at a later stage if necessary.

At this point, Ed Rolph handed over the chair to Mike Cowling.

7. Reports

Belfry Advisory Committee (BAC)

Suzanne Stevens presented a written report on behalf of Jonathan Stevens. A tower inspection has been undertaken at Wrentham and some remedial work recommended. A test ring will be organised by the BAC before the bells can be rung again. There is interest in the parish in learning to ring.

An inspection was carried out at Laxfield, in connection with the restoration project.

Halesworth have enquired about rehanging their bells and Huntingfield are planning to have the ropes guided more effectively. Arrangements for re-siting the ladder in Blythburgh are being reviewed.

Recruitment and training

This was covered under the Ringing Master's report.

GMC

Ed Rolph reported back on behalf of Ambrin Williams. There is a barn dance planned at Sproughton on 16 September 2017. Catherine Draper has created a new leaflet to support recruitment events, which GMC appreciated.

8. 2017 Events

There will be two tower representative meetings in January 2017, one on Wednesday 11 January and the other on Sunday 15 January. Venues will be confirmed in the near future.

The 2017 striking competition will take place at Metfield on Saturday 13 May 2017. The ADM will be held at Halesworth on Saturday 11 November 2017. The Guild AGM will be held at Beccles on Saturday 22 April 2017.

9. Any other business

Suzanne Stevens expressed warm appreciation to Ed Rolph and Michelle Williams on behalf of all in the district for their sterling work as Chairman and Secretary. This was followed by a round of applause from all.

Thanks were given to Alan Stanley and Tom Scase for attending to represent the Guild.

Mike Cowling thanked Michelle Williams and Catherine Draper for setting up the hall and tea, and to everyone who had made contributions to the tea.

10. Date and time of next meeting

4.30 pm, Saturday 11 February 2017, at Wingfield.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.