

Suffolk Guild of Ringers - Belfry Advisory Committee

Minutes of meeting held at Bacton at 19.30 hrs on Monday 1st February 2016

Present - W.Girling (chair), C. McArthur(secr.), N.Whittell, M.Steggles, C.Girling, P.Rose, M.Rose, J.Taylor,C.Nunn, D.Salter and C.Davies.

Apologies – J.Stevens and A.Moult.

Minutes of meeting 6.10.15 at Wickham Market agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising - Investigations into the history of Polstead bells have not revealed any detail, following a previous request for information.

South East District - technical advisors vacancy remains unfilled despite SE AGM asking for volunteers.

Grant Applications - An application has been received from St Margaret's Ipswich for a grant for restoration of the 8 bells and replacing the treble, second and fourth. The bells are to be hung in a new frame lower in the tower. This will require the construction of a new ringing gallery which is not part of the grant application. Reports and quotations were to hand from Nicholson's and Taylors and although the Nicholson quotation at £109824 was slightly more expensive the PCC has chosen to use them. After consideration it was decided to recommend a grant of £12,000 to the GMC. David Salter commented that there were very few if any Howell bells left in Ipswich and as this firm were Ipswich based it would be nice to retain one of the replaced Howell bells and keep it for chiming. The chairman pointed out that this would be a decision for the PCC but would have a word with John Girt.

Training matters - D. Rose informed the meeting that he proposed some training at the forthcoming AGM in Hadleigh. A further training event on tower bell maintenance is suggested for later this year in NE district and Winston is to talk to J Stevens about the detail and potential venue.

District reports –

North East district - no activity reported, although J Stevens may add detail to this record in due course.

North West district - The work at Stoke Ash is now completed on restoring the decayed frame wall mountings, and thanks were given to all who had given time so generously. Cotton bells have similar issues to Stoke Ash, although greater decay, and Winston is due to undertake a formal assessment with A. Moult shortly

South East district - Work has now been completed at Otley with 3 loose clappers being rectified. Wickham Market bells continue to have clapper modifications to improve the raising of the back three bells. At Crettingham one recent Framlingham event raised £6000, and the village are on target to raise money for a new tenor and fittings by 2018. An inspection of the project at Crettingham is planned by A.Moult, W.Girling and C.McArthur

in the near future. Discussion about the Ransome's tenor at Tattingstone were wide ranging being raised by D.Salter. An action is to establish the founders of this bell, as it is either a Bowell or Ransome's casting ?. Both D.Salter and J.Taylor undertook to follow up this inquiry in local records.

South West district - A quote for Whatfield rehangings has recently been sought from Taylors. Hintlesham bells are to be improved by N.Whittell when he has clearance to partly dismantle the bells, between weddings /services. Lt.Cornard project is still progressing well, with J Taylor involved, and new architects. D.Salter made the comment it would be desirable to retain the anticlockwise ring when the installation work is eventually undertaken. Work on all the clappers at Lavenham has now been completed, with all having been refurbished at Taylors and two re-profiled. Thanks to all from BAC who undertook this difficult job.

AOB – Thanks were given to the Bacton tower ringers for making us most welcome, in view of the last minute cancellation of the Stowmarket venue.

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 8th June, potentially at Rendham, 19.30 hrs. C. McArthur to confirm arrangements with Jonathan.