

Belfry Advisory Committee – Minutes of meeting 4th June 2014

St Andrew Wissett (now signed)

Present - W.Girling (Chair) , C Girling , C Davies , C McArthur (Secretary) , M Croucher , J Taylor , D Moyes , C Nunn , J Stevens , A Moulton .

In attendance - Little Cornard and Wissett ringers.

Apologies - R.Coe and N. Coleman.

1. **A talk was given by Brian Morton** and his colleague of The Morton Partnership on the role of structural engineers in church restoration, and particularly towers and bell frame arrangements. Wissett is one of the towers where the retention of the old frame was accommodated for EH, and we inspected this old structure before the meeting. A useful question and answer session ensued before all thanked them for an interesting talk.
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held at St Mathews Ipswich on 6th February 2014 were agreed and signed as a true record, and it was noted that this is the first meeting of our new chairman elected at the guild AGM.
3. **Matters arising from those minutes.** J Stevens mentioned that he still intends to organise a training seminar in the near future, on use of the Guild strike meter.
4. **A new structure** for technical advisors to be allocated to each district was proposed by Winston and agreed, in order that the ensuing workload could be further shared in future. Winston thanked Jonathan for all his considerable and very competent work over the years, as outgoing technical advisor for the entire guild. It was noted that the four new technical advisors should attend the BAC meetings to give regular reports, and the following persons were agreed: SE - D Salter, NE - J Stevens, SW - W Girling, NW - N Coleman.
5. **Grant applications** were discussed and a request from Stowmarket for help with replacing bearings on the back four was discussed. This would be with local labour and parts from Taylors totalling £4349.10. The secretary took the chair at this point and the meeting then decided that a £500 grant would be recommended.
6. **Technical Advisors report** - The report was given for the last time by Jonathan as this related to inspections earlier in the year. In February he

had advised Aldringham on a single bell pulley problem. At Beccles we had attended a local authority planners meeting relating to changes in the bells and sound levels. Laxfield has had initial ideas on a restoration scheme and further detail from the parish is awaited. St Nicholas Ipswich was raised at the AGM as being in need of work. Some ringers believe that they need only minor work and a peal has been booked this year. D Salter will still progress with an inspection in due course. Thelnetham have had three sets of pulleys replaced with much improved ringing and reduced noise. This was part of grant aided work. Hartest has problems with a cracked fifth bell; at least half way round on the waist of the bell. A temporary frame has been built below to locate the bell if it falls, and quotes are being sought for welding this ancient bell with the permission of EH. At Thornum Magna the frame has been tightened and at Eye the fifth clapper needed tightening.

7. District Reports :

8. North East – At Dunwich the clapper on their single bell needs considerable repairs. Southwold has started initial discussions about a ringing gallery and advice has been given about the extra 9m draft that could give some potential handling issues.
9. North West- Palgrave is now being swung chimed only. The Redgrave project continues with a difficult meeting in London with the CCT, support from the local MP has been promised.
10. South East- Jonathan has been much involved in St Margarets, Ipswich refurbishment and series of meetings with architects. Wickham Market now has a faculty for new headstocks and flooring, and hopes to start work when grants and fund raising allow. Bedfield are proposing a restoration, although technical advice has yet to be sought. St Mary at Quay Ipswich is in discussions about a potential restoration and St Clements Ipswich may also have work undertaken, linked to The University performing arts dept being involved.
11. South West- Great Thurlow has a bell that has been damaged by lightning and a replacement is being considered.
- 12. Next meeting** - This was agreed for 07.00 ringing on Wednesday 1st October followed by the meeting at 7.30 at Rattlesdon.
- 13. Agenda items** to the Secretary by 24th September please.