

**Meeting of the Management Committee held on Saturday 21 February 1998**  
**at Buxhall Village Hall**

**Present:-** D Salter, P Stannard, Mrs K Salter, Mrs S Girt, J Girt, M Rose, D Barnard, Mrs C Colman, W Girling, Mrs C Girling, S Pettman, A Stone, Ms A M Lea, T Hughes, M Rolph, R Knight, R Whiting, B Whiting, D Webb, A Mayle, Dr B Wakefield (Secretary).

**Apologies for absence:-** Rev L Pizzey

In the absence of the Chairman, the chair was taken by the Ringing Master, (Mr D Salter).

**Minutes:-** The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 1997 had been distributed prior to the meeting. These were taken as read and approved.

**Matters arising:-**

- (i) St Clement's Ipswich. The bells at had been rung at Christmas.
- (ii) Open Meeting at Stowupland

The Ringing Master read out notes summarising the main points of the meeting, which had been taken by Stephen Young. He thanked Mr Young for having undertaken this task. The main issues raised concerned communication, education, support for members (including insurance), and the purpose of the Guild.

Mr J Girt reported that a group of 11 members chosen by him had also met to discuss the Guild. Its conclusions were similar to those reached by the Stowupland meeting.

Ms A M Lea, representing the NE District, added that a major concern raised had been the length of time served by Management Committee officers. Her District wished to propose a rule change to limit the time that the four principal officers could hold office to 5 years. Following discussion the meeting agreed to recommend to the AGM that the first sentence of Rule B7 be changed to:-

"All Officers shall retire at the Guild's AGM but shall be eligible for re-election, but none of the principal officers may hold a given office for more than 5 consecutive years. However they will become eligible to hold that office again after 3 years out of that office."

The meeting also agreed to limit the size of the Management Committee to a maximum of 12 members by recommending to the AGM that the first sentence of Rule C9 be changed to:-

"The Guild Management Committee shall consist of the Guild Chairman, Ringing Master, General Secretary and Treasurer, and 8 other Guild Members appointed by the Districts. No District shall be represented by more than 3 members, and this number shall be taken to include the 4 principal officers."

The meeting asked the group convened by Mr J Girt to take forward the issues raised by the Stowupland meeting, discuss them, come up with some concrete proposals, and present them to the Management committee, for consideration, at a future meeting.

The meeting thanked Mr M Rose for arranging the venue and providing the refreshments for the meeting at Stowupland.

(iii) Notification of proposed Rule changes regarding payment of subscriptions.  
The proposals for changes to Rules A1 and A5, agreed at the October 1997 meeting will be recommended to the AGM.

(iv) Future of FOSB  
Feedback from the Districts indicated no support for FOSB. The meeting therefore agreed to recommend to the AGM that FOSB be wound up. Should this be agreed by the AGM, then the following changes to the Constitution and Rules will be necessary:-

- (a) Delete Constitution Paragraph E10d.
- (b) Delete reference to the Management Committee in the second sentence of District Rules Paragraph 19.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Mr Stephen Pettman for all the work he had done over the years on behalf of FOSB. It agreed to review the situation later in the year to see whether it would be possible to set up a replacement for FOSB.

(v) Other Rule changes

To clarify the Rule relating to notification of proposed changes to the Constitution and Rules it was agreed to recommend to the AGM that Constitution Paragraph G16 be changed to read:-

“The Constitution .....provided that 14 days notice of the proposed amendment has been published in the Ringing World or the Guild Newsletter, or any other Guild publication.....”

**Financial Statement:-** The Treasurer reported that the General Fund had just broken even over the year. Peal Fees were considerably down on previous years. There was about £5000 left unallocated in the Restoration Fund.

He distributed copies of the full accounts and these were approved for presentation to the AGM.

**Subscriptions and Fees for 1999:-** The meeting agreed to recommend to the AGM that the subscriptions for 1999 be raised to £10.50 for Full Members and £5.25 for those eligible for a reduced rate. The subscription for NRLMs to remain at £6.

It recommended that the Peal Fee be increased to £0.75.

Finally it recommended that the various Donations made remain the same as for 1998.

ie	Donation in lieu of wreaths	£20
	Donation to Friends of St Peter's Sudbury	£30
	Donation to Friends of Cathedral	£30
	Donation to Suffolk Historic Churches Trust	£30

**Ringing Master's Report.** In his report the Master congratulated Mr Stephen Pettman on having conducted his 600th peal for the Guild, the first person to have done so.

To date 66 tickets for the Dinner had been sold. There was to be a peal attempt by the present and past Masters of the Guild on the day following the Dinner.

The augmentation of Metfield bells had been completed and the bells were now being rung. The dedication will be on 29 June 1998.

The restoration of Bildeston bells was now complete. The bells had been dedicated, and were now being rung.

Audio cassettes featuring ringing at a number of Guild events had been made, and he was now selling them at £2 each. Proceeds are to go towards the cost of purchasing a simulator for the Guild.

It had unfortunately not proved possible to arrange a Guild Carol service in 1997. It was however hoped that one could be held in 1998, if a suitable venue could be found. The possibility of holding a "Bell Sunday" was being investigated.

The CC had enquired whether the Guild could support the cost of binding the copies of the Guild's Reports which were held in the CC Library, but they had supplied no details of what was involved and how much it would cost. The Secretary was instructed to ask the Librarian if she could get more details from the CC Library Committee.

### **Sub Committee Reports**

#### **Belfry Advisory.**

Mr W Girling presented a report of the meeting of the newly formed committee, held on 22 January. Nine members had attended. Reports were given of work, advice etc for 29 towers.

Members were informed that David Salter and Winston Girling now have procured a supply of stays, price £3 each.

#### **Recruitment and Training.**

Mr D Salter presented a detailed report of the most recent meeting of the sub-committee.

A Health and Safety Policy for ringers and towers will be issued soon.

The committee were planning to issue more eye-catching "learning aids". It was looking for suitable topics.

There will be no Call Change striking competition in 1998. The event just had not received sufficient support to warrant its continuation.

Training Day will be on 19 September at Kettleburgh, whilst the Seminar will be on 17 October at Buxhall.

Districts will be asked to give their views about qualification for membership of the Guild.

#### **Friends of Suffolk Bells.**

There was no report. The committee has been wound up.

### **Applications for grants.**

The Secretary had received applications on behalf of Little Thurlow and Easton. Little Thurlow had presented full details of its project. The projected cost was £32,000. A grant of £2500 was agreed.

As Easton had not supplied enough details of its project the committee were unable to consider the application. The committee would be prepared to review the application in the future should full details be supplied.

#### **Preparation of Annual Report**

It was agreed that 850 copies of the Annual Report be printed.

#### **Arrangements for the AGM**

The AGM was to be held at Stowmarket, as guests of the NW District. The bells would be available for ringing from 10 am until 11 am. At 11 am there would be a service at Stowmarket, followed by a ploughman's lunch. The NW District would make the arrangements. The meeting would commence at 12:30. This should give those members attending plenty of time afterwards to get ready for the Guild Dinner in the evening.

The Secretary would be responsible for putting an advertisement in the Ringing World.

The Ringing Master read out a letter from the Chairman (Rev Pizzey) in which he said that, due to parish and other pressures, he would not be standing for re-election at the AGM.

#### **Ratification of NRLMs.**

None.

#### **Nominations for Life Honorary Membership**

The meeting agreed to propose to the AGM that Rev Lawrence Pizzey and Mr George Pipe be elected as Life Honorary Members of the Guild.

#### **Any other business**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

*B. Whiting*

*18 July 1998.*