

Minutes of the Belfry Advisory Committee meeting held at 12 Landsdowne road Ipswich, Thursday 7th Oct. 1999

Those present; George Pipe, Alan Moulton, Winston Girling, Carol Girling.

Apologies were received from Julian Colman, David Webb, Chris Nunn, Neville Whittell, Richard Coe, Ranald Clouston.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

REPORTS

NE. Jonathon Stevens has reported, (via W Girling) that @ RENDHAM the PCC are happy for the bells to be rung. Ball bearings are to be fitted to the treble to allow for the side to side movement and the bells will be bolted through the frame as the coach screws have sheared off.

At BRAMFIELD (a minor five in a detached round tower) an inspection has been requested.

NW

IXWORTH C Nunn reported that the third clapper fractured and has been successfully welded by General Instruments of Bury st Edmunds. It is back and working.

At BARROW the church wants to site a toilet in the ringing chamber. G Pipe suggested that R Clouston be advised of this.

OLD NEWTON The old headstocks have been stripped from the two tenors preparatory to rehanging the bells on ball bearings. The clappers are from Eayre and Smith and the Guild is making the replacement headstocks

MENDLESHAM The PCC have asked for the bells to have a check over and tighten with a view to restarting the ringing. G Pipe mentioned that all clergy had been circulated with advise for millenium ringing.

STOWUPLAND The single bell was rehung on September 15th, and has now been re-classified as a Mears & son (with Oliver acting as agent).

STOWMARKET The clapper of the 6th bell has been turned, the stay on the 7th bell has been replaced, new lights have been installed in the tower, ringing chamber and bell chamber(500W) and the sound flaps have been completed. The possibility of rehanging in a ten-bell steel frame is to be investigated.

BUXHALL has a new treble stay

At STOWLANGTOFT the wheels are to be tightened to the headstocks.

A MOULT reported that Eayre & Smith are to inspect the NORMAN TOWER on Oct. 28th

A letter has been received from Jeanne O'Reilly re the misinformation on TOSTOCK printed from the previous committee notes. The relevant points are as follows :

The flat 2nd bell has been prepared by BT engineering for swing chiming. The same firm is building the new frame, and it is hoped this will be installed by mid-October

Three new bells have been cast by Taylors and are now with Eayre & Smith

Five faculties have been received from the DAC, and permission has now been granted for all stages of the work.

The builder John Pamment from Norton has begun preparations in the tower for the installation of the frame and the ringing floor. The electrical work has been completed.

The Tostock "ten" are more accurately the Tostock "twelve"

SE

G Pipe reported on ST MARY LE TOWER. Dr Jones' will stated that the money was to be used for the Church, thus all the funding is now available for replacing bells 9, 10 and 11.

The 9th (a poor bell) has been bought by Mr Laith Reynolds for use in Australia, and is to go to Taylors in the interim.

The 10th is a fine bell cast by the Ipswich founder Derby in 1670, but doesn't fit with the Simpson-tuned 12

The 11th, (which had been rung to 500 peals) is a Miles Gray of 1610

Both 10 and 11 are to be hung in the tower in an extended frame, the 11th to be fitted with a striking mechanism and used as a sanctus bell.

The new 11th bell is to weigh 25cwt

The 5th and the 8th are to be re-tuned in with the new 9th 10th and 11th bells

The new bells are arriving on Nov 8th, and it is expected that ringing will begin again by Christmas.

At ST CLEMENTS there has been a general check and tighten.

HACHESTON dedication has been arranged for Easter 2000.

W Girling had received a report on ST MARY AT ELMS from R Clouston

BAYLHAM are to have inspections by Eayre & Smith, Taylors and BT engineering.

SW

At PRESTON washers have been fitted to the tenor clapper to limit sideways movement.

R Clouston reported a trial ring on the six @ LITTLE THURLOW

The unmachined tenor clapper @ BILDESTON is giving similar problems to those at BOXFORD, where Taylors visited at short notice and expressed an unwillingness to machine the clappers

AOB

The Convenor voiced his disappointment over the poor attendance at this meeting.

At the NW's ADM there had been concern at the possibility of too much ringing on BARDWELL bells.

Problems @ EAST BERGHOLT were mentioned by W Girling

Date and venue for next meeting: Sat 12th Feb @ 2.30, 6 Cavendish road Stowmarket.

It is appreciated that because of the minimal attendance at the October meeting it was not possible to widely discuss a change to Saturday, but it is hoped this will suit more members than previously.

George and Diana Pipe were thanked for their hospitality - the meeting closed at 9 15.

Winston S. Girling Convenor

