

## Meeting of Suffolk Guild of Ringers Management Committee

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
held at the Church Hall in Stowupland

### 1. Welcome

a) Mark Ogden welcomed everyone to the meeting.

b) Members present:

**Officers:** Mark Ogden - Chairman, David Everett - Secretary, Tim Hart - Treasurer, Julian Colman – Ringing Master

**North East District:** Erika Clarke, Philip Gorrod

**North West District:** Neal Dodge, Mark Steggles

**South East District:** Stephen Christian, Mary Garner, Jenny Scase, Tom Scase, James Smith

**South West District:** Eleanor Waller

### 2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

**North East District:** Tom Grady, Sarak Plummer

**North West District:** David Steed

**South East District:** None

**South West District:** Pauline Brown, Richard Knight  
Chris Davies – BAC Chairman

### 3. Absent Friends

From Mary Garner's Report, the Secretary read out the names of Absent Friends who have died since the last GMC meeting, as detailed in her report:

Stephen Bedford - NRLM

The meeting took a few moments of reflection to remember them.

### 4. Minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

With some minor amendments the minutes were approved unanimously.

### 5. Matters arising from the minutes, including actions completed

From the Action Points of the last meeting

a) 7d iii Conflict of Interest Provisions – MO said that he was still looking for relevant examples to include in the new rules. If anybody has any ideas then please let him know.

b) 10b DE reported that the work on Church Closures is still in progress. MO reported that further work is being undertaken on this through the Central Council.

c) 6a This item is on the Agenda.

d) 5b The Guild Expenses Policy has been done. DE to remind TH at the year end to organise this.

#### **ACTION LOG FROM 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2026**

| Item           | Action                                                            | Owner       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| (20.10) 7d iii | Exec to review Conflict of Interest provisions in the Guild Rules | In progress |

|                   |                                                                              |                       |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>(20.10)10b</b> | DE to initiate work on assessing risks to bellringing of Church closures     | Secretary in progress |
| <b>(16.02)6a</b>  | Include Rule Change on ratifying Grants as a motion at the AGM               | Secretary             |
| <b>(22.03)5b</b>  | Amended Expenses Policy to be published                                      | Treasurer             |
| <b>(22.03)5b</b>  | DE to remind TH regarding the claiming of Expenses Gift Aid at the year end. | Secretary at Year End |

## 6. Correspondence

- a) MO mentioned about the CCCBR on-line Conference which was to be held that evening.

## 7. Officer Reports

### a) Treasurer's Report

- i. Report considered and there were no questions raised.
- ii. Adrian Knights Legacy – TH gave an update on progress.
  - TH put this project into context by saying that the Legacy of more than £250k is more than twice the total amount granted by the Guild in the last 11 years.
  - A key focus has been on the legal aspects of making the grants and Birketts has been engaged to help us with this after a lot of work by Erica Clarke so that we have a strong Letter of Agreement with regard to the grants to be made between the Guild and the PCCs. This agreement could also be used where future grants are made. It is estimated that the total cost of this will be in the region of £2,000-4,000. It was agreed that this expense would be taken from the General Fund.
  - It has already been agreed that Long Melford had been awarded £150k. MO asked about the current situation with this one as they do not have a Faculty agreed yet nor has the funding been raised. TH said that they have engaged a structural engineer and that John Taylors are making a site visit in the near future.
  - TH reported that the other towers had been informed of that decision and asked if they were considered for a grant would they be in a position to have placed an order for the work to be done by the end of 2027.
  - 3 towers, Drinkstone, Haverhill & Copdock have come back and said that they will be ready. All have Faculties approved. The Working Group is proposing these as the next 3 initiatives.
  - the next 3 are Hoxne, Barham & Finningham. All these are in the early stages and are on the table but need a lot of further work on their proposals.
  - Clopton, Rougham and Framlingham have dropped out following PCC discussions and decisions.
  - TH reported that the legacy through its current investment has grown to £270k and continues to grow about £2.5k per quarter, will be at £290k by the end of 2027. We have agreed to spend £150k at Long Melford. The proposal is to spend £25k on each of Drinkstone, Barham & Copdock. That

would leave approx £65k on the other projects. The Committee agreed unanimously with the proposal to fund these further 3 projects.

- the grant from the BRF for Long Melford will probably be about £10k. The BRF funds are about £100k at the moment.
- PG asked about sound control in the towers we are giving grants to, particularly as there will be an expectation of more ringing at these towers. TH said that we need to ensure that they understand the extra ringing expectation from the Guild.

#### b) Ringing Master Report

The Report was accepted without any questions.

JC said that he had considered the idea of splitting the 6 and 8-bell striking competitions but on further reflection things they should remain on the same day. JC reported that the Suffolk band won the Ridgman Competition at Stowmarket. He also said that it was the first time a Suffolk band has won the Competition in Suffolk in the 38 years that competition has been held.

JC said that the actual Ridgman Trophy needs some restoration work. He asked for the Guild to fund part of this work and asked for a grant of £100. MO asked if anybody had approached Tom Ridgman, son of the founder to ask for his support. A grant of £50 plus the £25 for this year's engraving was agreed.

PG raised the subject of competency of new ringers. He informed the meeting that it had been agreed in the past that the District Ringing Master should signify that he is happy with the proposed members competency before they are elected. The current DRMs should be informed of this previously agreed policy.

PG also noted that it should be checked that new members have completed the Basic Safeguarding Training before being elected.

JC reminded the Meeting that the national 12-bell Competition will take place at the Norman Tower in 2027 on the 26<sup>th</sup> June. There will be a great need for volunteers to man this event.

#### c) Recruitment and Training Report

The Report was accepted without any questions.

#### d) Belfry Advisory Committee Report

Report considered and there were no questions raised.

In CD's absence TH said that Chris had asked for the following:

- the 3 new members of the BAC be ratified by the Committee. The Committee agreed.
- following the demise of the VAT reclaim scheme the BAC proposes to include the VAT amount when calculating grants. This was also agreed.
- Request for 4 Grants approvals: Copdock - £9.8k, Haverhill - £15k, Drinkstone - £2.5k plus an allowance for inscriptions (in memory of Arnie Knights) (the new bells

should carry the Guild's name and logo), Sproughton £500. All were agreed by the Committee.

e) Membership Secretary Report

Report considered and there were no questions raised.

f) Safeguarding Report

The Report was received. It was reported that we are awaiting a meeting regarding this.

g) PRO Report

ND is still awaiting a response from the Bishop Sarah regarding her Presidency of the Guild.

h) Webmaster Report

The Report was received.

**8. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding**

Covered earlier in the meeting.

**9. Ratification of NRLMs**

Tom Hinks from Bromley was ratified.

**10. Any Other Business**

- a) The Proposal for the Rule Change was considered. The following amendments were agreed:
  - reword to say any Grants given (from any Fund)
  - "officials" should be changed to "persons"
  - look at reordering for payments only, not for the approval of Grants.
- b) DE reported that the Council Office Chamber in Ipswich is available for the 3 dates we asked about but they do not provide in-house catering. MO suggested we ask about the facilities at Venue 16, also in Ipswich. It also has a big car park. DE to investigate. Focus on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in March. MO asked for volunteers from each District to form a committee to organise this.
- c) There was a discussion regarding whether GMC Meetings are in-person or on Zoom. It was agreed that the February Meeting will be on Zoom and the others in-person.
- d) MO reported that he had been in contact with somebody who specialises in Privacy Policies and is will to update the Guild one.
- e) ND said that the Ringing Competition had not been published in the Ringing World. DE confirmed that he had not been asked to do this. Proposal was made that this rule be amended to say that it will be publicised on the Guild Website and NOT in the Ringing World. This was agreed.
- f) MO said that at Guild and District events if anybody takes a photograph they MUST have the permission of all who are in the image if they are going to publish it anywhere including social media. We have had some instances of people being upset when they haven't been asked. This should be reiterated to all members.

**Date of next meeting**

Meetings in held at Stowupland Church Hall unless stated otherwise. All these meetings will begin at 2pm.

18<sup>th</sup> October 2026

21<sup>st</sup> February 2027 (on Zoom), 20<sup>th</sup> June 2027, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2027

**ACTION LOG FROM 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2026**

| <b>Item</b>                      | <b>Action</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Owner</b>                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>(20.10) 7d iii</b>            | Exec to review Conflict of Interest provisions in the Guild Rules                                                                                                      | In progress                     |
| <b>(20.10)10b</b>                | DE to initiate work on assessing risks to bellringing of Church closures                                                                                               | In progress                     |
| <b>(16.02)6a &amp; (21.6)10a</b> | Include Rule Change on ratifying Grants as a motion at the AGM<br>Also Rule Change regarding publishing Striking Competitions in the Ringing (change to Guild website) | Secretary                       |
| <b>(22.03)5b</b>                 | DE to remind TH regarding the claiming of Expenses Gift Aid at the year end.                                                                                           | Secretary at Year End           |
| <b>(21.06)7b</b>                 | Amend Guild Application Form to include District Ringing Masters approval of Competency and also that candidate has undertaken the Basic Safeguarding Training         | Mary Garner                     |
| <b>(21.6)10b</b>                 | Organisation of Guild Dinner 2028<br>also Organising Group members                                                                                                     | Secretary<br>District<br>Chairs |
| <b>(21.6)10f</b>                 | Gaining permission before publishing any photographs                                                                                                                   | All<br>Members                  |