

Suffolk Guild of Ringers

Minutes of Belfry Advisory Committee Meeting held on Friday 13 October 2000 at 54 Old Street Haughley

Present: R Coe, W Girling, A Moulton, J Pereira and B Wakefield

Apologies: Clouston MBE, Dr S Harrison, C Nunn, G Pipe, D Salter, D Webb, N Whittell

Matters Arising:

Haughley - request for extension to grant (£450 already offered) on advice it had been decided to also replace the 100 year old wooden headstocks with cast iron ones. Eayre and Smith are carrying out all the work which involves new clappers. Extra work will cost a further £3318 which with VAT will amount to £3898-65. Work is supported by R Clouston and DAC and Faculty being amended. Committee recommend additional grant.

Hacheston - R Clouston MBE is still not satisfied with this installation because the back 3 bells still do not go up right. This serious problem must be rectified by Hayward Mills and it is understood that they intend to do so. £10,000 has been held back.

Grant Conditions - A Moulton has amended suggested requirement for building in of steel members into tower walls to submit to GMC on 21.10.2000.

Guild Seminar on Maintenance 21.10.2000 - to be held at St Peters Church Hall Stowmarket 2.0p.m - 5.0p.m. cups of tea provided all welcome.

Elmsett - Committee informed that grant of £3600 approved at last GMC.

Michael Rolph - although correct information sent on floppy disc and also hard copy Michael was somehow left out of list of BAC Committee when it eventually appeared in 1999 report. Although chairman had sent off correct information he had written and spoken to Michael and apologised for this error.

District Reports:

North East:

Wingfield last minute application for grant received from Tommy Gee. Main proposed work includes welding 5th which is now cracked right across crown, sand blasting and painting frame, de-rusting and painting headstocks, cleaning out and re-packing ball bearings and sorting out clappers (some bells go up wrong and some clappers are wrong length) Tony Baines has visited and reported and says that ideally this installation would benefit from complete re-hanging, but sets out alternative interim work as above if funds are limited. He also suggests that if he does work then it could be split with bell foundry supplying various parts and himself doing work in tower R. Clouston supports work and we suggest that in absence of firm estimates including welding GMC express an interest and their support and await this information before deciding on grant level.

Wenhaston Reported to W Girling that clapper had fallen out of tenor. M Rolph has made new clapper staple from high tensile steel studding and everything is now working correctly.

North West:

Bury St Edmunds - Norman Tower, Application for Grant report received Ian Holland setting out work required including bearing work on all 10 bells, skim down clapper shafts on bells 9 and 10, fit new crown staple to bell 7, replace clappers on bells 2 to 8 inclusive and strengthen frame members. Cathedral have already agreed to fund £3000 cost but another £893.29 (includes VAT) has to be found. Much of the work has been carried out locally at no cost. Guild asked if it will help with extra amount only. Committee satisfied that work necessary and recommends support for this important tower.

Haughley - R Coe supplied all equipment and assistance given to remove all 5 bells which are now at Eayre and Smith.

Great Barton - Clapper bushes and 1 3 5 and 6 eased as Nylatron bushes tended to restrict clapper free play in hot weather.

Felsham - A Moulton reported that Vicar has a mind to have bells re-hung completely. Likelihood of application for grant to sort out this rather rough 6.

South East:

Campsea Ashe - Chris McArthur has attended and resolved severe knocking from one of the tenor bearings (bells recently partially re-hung by Commander Turner)

Rushmere St Andrew - N Whittell has been in touch re request to re-bush the tenor clapper.

South West:

Haverhill - W Girling has recently attended with Carol to tighten and check and resolved problem of treble slider becoming detached by replacing metal pegs with wooden blocks, bolted to slider run with a bar across the top. Parish have expressed an interest in re-hanging and A Moulton has visited and will do report suggesting adding vertical tie rods and re-hanging in existing wooden frame.

Technical Advisers Report

Iken - A Moulton has rung there and had a look at bells and reports that wedges have gone and frame seems OK now (report by RWMC at last meeting)

Purchase of Pullies - A Moulton will draw up specifications for possibility of purchase of stock by Guild.

Next Meeting: Friday February 9 2001 7.30p.m at Wheatley Haugh Lane Woodbridge

AOB:

Ex-Officio members of Committee - J Pereira enquired as to why the Chairman, Secretary Ringing Master and Treasurer of the Guild were shown as ex-officio members of BAC. W Girling explained that this was the usual procedure in other Guilds and Associations and, although it was unlikely to occur, these officers could attend the Committee Meetings if they wished and it was courteous to include them in the list of members.

Directory of Suffolk Guild Towers - J Pereira pointed out the number of errors that were present in this list. W Girling said that it was important that the list was updated correctly and that this was the responsibility of the Hon Technical Adviser. The Guild report was an official document and A Moulton said he was endeavouring to set it up on his computer for ease of updating. A Moulton and W Girling agreed to work together to resolve the problems with this list once and for all.

Letter from George Pipe - 1) asking if any Diocesan contact through George likely to occur 2) expressing concern at the number of odd struck bells and the need to chase bellfounders when bells are left with odd struckness and problems after major work, and that some of the payment should be kept back until matters are put right 3) should we consider a mailshot to Churches that have not joined the Guild Affiliation Scheme and do this at regular intervals, say every 3 years. George offered to liaise for the mailshot through the Diocesan posting as before. It was agreed that this was an excellent idea and W Girling said he would look at it as soon as possible, and that every effort would be made to encourage Parishes to ensure that their bells are in order before the full amount for restorations is paid.

The meeting closed at 9.0p.m. and the members then adjourned to Haughley Church to have a look at the restoration work taking place there.

Winston S. Girling
chairman