



**Belfry Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting at Barking
1 July 2010 at 7.30 pm**

Members had a ring before the meeting. Carol Girling kindly provided refreshments.

Present

Jonathan Stevens (JS) (Chairman), Winston Girling (WG), Chris McArthur (CM), Alan Moulton (AM), Chris Nunn (CN), John Pereira (JP), David Salter (DS), Bruce Wakefield (BW), Neville Whittell (NW)

Minute Secretary: Suzanne Stevens.

In attendance: Carol Girling, George Salter.

1. Welcome

JS thanked everyone for coming to Barking.

2. Apologies for absence

David Greenfield, John Taylor.

3. Minutes of the 2 February 2010 meeting (previously circulated)

These were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- 4.1 James Halsall thought it was a very good idea for him to see the minutes of BAC meetings and had thanked JS for sending them.
- 4.2 Gislingham; the Suffolk Guild grant has been paid back to the Guild.
- 4.3 Heritage Lottery Fund Talk on AGM Day. This had been very successful with about forty attendees. Stuart Hopley from the HLF was a very good speaker. He explained that there was help available from the HLF and the content of the website was excellent. There was no reason not to involve the lottery in projects. James Halsall and JS also spoke. DS suggested a free advertisement for the HLF in next year's Guild Report. It was agreed that this was a good idea. There is now a link to the HLF from the Guild website.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Technical Advisor's Report (JS)

February

5th Attended Rushmere with Alan Moulton to discuss volume of organ in ringing chamber and strategies to mitigate this.

12th Inspection at Dennington.

16th Meeting at Norman Tower with Ian Holland to discuss proposed augmentation to twelve bells.

27th Bedfield inspection following recent tower works. All repairs done to outside but live cracks found to inside of tower. Bells not to be rung until these have been stitched. Discussed bell restoration and offered usual help.

March

3rd Wissett to measure to design sound tubes for additional faculty application.

6th CPD course for Norfolk Architects on bells, frames and restoration.

13th St Gregory Sudbury, help with Neville establish next action to bearings.

20th Brampton test ring and inspection; advise parson RE ringing for wedding.

22nd Attend Little Glemham PCC to talk about restoration.

April

8th Mildenhall. Observed bells and tower during Cumberland Practice. Re-confirmed ban on back two being rung, recommended lottery talk.

9th Southwold to make presentation on sound control.

10th Bardwell. Very brief talk as part of Heritage and restoration seminar.

14th Southwold to measure for sound control design.

15th Measured Oakley Ropes.

18th Attended Ixworth Dedication.

21st Brome, opened rope holes a little more.

30th Checked Hasketon bells for striking competition.

May

8th NW Belfry training day.

22nd Euston. Adjusted striking and briefed local team on maintenance.

June

5th Repaired Brampton tenor wheel and other minor repairs prior to wedding. Recommend that bells are only rung for brief periods on very special occasions. Discussed restoration with parson.

7th Dennington. Peter Scott of Whitechapel. Adjusted striking and agreed rest of remedial works.

18th Fitted ropes to Oakley having spliced better tail ends and Hardy Hemp tops to set from Woodbridge.

22nd Wissett. Advising builders on installation of floor and discussing sound pipes, electrical services and ladders.

28th Final inspection at Dennington. Noisy rope of fifth will need to be resolved locally.

30th Talk to Loes Deanery Synod on Bells, Heritage, Restoration and Funding.

7. District Reports

7.1 North East

Blythburgh Since the pulleys have been greased they are much better. The locals will be contacting JS to have the odd struckness sorted out.

Stradbroke JS has put in temporary covers to the weight holes to decrease the sound in the ringing room during ringing. Ringers must remember to remove the covers from the holes afterwards!

Wissett AM stated that if the acoustics aren't successful in the ringing room, the parish should go back to the DAC with a request for another faculty to put chutes through the floor. James Halsall has a note that the parish should do this.

7.2 North West.

Ixworth There have been complaints that the bells can't be heard since the installation of sound control. However, the sound control was

designed so that the bells are quieter within close proximity but can still be heard at the same level further away.

Hopton The test ring is on Saturday 3 July at 3.00 pm.

Cotton WG reported that a new set of ropes has been put on. There is a problem with the 5th. All the bosses have been replaced, so nearly everything has been sorted now.

Thurston The bells are left up all the time. It was suggested that this was not a good restoration. Someone is interested in fundraising to improve them. AM suggested that there be an inspection as he doesn't think the frame was grouted in with Portland cement.

Stowmarket There are fifteen short tie rods. There has been corrosion and some have sheared off. WG has ordered a new set to be made and will replace them gradually over the next two years.

Bacton The ropes have been sorted. The ground pulleys are double and will be swapped as there is a lot of wear.

7.3 South East

Helmingham Alan Hughes from Whitechapel has said that it is in order to ring for the wedding of Lord Tollemache's daughter. WG will do an inspection before the ringing although he is unable to ring.

Harkstead AM is to inspect these on 03.09.10. The locals find them difficult to ring. The tower has cracks; they have been pointed up on the outside but nothing has been done on the inside.

Tattingstone They want to do something with their bells.

7.4 South West

St Gregory's, Sudbury The tenor's bearings are being replaced and the work is progressing steadily.

8. Grant Applications

8.1 Applications. None.

9. Routine Maintenance

9.1 There have been several requests for the Maintenance Guidance notes.

9.2.1 Rougham. Feedback from the Maintenance Day indicated that some of the print in the presentation was too small. The afternoon session ran out of time.

9.2.2 Maintenance Course on 14 August. Start at Laxfield 10.00 am for theory and a look at the bells. Lunch at Fressingfield. Tower work and

rope workshops in the afternoon. Finish at 5.00 pm. JS will need help for rope workshop and up the tower. He urged members to volunteer. JS will do the theory session.

9.3 Newsletter articles; JS asked for ideas for subjects for articles. So far, have done stays and wooden frames.

9.4 Rope pool. JS has been given ropes; some from Woodbridge went to Oakley. WG needs more hardy hemp. JS would give him the name of a supplier.

10. Update on work done in previous bell restorations (DS)

DS has got up to 2003. It will be finished by the next BAC meeting.

11. Any other business

- DS drew members' attention to Barrow in Humber, an English Heritage tower. The rope guides are screwed to a 15th Century gallery and there is a hideous modern ladder.
- JS informed members that he is to speak at a sound seminar for Diocesan Architects. As they will be able to claim Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points, he will be able to charge and the fee to go to the Suffolk Guild.

JS explained that he was conducting a sound study in towers where old frames have been retained above new to find out if retention is a problem. Various towers were discussed.

12. Action List

- **Team of helpers required for maintenance seminars; NW and WG volunteered.**
- **JS to send link re rope to WG.**

13. Date and venue of next meeting.

Thursday 30 September 2010, at St Lawrence, Ipswich. 7.00 pm ringing, 7.30 pm meeting.

JS thanked everyone for attending and Carol for arranging refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm.