

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Saturday 18th October 2008
at 6.00pm in the Methodist Chapel Hall, Old Newton.

Present: Philip Gorrod (Chair), Richard Munnings (Master), Mary Garner (Hon Sec), Keith Ashton Jones (Treasurer), Trevor Hughes (Ne Ho), Jonathan Stevens (NE Sax, Chair BAC), Brian Hale (NW Ix), Maurice Rose (NW Th), Peter Harper (SE Col), Robert Scase (SE Lo) John Smith (SW Sud), Sue Freeman (SW Ha), Richard Knight (SW Cl), David Mulrenan,

Welcome

PJG welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that David Mulrenan was between Deaneries at present, expecting to be in post after the NE ADM in November. David M was attending as an observer this time.

Apologies for absence were received from Jason Busby (NE Bc), Bruce Wakefield (PRO), Rev Brian Redgers (SE Ip), Kate Eagle (SE Wd), Marion Turner (NW Mi)

The Minutes of meeting held on 22 nd June 2008, previously circulated, were agreed and signed. Proposed Peter Harper, seconded by Maurice Rose.

Sub-committee reports: i. Belfry Advisory Committee

Jonathan Stevens (JJS) reported that the main business of the last BAC meeting was concerned with the revision of the Grant Terms and Conditions. The sub committee of JJS, Winston Girling, Neville Whittell and David Salter had drawn up the document. After discussion and revision at the BAC the result was circulated to GMC members. (Apologies from the secretary to the three people whose email copies did not arrive).

The GMC felt it prudent that “all” should be removed from the grant conditions. (Paragraph 1 line 2). PJG reported that he was very pleased with the document and JJS proposed that it should be adopted for use immediately. This was seconded by Trevor Hughes and carried unanimously.

PJG asked JJS to draw up a protocol of how the system will work as a guide for future officers. **Action: JJS**

JJS thanked Winston Girling for chairing the BAC for the last 16 years and for his work as Technical Advisor. He said that it was a busy job and that he had been dealing with almost twenty towers during the last 4 months.

ii. Recruitment and training

RJM reported that Training Day had taken place earlier in the day with 8 people taking part. It had been an enjoyable day and the participants felt that they had both learned from it and enjoyed it.

He reported that Alan McBurnie was e-mailing the various representatives to decide on a date for the Recruitment and Training Meeting and he looked forward to reporting on it at the February meeting.

Applications for grants.

1. **Helmingham** are planning a rehang using Whitechapel bellfounders, with Bacons of Dawbury to be the builders. The parish has asked for a grant. A quotation has been received from Whitechapel, £76647, although not from Bacons. The BAC felt the Suffolk Guild should offer a grant on bell hanging work amounting to £7600.

Much discussion followed, commenting about the importance of Helmingham historically. It was explained that ringing had been stopped because there was felt to be a danger of the bells cracking since they were very thin where the clappers are at present. The question of sound control and training a band of ringers was discussed.

In terms of training ringers it was the feeling of the meeting that Helmingham should feel supported in this by the Guild and indeed the other ringers in the benefice, notably Debenham.

JJS proposed a grant of £7600 which was seconded by RK. An amendment was proposed and seconded offering a grant of £5000. The amendment was lost, with 4 in favour and 5 against. The original proposal was voted on and carried, 7 in favour and 2 against.

Action: MSG to write offering the grant and adding RJM as a contact to help train new ringers.

2. Grundisburgh

The total cost for the new tenor, work on those headstocks still fitted with plain bearings to be replaced with ball bearings was quoted for at £15,576.66.

The BAC recommended offering a grant of £1600. The only problem voiced by them was that the work has already been done and there was concern that this would set a precedent.

The GMC also felt concern about setting a precedent. It was explained that a grant offer from another source had been withdrawn after the order was placed. The ensuing discussion also pointed out that Stephen Pettman had worked hard with a great number of people over the years and that Grundisburgh bells were always available. Grundisburgh had been a nursery for many many ringers.

The proposal made by JJS was seconded by RK, subject to an inspection, and was passed.

However it should be noted that:

In making this grant the committee had regard to the exceptional circumstances of the case which should not be seen as setting a precedent for the future.

3. Northwest District (Mandy Shedden)

An application had been received for a grant from the Pipe Family Trust, whose purpose is to help young ringers in their early ringing career, eg paying to go on courses.

Mandy Shedden had asked for a grant of £100 for a one day course at Worcester.

MR explained the background to this application. On this summer's ringing holiday a group from the NW had visited for a practice and had tried the teaching centre. An invitation was made for a group to go for a day at a later time. Everyone was very impressed and felt that it would be very useful. The grant would pay for the use of the ringing centre and the cost of accommodation would be found by those participating.

PJG thought it was a very good idea and would like to be able to offer it in house. If the grant were offered Mandy should be asked to produce a report to say what we need to do to get things running in house.

A grant of £100 was proposed by KAJ, seconded by MR and carried unanimously.

MSG to write

4. Woolpit

The ringers at Woolpit Parish Church have ordered (and recently received) a ringing simulator made by David Bagley. The cost of this is £380.00. The tower has been loaned the money to pay for it and the ringers have so far raised £180.00, leaving them short by £200.

PWH proposed a grant of £150 from the Pipe Family Trust. This was seconded by RK and passed unanimously.

MSG to write

Ringing Master's report

RJM reported that the only Guild event to have taken place since the June GMC was today's Training Day. However he was pleased to report the increase in the number of peals, the Guild's first peal on 14, at Winchester, a band which included two young and promising ringers, Tom Scase and Louis Suggett.

BBC TV's recording for "Inside Out" will be broadcast shortly. **Have since heard this will be on Nov 5th at 7.30pm**

A little ringing from Kersey was recorded for "Escape to the Country". It has apparently been broadcast, although RJM had expected to be told when this would happen.

RJM asked for help for two events to take place shortly, both of which he felt would be good publicity for the Guild as well as providing worth while support.

a) St Edmunds Day 20th Nov for which he is trying to organise some peals and other ringing. It is expected that the BBC will be covering this event.

b) White Ribbon Campaign, against domestic violence. The group have asked for ringing to take place on 29th Nov just after midday. This will be advertised beforehand and Radio Suffolk will be involved.

Financial Report

The Treasurer reported that the General Fund had an excess of £435 after the first nine months of the year (a similar position to last year). He forecasts that expenditure will approximately equal income for the last part of 2008.

Income to the Restoration Fund stands at £11000. This represents an increase of £800 on September 2007 (interest up £500, donations £400, St Edmunds Clapper £100, Affiliations down by £200)
The grants agreed so far this year total £17000; the amount unallocated stands at £23000, before today's offers. The grants reserved but not yet passed for payment amount to £57 500.

PJG thanked KAJ for his report.

Discussion followed including time limits on offers and the size of the fund.

A review letter from Hopton was read out as they approach the three year time limit. They reported a fair amount raised but a recent failure with Lottery Funding. It was suggested that the grant offer should be renewed for a further year and agreed by the committee.

MSG to write to Steve Young

Further discussion regarding fundraising posed the question of where to go for advice and ideas. JJS reported that the BAC is putting together a list of places to apply to and this will be put on the website.

Ratification of NRLM

Adam R Crocker (from Hertfordshire) had NRLM ratified.

Life Honorary Members

PWH feels that 50 years membership deserves recognition. He proposed that the Constitution under B Membership 2.3 might read "A Ringing or Associate Member who has given outstanding service to the Guild and all members who have completed 50 years continuous resident membership.

Discussion followed regarding the earning this type of membership rather than reward for time served. Many felt undecided and it was suggested that it should be discussed in the districts and brought back to the February Meeting.

Action MSG for February Agenda

Ringing World Ads (KAJ)

KAJ voiced concern that RW send a summary statement to pay for advertisements, which doesn't say what they are. It was explained that RW doesn't issue invoices to the people placing the ads, which are placed by District Secretaries for Quarterly Meetings and the Secretary before the AGM.

It was felt that this wasn't very satisfactory and that the people placing advertisements should send a copy to KAJ.

Action: MSG to write to District Secretaries

New Member Pack

A rough draft was circulated. A suggestion was made that "ways of getting involved" might be included.

Matters arising from those minutes not itemised later in the agenda:

(i) District Meeting Dates

MSG reported that she had e-mailed the district secretaries reminding them of the agreed dates.

(ii) E-mail communication This is progressing well. The webmaster has set up database and is adding addresses as they come in.

(iii) Guild Library Insurance The books have been valued at £14500. MSG reported that she had visited the library and discussed ways forward with the conservation of the library.

(iv) Guild Social Richard Knight reported that this event, taking place in the SW next year had been fixed for 27th June 2009, their Saturday, at Hadleigh Guildhall and Garden. A barbecue is planned and maybe a mini ring. He envisages some ringing during the day, possibly including All Saints Sudbury. Maybe one or two peals could be rung in the morning. Hadleigh ringers will do the barbecue with donations to be made for beer. The cost of hiring the venue is £16 per hr + £35 for the garden.

PJG said that it sounds really good, many thanked him for his organisation and planning.

(vi) Going for 50% membership for Guild peals This idea would not be pursued since it would exclude two notable peals this year.

(vii) Format of the peals for Guild Report Since a number of peals had been rung recently each with a great number of methods, the Peal Secretary proposed using Peal Base, enabling them to fit onto two pages. PJG offered to negotiate with Andrew Craddock of Pealbase.

Action: PJG.

Correspondence

The Secretary reported that she had sent out a number of reports. A letter of acceptance from Wissett re £5500 grant offer had been received.

She reported correspondence with Eric Finch re writing about his uncle George Finch. He has been investigating in Marlesford and the Library as well.

It was suggested that he be put in touch with Leslie Carter.

Any other business

1. Plea from Webmaster. Please copy to him any additions or changes to programmes so that he can keep the website up to date. Especially true if you are emailing John Taylor with info for the What's On and easy too. He's very good at dealing with the website immediately, but can only do so if he has the info.
2. AGM will be at Wenhaston, where there is a nice hall and a really keen band. Hopefully bells at Halesworth will be an eight again by then. It is also expected that Chediston will be back.
3. Guild Striking Competitions in 2009 will be held at Exning and Dalham.
4. MR said that it was a coup to get Albert Driver on the TV. It was his 80th Harvest Festival as a ringer and he took part in the quarter for the service.
5. The Chaiman asked: What does our Patron do? What do Vice Presidents do? He would like to fill a few gaps in the Constitution, not change it, just some tidying. The GMC agreed that he should form a small committee to do this. PJG suggested himself, the Secretary, the Treasurer. He asked for agreement to one or two others to be co-opted. It was agreed.

Action: PJG

Meeting Closed at 8.15pm.

Date of next meeting, to be agreed.

Additional items for the February agenda to be notified in writing by 21st January please.

Grid Ref 063628

Mary Garner
Hon. Secretary