



**Belfry Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting at St Gregory's, Sudbury
10 February 2011 at 7.30 pm**

Members had the opportunity to look at the bellframe before the meeting.

Present

Jonathan Stevens (JS) (Chairman), Martin Croucher (MC), Carol Girling (CG), Winston Girling (WG), Chris McArthur (CMc), John Pereira (JP), John Taylor (JT), Bruce Wakefield (BW), Neville Whittell (NW)

Minute Secretary: Suzanne Stevens.

In attendance: Derek Rose

1. Welcome

JS welcomed everyone and thanked Derek Rose for meeting us and showing us the bellframe. He introduced Martin Croucher, chartered structural and civil engineer and welcomed him to the BAC.

2. Apologies for absence

Alan Moulton, Chris Nunn, Michael Rolph, David Salter.

3. Minutes of the 30 September 2010 meeting (previously circulated)

After amending 'Thornham' to 'Fornham' the minutes were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

- WG stated that the clock at Stowmarket was to be electrically wound.
- JS reported that he had seen the churchwarden at Charsfield and also the Rural Dean to tell them about the danger of leaving a bell in the porch. CMc said that he would see the parson and get several people to move the bell to somewhere more secure.

5. Correspondence

To be covered elsewhere.

6. Technical Advisor's Report (JS)

October 4 2010 Ixworth meeting with Churchwardens , Parson and Ruth to discuss external volume of clock strike.

Oct 11 meeting at Wissett.

November 6 Setting up striking at Worlingham.

Nov 9 Brandeston with Chris, reviewing need for rope guides and checking stay.

December 1 Beccles for sound survey and measure up prior to designing external sound management system.

Dec 6 St Nicholas Ipswich checking over before peal attempt and advising centre manager on tightening tenor headstock and oiling treble.

January 20 2011 Wissett; presentation to DAC on sound management issues and need to retain sound tube through sound room. Demonstrated difference in volume of upper level with and without tube.

Jan 22 Campsea Ashe Guild Inspection.

7. District Reports

7.1 North East

South Elham St Margaret might be planning a restoration.

Wissett is planning to put in sound shutters.

7.2 North West.

There was nothing to report.

7.3 South East

Ipswich St Stephen – the treble is double clapping. Request for someone to take a look.

Harkstead are out of action – remodelling in church. The learners band is going to other churches.

Tattingstone is getting estimates and talking about a rehang.

Easton – 3rd still has problems. JS to talk to Harry Edwards.

7.4 South West

Nedging – want something done so that they can ring two. There are no wheels but there are pulleys. NW will re-rope 1 and make arm so 2 can be swing chimed.

8. Grant Applications

Applications.

None.

JS spoke about grant conditions. There are some projects where the grant has been withheld because the building work has not been done appropriately rather than the bell work. Gordon Slack had suggested some amended wording;

“ 9. Following written Officer approval, the grant monies will be paid, usually to the bellhangers or contractors. For this reason and because any identified deficiencies may not be the responsibility of the bellhangers or contractors, applicants are advised to retain control of sufficient funds to cover any withheld grant the Guild Technical Adviser may authorise. This will ensure that the bellhangers or contractors are not penalised by any withheld grant when its cause is not their responsibility.”

What does the BAC's think? MC suggested 'seek to retain control'. This was agreed.

9. Routine Maintenance

JS suggests a tower based training rather than central courses as this year. Eg benefice or towers who ring together. JJS wants to promote it so towers are maintained properly and use BAC skills.

10. Update on work done in previous bell restorations (DS)

DS not present.

11. Steeple keeper's lunch/supper.

The Cedars at Stowmarket is £20 per head. However, Stowupland committee room is £7 per hour for bring and share, ringers' tea type social event. This was decided on. Suggested date 19 March 2011 – third Saturday. Email and website advert.

12. “Condition of the ring”

Correspondence had been received about the rating of the condition of rings in the Guild report/handbook. Chairman Philip Gorrod had asked BAC to discuss.

WG felt that it was essential that the rating was part of the report. NW pointed out that the key was very specific re type of frame. It is difficult to do an accurate assessment as depends how much bells rung, weather conditions etc. It has taken a long time to get it as accurate as it is. NW said that inaccuracies were noted but it took a long time to change in the report. It was pointed out that with 178 towers in the Guild it is impossible to go round them all every year and reassess. WG felt that the report should be kept updated. CMc suggested that BAC brings it up every year at the Autumn meeting and update the report where possible.

13. Any other business

BW had had an email from Philip Gorrod re St Peter's Sudbury asking what the mechanism was to authorise ringing. NW suggested requests to Alan Mayle as he is correspondent. The Suffolk Guild had instigated having the bells rung for ringing. The Guild is legally responsible for the bells. There is a booking arrangement. The church is redundant. Should talk to John Smith and/or Don Mills.

14. Action List

JS to speak to Harry Edwards about the 3rd at Easton.

15. Date and venue of next meeting.

Thursday 16 June – please note new date. Barrow. 7.00 pm ringing, 7.30 pm meeting.

JS thanked everyone for attending

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm.