

Minutes of Belfry Advisory Committee – Suffolk Guild of Ringers

12th June 2017 meeting at 19.30: Cretingham Bell PH.

Present : W Girling (Chair) , C McArthur(Sec) , M Steggles , D Salter , M Rolph , P & D Rose , C Girling , J Taylor , N Whittell , and C Davies. T Scase by invitation.

Apologies: C Nunn, A Moulton, J Spiller.

1. **Minutes** were agreed and signed from the BAC meeting at Horringer on 3rd February 2017
2. **Grant Applications:** The meeting considered a grant request from **Offton** to replace No. 6 bell with a new Taylor's bell. The formal quote with fittings is for £15211 ex vat, but with local help it is reduced to £11415. A 10% grant of £1141.50 was proposed by N Whittell and seconded by D Salter, all were in favour. **Cretingham** application was then discussed and a new Taylor treble is to go in the empty pit of a six bell metal frame. Bells will not be tuned but with new headstocks to all bells. Locals will paint the frame with bells coming out shortly and returning this November. The scheme cost is £32934 plus £6972 for the new bell. A grant of £4000 was proposed by C McArthur and seconded by C Davies, all were in favour. **Little Cornard** application was then considered with a new frame to make a rehung Taylors ring of six. Cost is £62163 but with local help this can be reduced to £52851. The cost of a new Taylors treble is £8960. The other five are from the existing ring including the 4th that is listed. A grant of £10079 was proposed by D Rose and seconded by P Rose, all were in favour. D Salter wished to make the point out that retention of anti clockwise rings was important for the county, although very few elected to retain this feature, as is the case at Little Cornard. For all of these three schemes local fund raising has been considerable and impressive.
3. **Training matters:** An event in the late autumn for steeple keepers is proposed in the Framlingham area and A Moulton /C McArthur would do the organisation in due course.
4. **Technical Advisors report:** Horringer has been visited twice and the grant has now been sanctioned for payment after sound proofing was completed by Taylors. St Matthew's clappers have been reinstalled after rebushing and reprofiling. Other work/inspections that have been completed include Wickham Skeith, Nettlestead, Yaxley, Oakley, and Ingham.
District Reports: **North East-** Leiston have had work on the clappers and St Cross South Elmham had an inspection that revealed considerable dilapidation of the wheels and headstocks, barely ringable. J Stevens to advise on ringing. Laxfield scheme is progressing and fund raising is continuing apace. **North West** - Redgrave contract has now been signed, £176000 for Nicholson's to do all works including repairing the existing timber frame. It is hoped with local labour that they will be reinstalled by Easter 2018. Yaxley needs further work on frame tightening and new pulley blocks, as well as frame structure modifications. Stowmarkets proposed new ring of 10, retaining 3 listed bells, is progressing although PCC priorities are likely to be an issues for this £166,000 scheme. **South West** - Lt Cornard is the subject of much preparatory work currently. Whatfield rehangng/augmentation has gone very quiet , Monks Eleigh has work in progress still and Hitcham have had a Nicholson's quote for rehangng, but no guild involvement as yet. St Gregory's Sudbury has problems with the treble dropping in the frame but D Rose has plans to carry out remedial works. **South East - Hatcheston** are back to full ringing status following structural problems in the roof. Cretingham are being augmented by guild officers led by G Flatters and A Moulton. In the Ipswich area much activity continues: St Margaret's is going well with all bells currently out and at Nicolson's. St Mary at Elms is in need of a working party to lift the bells onto the frame, to a safe position. St Stephens have plans for three bells to be returned to

full circle ringing status. At St Lawrence the Salter's have tightened all fittings and they now definitely go better. At St Mary Quay meetings have been held with "Mind" about a possible rehanging by guild officers, a response from them is currently awaited. St Clements are in discussions with K Salter and are minded to ask for a grant for a carillon installation later this year. Finally at Tattlingstone considerable problems with the tenor have been experienced by locals and D Salter/C McArthur are planning to spend a morning on them, doing initial maintenance work.

5. **Next meeting** – Tuesday 3rd October 2017 at Yaxley with ringing at 19.00 hours prior to the meeting. (subject to confirmation)