

Meeting of the Guild Management Committee
Saturday 18th February 2017, Stowupland Church Hall, 2pm

Present: Alan Stanley (Chairman), Tom Scase (Master), Carl Melville (Secretary), Owen Claxton (Treasurer), Winston Girling (BAC Chair), Mike Cowling, Neal Dodge, Jed Flatters, Sue Freeman, Maureen Gardiner, Mary Garner, Phillip Gorrod, Bryan Mills, Derek Rose, Gordon Slack, David Smith, David Steed.

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Maureen Gardner and Mike Cowling, attending for the first time.

2. Apologies

Sally and Alan Munnings, Ralph Earey, Jonathan Stevens, Ambrin Williams and Michelle Williams

3. Absent Friends

Members stood in remembrance of Susan Dalziel (Tunstall) and Chris Plummer (Beccles)

4. Minutes of the meeting held in October 2016.

Minutes from the October meeting, previously circulated were taken as read and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from minutes

5.12 The Guild logo is complete and done. Copy attached for illustration. File for use in documents available from the Guild Secretary.

7.1 The Gift Aid and Insurance work is ongoing (see treasurer's report)

8 Grant Guidelines will be discussed later in the meeting.

15.1 The encouragement of the use of the mini ring was ongoing.

6. Correspondence

The Chairman stated that he had received a letter from James Hall, Secretary to the Ipswich Historic Churches Trust in which he expressed the Trust's delight that ringing continues at St. Lawrence's, St. Clements and St. Stephen's. He, James Hall, went on to highlight the varying access arrangements:- direct access at St Lawrence's, liaising with the Trust's tenants Realise Futures; through the Tourist Information Centre at St. Stephen's; and through Stephen Petman at St. Clement's which has or will require further contact with the newly-established Ipswich Arts Centre to whom the Trust has recently granted a licence. Whilst these arrangements, in his own words, seem to work satisfactorily, the Trust would prefer to have a single point of contact.

Further to this letter the Chairman discussed the matter with Katharine Salter, who had been sent a copy. She has assumed a liaison role, written to David Hall, with a copy to the Guild Chairman, suggesting some refinements. Further discussions will follow. She also seeks in her letter, the Trust's consent to approach the Guild's BAC with a view to requesting inspection at St. Stephen's.

The chairman further stated that during his discussion with Katherine Salter she indicated a willingness to provide updated information to the GMC when there were significant items to report.

7. Officer Reports

i. Treasurers Report (OC)

The Treasurer reported that the 2016 accounts were edited and had been sent to the auditors.

OC told members about the Reserves Policy that the Trustees had put together in order to comply with charity law.

Gift Aid information was up to date as far as possible in conjunction with the membership secretary's work.

OC encouraged that the districts make use of the expenses funds.

OC told members that the Guild Insurance had been renewed, which covers all personal accidents, mini ring and hand bell use and all other Guild assets.

ii. Ringing Master's Report (TS)

I attended three of the four District ADMs towards the end of last year. I was pleased to note willingness of those present to ensure the majority of District roles were filled.

I am working on securing judges for the Guild striking competitions.

I attended the recent BAC meeting at Horringer, and am pleased to be able to report favourably following the brief ring I had on them.

At the last meeting, I noted I was minded to re-introduce the Guild peal week. This is still the case, however, I have just changed jobs and this has taken up a lot of my spare time over the last few months.

iii. Recruitment and Training (TS)

Unfortunately I missed the R&T meeting on Sunday 20 November, having already agreed to ring in a SRCY peal weekend attempt. A module two Art Course had been organised by The Ely DA and there had been three Suffolk Guild members attending, for which training grants were awarded.

The R&T committee had carried out a survey on the ringing simulators in the Guild- very few of them seem to be used regularly with a number of issues being noted including sensors and software not working properly.

An R&T section had been missing from the Guild website (thanks to Ruth Suggett for pointing this out). I have liaised with Chris to ensure R&T members are listed and minutes available on the website.

The next R&T meeting is on 5 March 2017.

iv. Belfry Advisory Committee Report (WG)

The minutes of the BAC meeting held on 3rd February are on the Guild website.

WG updated the meeting on the Parish Affiliation Scheme which continues to grow and bring in a healthy income for the Guild. WG thanks all who work on bells around the county and to those who give up so much of their time to assist the BAC in their work.

WG asked the meeting if the BAC could purchase a chain hoist (and a license to use it) for their use. JF produced 5 quotes. It was agreed that the Guild would buy a chain hoist costing £242.46, plus an annual license for its use. It was agreed that the hoist should be kept only by one of those who were licensed to use it. And that the purchase would be funded from the Restoration Fund and ongoing license fees from the General Fund.

- v. **Young Ringers (AW)**
No report. The meeting asked for a written report be submitted in future.
- vi. **Membership Secretary (MG)**
MG updated the meeting on the current membership situation. Forms continue to return. There are 725 members (715 members and 10 associate members). There had been 16 new members since January 2017. AS thanked MG for all she and Chris Garner had done.
- vii. **Public Relations Officer (ND)**
ND reported that St Edmund's Day ringing would still go ahead but that Radio Suffolk did not show much interest.
ND reported that a Felixstowe school had shown a great interest in ringing, resulting in six new learners there. A discussion was had regarding the value of working with schools to produce learners.

8. Grant Level Guideline (PG)

Further to discussions at the October 16 meeting PG had prepared proposed changes, and it was agreed to amend the Grant Guidelines as follows. Insert new clause 5 and renumber subsequent clauses.

"5. The amount of any grant will be determined by the GMC following a recommendation by the BAC, and will normally be based on a percentage of the actual net costs incurred, excluding, for example, a) savings made by the use of voluntary labour; b) savings made where materials or services are provided at less than full market value; and c) VAT where it is reimbursable. Applicants in a typical case can expect to be awarded a grant in the region of 10% of total net costs; smaller projects or those with particular difficulties may be awarded larger amounts at the absolute discretion of the GMC."

PG proposed. ND seconded. All agreed. PG and CM to action.

9. Applications for Grants and Grants Outstanding

Outstanding – St Matthew's, Ipswich, £325.00. St Margaret's, Ipswich, £12,000.
Horringer, £12,000

Application for Grants –

Boxford to replace clappers, at a total cost of £1,442.00 (ex VAT). £300.00 was granted. WG proposed. JF seconded. All agreed.

Offton want to replace their 6th bell. The members were encouraged that work was taking place and wanted to support the project. An amount would be considered at a later date.

10. Ratification of NRLM(s)

Claire O'Mahony
Hilary A Beresford
Andy Mead
Fergus M S Stracey
Jon Clifton
Adalene Clifton

11. Annual Report (MW)

No report.

12. Guild Dinner 2018

This would probably take place in March 2018. This is usually the responsibility of the Guild Secretary. CM will seek to identify possible venues.

13. Rule Amendments

It was agreed that some clarification to the rule relating to the ceasing of NRLM membership on relocation would be beneficial; and given this proposed change, the previous determination by the GMC to tackle the definition of a quorum for AGMs should be applied. After discussion it was agreed the following rule changes would be proposed at the AGM:

a. NRLM Rule Change

The following change to rule H.5 of the Guild Objects, Constitution and Rules was proposed by MG:

“5 Any person resident outside the Diocese who wishes to be associated with the Guild may be elected a Non-Resident Life Member. A one-off subscription is payable by such members.

6 Any Non-Resident Life Membership ceases if the member takes up residency within the Diocese. The person may become a Ringing Member, without re-election, provided that the person was previously elected as a Ringing Member. The person must then pay the appropriate subscription.”

PG seconded. 1 against, 1 abstention.

b. Statement of Quorum – AGM

As agreed at a previous meeting (to be tackled when there were other rule changes to be considered), a quorum to be set for AGM and SGM meetings which this meeting set at 5% and agreed the proposed rule change: At rule D 7 of the Objects, Constitution and Rules, add the additional final sentence: At any AGM or SGM a quorum shall be 5% of voting Guild members

c. Statement of Quorum - GMC

In addition BM proposed the following change to J.9.1 of the Guild Objects, Constitution and Rules:

“9.1 Nine members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.”

DR seconded. 9 in favour. 4 against.

14. AGM Preparations, North East, 21st April 2017

The NE had been working hard to produce ‘ringing routes’ that would allow members from all over the Guild to ring on their way to the AGM. These routes would be published on the website.

AS would encourage people to book the date and come by sending out an email in the next few days.

4pm – service

4.45pm – Tea in Hungate Hall

6pm – AGM followed by open ringing, subject to interest.

Names for tea to Kate Gill by Weds 18th Apr.

AS to publish details in the ringing world.

As an aside, attendance at District meetings was raised with concerns being expressed that attendance sometimes was less than it could be. Quality of venue was seen as a possible cause and means of increasing attendance. AS to write to District Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers reminding them that Guild funds are available and to encourage consideration of better venues.

15. AOB – previously notified items.

15. Subscriptions

The meeting took account of the Treasurers report in considering whether to propose an increase in subscriptions to the AGM and concluded that Subscription levels should remain unchanged for 2018.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 17th June, 2pm.

