



**Belfry Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting at BVM Woolpit
24 May 2012 at 7.30 pm**

Present

Jonathan Stevens (JJS) (Chairman), Carol Girling (CG), Winston Girling (WG), , Alan Moulton (AM), John Taylor (JT), Chris Davies (CD), Chris Nunn (CN), Martin Croucher

1. Welcome

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Michael Rolph, Neville Whittell, Chris McArthur, Nathan Coleman.

3. Minutes of the 9 February 2012 meeting (previously circulated)

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

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Nathan Coleman's membership of the BAC had been ratified by the GMC.

5. Correspondence

None.

6. Technical Advisor's Report (JS)

In the middle of March I returned to Laxfield to inspect the new floor to the central frame pit, to talk with the ringers about a full restoration and to have a chat with the Architect.

Early April I was at Gt Glemham again gently guiding the progress of the ringer's gallery and doing the usual pre wedding tasks including splicing on a new tailend.

With the Guild striking competition policy requiring as evenly struck and easy going bells as possible towards the end of April the bells at Blythburgh were tackled. The striking was adjusted and grease cups on the pulleys re-filled and wound up a little. The installation at Leiston needed a little more work. Michael Rolph helped by making two new clapper bushes (treble and 3rd), tightening the wheel on the 2nd and helping adjust the striking where it was possible. The tenor and seventh crown staples are both seized in the headstocks, so a little lead on the wheels was used to reduce, but not eliminate the oddstruckness.

Harkstead was visited again, this time with Alan Moulton and they are firmly set up for the next stage of this project.

The Churchwarden from Thorndon has been in touch with a view to undertaking a restoration of these bells. I have to make a date to go and have a chat.

7. District Reports

7.1 North East

Aldeburgh are planning the inspection/regreasing/replacing of bearings. **Brundish** have had a report from Andrew Nicholson.

7.2 North West.

Euston have new pulleys from Whitchapel installed by WG and NC. **Rickenhall** have had the clapper bushes replaced CD. **Horringer** are looking at re-hanging in existing frame the foundation beams being secure.

7.3 South East

Copdock. No news following peal.

7.4 South West

Newton Green have chimes. CD has secured funding for new ropes.

8. Grant Applications

Clopton – AM and JJS explained the current state of this project. The existing belfry floor is to be retained and the new frame placed under. Recent timbers in the belfry could be removed. The present store under the existing ringing chamber will become the new ringing chamber. The central trap will be glazed to borrow light from the porch. The new belfry windows could have the glazing removed for sound to escape. The incumbent is content that the bells will not be heard much beyond the churchyard. After some discussion the meeting agreed that a grant should be offered.

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

DS not present at the meeting.

10. Any other business

Thurston there had been no progress re grant. **Rougham** are having a Belfry Maintenance Day Nov 10; volunteers were sought.

11. Date and venue of next meeting

Thursday 27 September 2012. Earl Stonham. 7.00 pm ringing, 7.30 pm meeting.

JS thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.43 pm.