

# Suffolk Guild of Ringers

## Minutes from Belfry Advisory Committee

Meeting at Stowmarket 7.30 pm on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

Apologies – J Stevens, D Salter, M Rose, P Rose, J Spiller, C Davies,

Present- W Girling (Chair), C McArthur (Sec), A Moulton, M Steggles, N Whittell, C Nunn, J Taylor, Z Wright, M Rolph, C Girling.

1. Minutes of meeting at Crettingham 3rd October 2017 agreed as correct and signed.
2. **Matters arising** - The National Bell Register needs updating and D Salter will pass this to C Mc from all members to update towers in their vicinity. – **Action**
3. **Management committee feedback** - WG reported that our previous meetings grant recommendations had been accepted. He had informed them that draw down of grant funds would soon mean guild reserves would soon be quite low.
4. **Grant Applications** - The meeting agreed that CM would take the chair for a discussion about the **Stowmarket** grant application. WG and CG did not take part in the decision making. Currently Nicholson's are in line to undertake the work with a new frame, keeping the back 7, a new treble and 2 more on the front. Cost less local labour is £107,531. Diocesan approval is in hand currently. Three quotes had previously been sort. After much discussion about this worthwhile scheme, and to keep within guidelines, it was recommended that a **grant of £11,000 be awarded**, proposed by A Moulton and seconded by M Steggles. With WG back in the chair **Laxfield** was considered where Taylors are to make an eight with only the 3 and 5 being kept. This scheme costing 123,054 is to leave the old frame in place and install a new frame below. **An award of £13,000 was approved**, proposed by N Whittell and seconded by C McArthur. At **Fornham St Martin** the current un-ringable six will be replaced by a new eight bell frame, but initially six bells. Costs will be £46379 for six bells or 54870 for eight bells. **The recommendation was for a grant of £7000**, proposed by A Moulton and seconded by M Steggles. At **Great Barton** the clappers are in a bad way and need to be rebushed and reprofiled. Cost is likely to be £2700 and a **grant of £300** was proposed by M Rolph and seconded by N Whittell.
5. **Health and Safety** - It was agreed that guild insurance in its current form was largely ineffective and would provide little financial protection, particularly for guild voluntary bell hangers, in their "latter years". **Action- W Girling would discuss with D Salter about the potential for changes/enhancements**. Health and Safety documents preparation are in hand for various bell hanging tasks, and J Colman has agreed to meet with our committee in the autumn. **Action - It was agreed that draft documents would be discussed at our autumn meeting.**
6. **Technical Advisors Report** - Nettlestead has had its single bell removed by the Guild and it will be reinstalled with a new Nicholson frame
7. **District Reports - North East**, Little Glenham, rehang has been progressed by M Cowling and two quotes sort, this will be new frame and repair of all bells, including two cracked ones. **North West** - Thorndon have been inspected and restoration is expected in due course. Chedburgh has a scheme to restore a single bell. **South East** - Much work has been undertaken at Ipswich St Clements (by the Salter's) prior to the installation of the new carillon. St Margarets Ipswich work is progressing well with new bells expected back in late February led by Nicholson's. Brandeston No. 4 bell has been welded and reinstalled thanks

to help by M Rolph and C Garner. Debenham had a clapper fall out and J Taylor had organised repairs to the crown bolt. Marlsford had a full inspection and a number of matters require attention this summer, although they are still ringable. Creetingham reinstallation is planned later this spring led by guild volunteers, when they come back from Taylors. Combs rehang is still going ahead although locals have had little involvement. **South West** - Hitcham has a local project to rehang in a new frame and guild support is to be offered. Whatfield has had three quotes for a new small six and preparatory work has started. At Little Cornard the new treble is now cast and reinstallation is planned for August 2018. Hintlesham still have work planned by N Whittell and others when a window of opportunity can be found.

8. **Next meeting** - **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June** at Brandeston or Creetingham, if bells reinstalled by them.