

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Saturday 17th February 2007 at 6.00pm in the Methodist Chapel, Old Newton.

Present: Winston Girling (chair), Richard Munnings (Ringing Master), Mary Garner (secretary), Keith Ashton Jones (treasurer), Richard Beeston, Jason Busby, Ian Harris, Trevor Hughes, Richard Knight, Stefan Labedzki, Carl Melville, Revd Brian Redgers, Maurice Rose, Robert Scase, Jonathan Stevens, John Taylor, Marion Turner, Carol Girling (observing)

Welcome: Winston (WG) welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Richard Beeston to his first management meeting.

1. Apologies for absence. Richard Gates, Rolie Whiting, David Mulrenan
The Committee stood in silence for two minutes to remember John Bythe.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 21st October 2006.
The minutes of the meeting held on 21st October 2006 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising from those minutes not covered by the agenda
There were no matters arising.

4. Correspondence

- (i) The secretary reported that she had received four requests for reports.
- (ii) A subscription request from the CCCBR for our four representatives, this year £20 each. (Passed to Treasurer for payment)
- (iii) A list of redundant churches had been received from the CCCBR and put on file.
- (iv) CCCBR Proposed Ringing Foundation. This was generally received well and the Guild should endorse it providing that it supports existing ringing centres and doesn't detract from what is in place already. **Secretary to write** giving Guild's general support.
- (v) CCCBR Ringing Centres Committee Conference nr Coventry 31 Mar. Details were given and the Master will advise members of the Recruitment and Training Committee.

5. Financial Report

The Treasurer reported that the accounts for 2006 had now been approved. Although the income to the General Fund was a little less it did cover the outgoings. Expenses had increased a little but this was largely due to inflation. There are sufficient funds in the General Fund to keep the Guild for a year, regardless of income.

The income to the Restoration Fund had increased significantly this year in a large part from interest on the Lenny Sharpe bequest. Grants of £28000 were approved during 2006, £32500 is available for allocation whilst £39000 is allocated but not spent.

WG thanked KAJ on behalf of the Guild for all his work.

Richard Knight asked if anyone was prepared to stand as Treasurer at the AGM. WG told the meeting that James Smith had indicated that he was prepared to stand.

6. Ringing Master's Report

The Master reported that it was just coming to the end of Peal Week, during which 46 people had taken part in peal attempts. Not all had been successful but many had.
He reported that arrangements for the Guild Striking Competitions had been made by the SW district for Monks Eleigh and Hadleigh. Two judges from Birmingham had accepted his invitation to the event.
He announced the forthcoming 10 Bell Practice at the Norman Tower on March 10th emphasising that it is a Guild Event. He urged people to attend the AGM to be hosted by the SE on April 14th.

12 Bell Striking Competition. Suffolk is taking part in the Heat to be held at Kingston on 24th March and as many of the band as possible are going to Kingston on March 4th for some practice ringing on the bells. WG expressed the good wishes of the Guild to the Band.

85th Anniversary Dinner. After some discussion the date was fixed for Saturday 15th March 2008, the Saturday before Easter. It was decided to try and hold it fairly centrally and Woolpit was to be investigated as a possible venue, whilst various members of the GMC are to make enquires with regard to caterers.

The Master, Secretary, Chairman and Carl Melville agreed to coordinate this initially.

When asked, The Master said that the band for The Ridgman Trophy was in hand, the 10 bell competition for Eastern Counties which will be held in June.

WG thanked RJM for his report and for all the work he was doing behind the scenes and RJM thanked all those who are helping.

7. Sub-committee reports: i. Belfry Advisory Committee

The BAC met at Gislingham on 9th February. The newly restored 8 at Gislingham was declared a glorious peal. From the NE it was reported that moves had been made for a test ring at Cratfield, Chediston continue to make progress and Fressingfield plan to remove their bells in July. From the NW it was reported that Ixworth and Bardwell are still fundraising. In the SE, at Stonham Aspal architects had submitted a plan to stabilise the outer frame supports of 7 and 8. In the meantime the remaining bells could be rung. The architect has stopped ringing at Clopton. In the SW there was no further information about Assington, but WG had been involved in discussions at All Saints Sudbury and it is hopeful that a way forward has been found to restore the 7th to full circle ringing.

ii. Recruitment and training

The committee met at Stowmarket in December. Recruitment was mainly under discussion. It sees the main challenge to convince people that ringers are needed to make the bells sound. One way to gain interest would be to have a mobile ring. The cost of a six, including ropes and installation would be about £4000. Getting people to try on a mini ring would convince some to learn on tower bells. The recent day at Stowmarket has resulted in a handful of new and enthusiastic recruits, who are making good progress.

One member of the committee said that she had started to learn when a single bell was set up in the church. Finance was discussed with a wide variety of views expressed. Some felt that it could be raised quite easily amongst members, others felt that districts might sponsor a bell. It was suggested that some sort of financial plan could be put before the AGM. The treasurer said that no provision had been made for R and T in the budget and doing so might involve increasing subscriptions. Full discussion followed, many thinking that once started the project would raise funds and maintain itself quite easily by donations for use. It would need to be "housed" by someone though. Questions were asked about using existing funds, but the treasurer saw difficulties with reserved funds and charitable status.

The committee seemed generally enthusiastic and the master was charged to put a proposal together for the Newsletter and the AGM.

During the ensuing discussion the matter of restoring the various simulators in the guild was also raised as a positive way forward with training.

8. Applications for grants.

Mettingham had been to the BAC with regard to a grant for restoration. Their proposal includes making safe, £1600, and restoring for chiming, £5000. The BAC felt that no grant should be awarded since the restoration is not for full circle ringing, this was supported by the GMC. **Secretary to write** explaining this and inviting another application should full circle ringing be considered.

9. Ratification of NRLM

The following were ratified as NRLMs after elections prior to peals:

Adrian G Clifton, Norfolk; Matthew Rayner, West Ham; Elizabeth Griffith-Jones, Henham; Rowena Marshall, Bentley Common.

Mrs M Clutton formerly from Barsham and Hannah Kidger formerly from Stowmarket, automatically become NRLMs on moving out of the area.

10. Setting Up a Restoration and Training Committee. Already discussed in 7.

11. Guild Subscriptions and Donations for 2008

In view of proposed spending on Recruitment and Training the treasurer proposed the following: Ringing Member £14, Ringing Member 65-74 £7, Associate Member £7. All others to remain unchanged. This was seconded by Richard Knight. Following some discussion it was passed by the committee.

12. Guild Report 2006

MSG reported that this was nearly ready to go to the printers. MSG proposed that the front cover should include Handbook for 2007, which was agreed.

It was noted that the membership was almost the same for 2006 as it had been in 2005 and the secretary reported that she had only a handful of reports left at this stage.

Ruth Suggett had asked the GMC to select a printer for this year. Recently reports have been printed Red Press in N Yorkshire. This company had quoted £1322 + £40 delivery for 1000 copies, compared with £1120 last year. EAM Printers from Ipswich have quoted £990 for 1000 copies, with no delivery charge. Jonathan Stevens proposed that the Guild use EAM Printers which was seconded by Richard Munnings and carried unanimously.

Ruth Suggett asked her thanks to be expressed particularly to Christine Knight for proof reading the peals despite being so unwell.

WG expressed thanks to Ruth on behalf of the GMC and the Guild for all the hard work she had put into producing the report.

He also asked that the best wishes of the GMC should be passed to Christine.

Richard Knight asked if anyone had pre any 1970 reports to spare. Trevor said that he had and would pass copies to Richard.

13. AGM April 14th Debenham

It was reported that the format was almost complete. The following details were presented:

12.15-1pm	Ringling at Earl Stonham, Ashbocking and Earl Soham
2.15pm	Meeting in Stonham Aspal Village Hall followed by Ringling at Debenham.
5.30pm	Service at Debenham
6pm	Tea at Dove Cottage
	Evening ringling at Henley

CC reps need to be elected at this AGM. It was reported that the current reps, Lawrence Pizzey, Stephen Pettman, Alan Smith and David Salter, were all willing to stand and continue should the meeting wish. Some discussion followed pointing out that The Ringling Master was usually of the representatives. RJM that he would be interested if it were the wish of the meeting.

With regard to the Treasurer's post, James Smith had expressed his willingness to stand.

14. Any Other Business

(i) John Taylor explained that he sends copies of What's On to 56 people by email and he asked whether any that we had heard of had had problems opening the attachment. None had been heard of.

(ii) The webmaster had asked for any suggestions regarding the website to be passed on, both alterations and additions. Please be sure to let Chris know if you have a change of e mail address, especially those with official sounding ones.

Members of the GMC complimented Chris on the website and asked that congratulations and grateful thanks should be passed to him.

15. Date of next meeting, Sunday 17th June 2007 at 3pm.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.17pm.

Additional items for the agenda for the next meeting to be notified in writing by 17th May, please.

Mary Garner
Hon Secretary