

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Belfry Advisory Committee Meeting at Horringer - 3rd February 2017

All rang at this new ring of eight before the meeting and were delighted by the go and sound of them. B Thaxter thanked the guild for its monetary and labour help during this extensive project, Winston will do a full grant inspection of the installation hopefully next week.

Present – W Girling(Chair), C Girling, C McArthur(Sec.), J Taylor, N Whittell, A Moulton, C Davies, C Nunn and T Scase by invitation.

Apologies- J Spiller, D Salter, M Steggles.

1. Minutes were agreed from the BAC meeting at Stowmarket on 6/10/16.
2. One matter arising was, that in due course we would put on the guild web site a note with the scales of grants available to restoration projects as guidance for the parishes.
3. Grant Applications – one had been received from Boxford for rebushing clappers and improving stem profiles, with local help. Total cost is £1442 plus VAT and the **committee recommendation is £300 for this project.**
4. Guild Officers – It was noted that C McA. had taken up the post of Technical Advisor SE district at the AGM, and this would now fill all the four posts.
5. Training - Little progress has been made with organising an event in the East Suffolk area and Alan and Chris McA agreed to take this event forward probable at Framlingham during the middle of the year. Jonathan would assist as his availability allows.
6. Technical Advisors Report - **Chevington**, work on loose bolts and noise problems rectified. **Badwell Ash**, inspection for the parish for restoration/augmentation as existing frame is deflecting considerably. **Grt Blakenham**, two chiming bells fitted with pulleys and ropes for chiming. **Thorndon**, possible major restoration is being sought by the parish, however due to the very poor condition of the bells they must not be rung or chimed currently. **Horringer** bells still have minor works to be completed such as louvers, but basically they are ringing again well. **Stowmarket** are currently requesting quotes for a new lighter peal of 10 and three quotes have been sought from Taylors, Nicholson's and Whites.
7. District Reports - NE report that Laxfield are pushing ahead with the scheme to augment to eight. **NW** have continued with planning at Redgrave with Nicholson's likely to be awarded the contract shortly, including restoration of the wooden frame on removal from the tower. **SE** note that Crettingham scheme is progressing well and local labour led by Jed will take this forward during June. St Matthews's are about to have the clappers refurbished following removal by the BAC members later this month. St Margaret scheme now has HLF approval and scheme is progressing well. St Mary at Quay has been the subject of various discussions with "Mind" about refurbishment of these bells. Tom asked that the various guild members involved should now all work together on this project, and this has been agreed. **SW** report that Little Cornard now has a faculty for the augmentation and fund raising is going very well locally, contracts with the bell hangers may well be placed later this year. Hintlesham maintenance work is still being planned and Assington issues with access were noted, as a serious ongoing problem.
8. It was noted that contact with M Rolph had been lost and Winston would follow this up after the meeting.
9. Date of next meeting - Monday 12th June 2017 at 19.00 hrs, with a ring at Crettingham prior to the bells removal in the following weeks. Meeting will hopefully be in The Bell at Crettingham after our ring.
10. Note - Following the meeting Winston has put in a request on behalf of BAC for a new chain hoist to be purchased by the guild and to be held by the BAC. Various members of the committee had agreed this idea, and if approved by management it could be purchased for around £200. This would help BAC take forward various schemes in an effective and safe manner.