

Minutes of BAC meeting held at Lansdown Road, Ipswich 21 09 01

Those present George Pipe, Winston Girling, Chris MacArthur, David Salter, Michael Rolph, David Moyse and David Greenfield.

Before the meeting started a short prayer was said in memory of Martin Thorley who died the previous day.

Apologies were received from Julian Colman, Stuart Harrison, Chris Nunn, Bruce Wakefield, David Webb, John Pereira and Richard Coe.

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and signed.

District Reports

NE

Michael Rolph had visited **Cookley** (1893 Taylor rehang), They have cast-iron headstocks, have had very little ringing, and the frame proved flexible, although swing-chiming was permissible. Rod French had been to **Kelsale** to apply releasing fluid to the 7th bell ironwork and hopefully allow tightening of the loose headstock.

A steeplekeeper has been found for **Blythburgh**.

St Nicholas' at **Wrentham** (where the frame sways) is waiting for the "swingometer"

NW

An inspection has been carried out at **Wetheringsett**. Winston Girling reported that the frame moves 1/4inch by the tenor bell.

George Pipe briefly mentioned **Tuddenham St Mary and Mildenhall**.

A visit and general check and tighten has been done at **Walsham Le Willows**; the tenor clapper was found to be catching on the slider. Bernard Pollard has now righted this.

A report on **Worlington** has been completed by Ranald Clouston MBE

SE

David Salter reported that **Redgrave and Blaxhall** have new ropes.

At **Easton** work and funding are being arranged locally. Four bells are to be rehung with new headstocks and bearings now, and the remaining two bells are to be dealt with in the same way sometime in the future

A discussion followed re. box section headstocks and solid ditto.

Winston Girling has fitted a chiming apparatus on the tenor bell at **St Mary at Elms**. The last time these bells were rung was in 1903.

Alan Moulton and Winston Girling had been to **Nettlestead** where there presently is one bell weighing 4cwts. There is a possibility of an augmentation here to 5 very light bells. George Pipe expressed his doubts as to the viability of this.

George also thanked Alan and Winston for roping **Ashfield cum Thorpe**.

At **Earl Stonham** there may be a rehang and augmentation to eight.

George mentioned **Eyke** where there are three bells hung for ringing. He also said how nice a ring **Hacheston** have become.

The meeting was assured that **Baylham** really *do* want a rehang.

At **Brandeston** (the mortuary chapel) Chris MacArthur has rehung the one bell on a new elm headstock.

Wickham Market are desperately fund raising for tower repairs.

David Salter informed the meeting that the appeal at **East Bergholt** has started. It was felt that the Guild should contribute, and David Salter suggested £250 as an appropriate sum.

SW

Neville Whittell mentioned **Ousden**, a Lester and Pack five from 1905. The ringing here was suspended during the war.

There is a possibility of a rehang at **Hitcham**...out of action from the 50s because of a cracked 5th headstock.

Long Melford was also mentioned, as being modern fittings on a worn-out frame.

Applications for grants

Campsea Ashe.

It has been recommended that new bearings and headstocks are fitted to bells 1, 3 and 4 and that the bells should be tuned, at a cost of £12,140 + vat. The Parish wants just new bearings. Alan Moulton has recommended that new headstocks should be fitted now rather than later and it would be better to do the job properly and not waste money. Neville Whittell wondered if the Parish knew that the vat was returnable upon augmentation.

Mendham have raised or pledged £24,000. Hayward Mills Associates estimate £42,500 for a complete rehang. Grant agreed.

George mentioned here that Trevor Bailey is of the opinion that variable amounts and lesser grants help more parishes than giving a fixed percentage of the estimated cost of the whole

AOB

A faculty has been granted to **Reydon** for the rainguarding work. The fabric is £104 and the scaffolding £700

Next Meeting: Friday February 8th (7.30) at 6 Cavendish Road Stowmarket.

Winston S. Girling
Convenor