

Minutes of the Meeting of the Guild Management Committee
Saturday 20th February 2016, Stowupland Church Hall, 2pm

Present: Alan Stanley (Chairman), Jed Flatters (Ringing Master), Carl Melville (Secretary), Owen Claxton (Treasurer), Winston Girling (Chair BAC), Neal Dodge (NW), Ralph Earey (SE), Sue Freeman (SW), Mary Garner (SE), Philip Gorrod (NE), Bryian Mills (SW), Derek Rose (SW), Tom Scase (SE), Gordon Slack (NW), David Smith (SW), David Steed (NW), Ambrin Williams (NE), Michelle Williams (NE).

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, especially those newly elected: Bryian Mills, Ambrin Williams and Michelle Williams.

It was noted that Trevor Hughes was no longer a GMC member. The Chairman noted the Guild's thanks to Trevor and would send a letter of thanks to him.

2. Apologies

Alan Munnings (SE), Sally Munnings (SE), Marion Turner (NW), Ed Rolph (NE), Jonathan Stevens.

3. Absent Friends

All stood for a moments quiet to remember Matthew Warner (Stowmarket), Sal Burrows (Pakenham), David Bimson, Dr Bletchley and Peggy Mayle.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on October 17th 2015

The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

5.12 – the 2015 AGM subscriptions survey results, although discussed, were not attached to the minutes of the meeting. CM to attach results to website minutes.

6.iii – the Chairman asked if the data base for wooden frames in Suffolk had been started. WG confirmed that actions had been allocated.

6.iv –Funding for recruitment and training to be given more consideration with JF present.

8 – the Secretary had sent emails to district chairs and secretaries regarding election of new members who should be able to ring rounds.

14 – the financial report and membership process needed to be attached to the minutes of the previous meeting. CM to do via the website.

6. Correspondence (CM)

i. The Secretary has received lots of publicity from 'Ring for England'. It was noted that Suffolk tends to ring for St Edmund's Day rather than St George. Any towers ringing for St George to let CM know to pass on.

ii. There were a few 50th year of ringing anniversaries approaching for the next AGM. CM to write to those receiving the certificates to invite them to the AGM in April.

- iii. The Central Council advice on Safeguarding had been slightly amended and updated. CM asked if the Guild's policy was in line with this. CM to email the diocese advisor to check what we need to have in place and in public view. It was noted that the safeguarding checks and costs should be met by local PCCs.

7. Officer Reports

i. Treasurers Report (OC)

Overall - The accounts for 2015 have been finalised and sent to the Report Editor and the Examiners.

General Fund - In the 2014 account there are two exceptional items. The income account shows £983.70, the product of young ringers raising funds to cover the cost of attending the Ringing World National Youth Contest. The expenditure account shows £972.38, the actual cost of the young ringers attending the RWNYC. The income covers the cost and overall has little impact on the net income. However, they do impact on the comparison of the individual income and expenditure accounts and have not been included.

Income in 2015 was £58 less than 2014, down 0.6%. Subscriptions were up 1%, peal fees down 33%, report and magazine receipts down 50%, sale of rope down 50%. Expenditure was 13% less than 2014. In many cases expenses were virtually identical year on year.

In 2014 £411 was spent on digitisation of tower records and accounted for nearly 9% of expenditure in that year. Discounting this item gives 2015 expenditure 4% less than 2014.

Overall net income, which includes all the exceptions mentioned above, in 2015 was 13% more than 2014.

At 31/12/2015 the general fund stands at £6,029, up £482 on the previous year.

Restoration Fund – income is again about 20% lower than the previous year. Gift aid refunds are 25% down on 2014, St Edmund Clapper income down 25%, donations down 29%. Income from the affiliation scheme, interest on accounts and NRLM fees remain virtually unchanged.

In 2015, just two grant requests were received, totalling £1,800, both were approved. In both cases the work has been completed and the grants paid. Payments were also made in 2015, for grants awarded in previous years, to Elmsett, Wickham Market, and Halesworth. The only grant now outstanding from previous years is that of £12,000 awarded to Horringer in 2014.

As at 31/12/2015 the sum available for new projects stands at £53,000.

Library Fund - Stands at £337, after expenditure of £40 on CC Library subscription.

Handbell Fund - Stands at £659 after receiving donations of £97.50, and no expenditure.

Jubilee Fund - Stands at £1965 after receiving donations of £55, and no expenditure.

The Pipe Family Trust Fund - Stands at £1,023.50 after receiving donations and interest totalling £108.24, and no expenditure.

St.Peter's Sudbury Fund - Stands at £1799.17 after receiving donations and interest totalling £14.65, and no expenditure.

ii. Ringing Master's Report (JF)

This has been a reasonably quiet quarter for me Guild wise as I have been out of the UK for nearly 6 weeks.

I managed to attend each of the four Districts general meetings towards the end of the year. I am interested to see how each district proposes to address falling numbers at meetings. I welcome all new and returning committee members.

I put a days ringing in on the SE quarter peal fortnight scoring 3 good qp's to bolster their total.

I joined the SE on their walking /ringing tour of Norwich and enjoyed some good company and ringing.

I attended the funeral of Sal Burrows at Pakenham on behalf of the Guild. It was a pleasure to listen to the good ringing before the service and see so many ringers in church. Sal did much for ringing at Pakenham.

We have held an R&T meeting at Stowmarket on 26th Nov. see further report.

iii. Belfry Advisory Committee Report (WG)

The last BAC meeting took place in Bacton on 1st February.

WG reported that the following was discussed:

- Cotton – has beam problems which will be address in April.
- Watfield – the church was hoping to augment the three bells. This was in the early stages.
- Cretingham – in the process of getting a new Tenor and fittings. WG questioned tower problems there.
- Offton – Brian Whiting wanted to replace the 6th bell.

iv. Recruitment and Training (JF)

The R&T Committee met on 25/6/15 and again on 9/9/15 at the Royal William in Stowmarket. A further meeting is planned for 26/11/15.

We have looked at the Training documents (Ringing Tips) on the Guild web site and have started to update these to improve the language. Currently "Learning methods - first steps" and "Learning methods - next steps" have been posted. A new document "Learning Styles questionnaire" has also been produced. All of the other sheets are being reviewed including the two documents dealing with handling a bell which we feel need a total rewrite with pictures to better illustrate them.

Neal Dodge has been working to produce a welcome handbook for new guild members. A copy has been forwarded to Mary Garner our Guild membership secretary.

As a committee we have been tasked to find out how best to allocate funding following the unanimous decision at the last AGM to give financial support to Training. Please see separate attachment with our views and recommendations to the GMC.

v. Young Ringers (AW)

Ambrin Williams reported that not much had happened since Christmas and due to the lack of leadership within the YR group. There is a RWNYC coming up in London on 2nd July and Ambrin believed had the potential to enter a team. JF encouraged the young ringers to use the small grant making facility the Guild has set up.

A discussion followed about the leadership and future of the Young Ringers. Ralph Earey was particularly concerned about the Guild's approach to supporting the Guild's Young Ringers. It was decided that urgent attention was needed and that Ruth Suggett would be approached by the GMC, via Ambrin, to ask if she would help provide leadership to the Young Ringers. *Subsequent to the meeting AW was able to confirm that Ruth had signed up in an informal position as co-ordinator for the Young Ringers and planning has been started for RWNYC 2016.*

vi. Membership Secretary (MG)

Mary Garner reported that since the renewal of membership forms, data base and membership secretary's post, communication to Guild members has already improved and new names added to the mailing lists. MG reported that there had been an increase of about 50 Gift Aid forms. MG also reported that for the first time we could see clearly the ages and other details of our members, which could help inform Guild issues and discussions.

MG to send a Guild Report to all NRLMs elected in the past year, whose names appear in the Report.

vii. Parish Affiliation Scheme (WS and CM)

Winston Girling reported that he had been working on renewing the Parish Scheme. He has worked with the Exec in increasing annual subs from £10 to £20 (some Parishes pay more). At the moment there are 66 members but WG hopes this will increase to over 70, and he had already seen 4 new members. It was agreed to send a Guild Report to all members annually.

8. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding

St Margaret's, Ipswich (peal of 8 bells), wanted to replace Treble, 2 and 4. Their Tenor is listed. Ringing to take place from a new gallery, already installed. Nicholson's were their chosen bell hangers. The restoration cost is £109,824, inc VAT. The BAC suggested the GMC gives a grant of £12,000.

The suggested £12,000 was questioned by some members of the GMC and it was pointed out that we usually only grant 10% of the final cost, especially as VAT can be claimed back by the PCC.

Philip Gorrod proposed that we grant £9,000 in light of this. This was seconded by Neal Dodge. Overwhelmingly carried by the GMC.

St Leonard's, Horringer (peal of 8 bells), has finally been granted their lottery grant and so the project could move on. The Guild had previously granted £12,000 towards this project and so will be granted when work is completed, probably later this year.

9. Ratification of NRLM(s)

- i. Sam Maynard
- ii. Susan E Marshall
- iii. James Hughes
- iv. Allan Gould
- v. Nicolas A Elks
- vi. Jack E Page
- vii. Craig P Homewood
- viii. Alban D Forster

10. AGM review/planning.

To be held at Hadleigh Guildhall, Saturday 2nd April, 5.30pm. More details to be confirmed shortly. AS to send details to the Ringing World.

11. Succession Planning (AS)

AS reported that there were no candidates for Ringing Master yet.

Richard Munnings would be stepping down as Public Relations Officer at the AGM, AS was pleased to announce that Neal Dodge intended to stand for election to this office.

12. AOB

- i. Subs for 2017 were discussed in light of the last years AGM's survey. It was decided that Guild Subs need not be changed for the coming year. It was noted that the results from the AGM survey indicate that a change in the concessions could be an acceptable way to increase subscription revenue in the future.
- ii. Guild branding – a long discussion was held regarding Guild branding. Earlier circulations from the Chairman (attached) were looked at. Ed Rolph (not present) asked if a competition could be held to design a new logo. However, David Smith proposed that we used logo 4 (see sheet) with some edits to match the Guild membership badge. Seconded by Bryian Mills. 14 in favour. 1 against. 3 abstentions. Carried, to use logo 4 after the editing on all Guild material. Discussions on the desirability of using a strapline are held over to a future meeting.
- iii. Ralph Earey reported that the SE district had decided not to meet quarterly, as they struggled with attendance and with having no secretary for the district. It was noted that districts only needed to

meet once a year. Members would be elected at a yearly meeting or SE social events, with notice given.

- 13.** Dates of Next Meeting Saturday 18th June, 2016, 2.00pm – 5.00pm.
 Saturday 15th October, 2016.
 Saturday 18th February, 2017.