



Belfry Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting The Dobermann, Framsdon after ringing at Helmingham
9 February 2012 at 7.30 pm

Present

Jonathan Stevens (JJS) (Chairman), Nathan Coleman (NC), Carol Girling (CG), Winston Girling (WG), Chris McArthur (CMc), Alan Moulton (AM), John Taylor (JT).
Minute Secretary: Suzanne Stevens.

1. Welcome

JS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Martin Croucher, Chris Davies, Chris Nunn, Michael Rolph, Neville Whittell.

3. Minutes of the 22 September 2011 meeting (previously circulated)

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Correspondence

None.

5a. Election of new member

Nathan Coleman was introduced and proposed as a new member by WG, seconded by CMc. This was carried by the meeting and will be taken to the GMC for ratification.

6. Technical Advisor's Report (JS)

Helmingham – The Guild inspection took place on 1 October. There was the usual snagging list which JJS has discussed with the parish and the bellhangers.

Theberton - stays were sorted and it was established why the fourth wheel was sticking.

Laxfield – advised them on making the bells safe to ring by putting a floor in under the central pit.

7. District Reports

7.1 North East

Theberton – the sticking wheel was sorted by Michael Rolph removing the end of the angle iron floor joist.

5 bell Open Day – very successful day but some work was required beforehand. Brampton was a very popular tower as it is so rare.

7.2 North West.

Thornham Magna and Rickinghall – WG reported that new pulleys and pulley blocks had been put in at both towers.

Stowmarket – the clappers have been rebushed, refaced and returned. New wooden shaft clapper in the tenor from Taylors. It is a big improvement; bell now hums. WG has the old clapper which has been refurbished. There is a 4' 6" crack horizontal crack in the lower cill cross beam. Neville Whittell has made plates for this and put on two each way which has stabilised it. The bells need rehangng but the church can't do it at the moment.

Tostock – the clappers have been refurbished, rebushed and returned from Taylors. The striking will be done when it is better weather.

Euston – new pulleys are going in to replace the old ones..

Redgrave – the project is progressing.

7.3 South East

Hinderclay – the bells are back and the grant has been paid.

Thurston – a faculty has been applied for to have an extra bell which has been donated.

Woodbridge – the scaffolding is down so hopefully they should be back ringing shortly.

Campsea Ashe – a question was asked about the grant to Campsea Ashe. It was explained that it is a tall feeble tower so a ¾ stainless steel bar designed to go into the padstones so that the frame and the tower are one thing. The upper ones are grouted so that there are air gaps between the grout and the steel. The Parish took the advice of the architect but no-one else so £1,000 grant has been retained as the final work was not completed. The structural engineer's design was not followed which was disappointing.

Harkstead – an application for a faculty has been made but there was not enough detail so they will be providing more.

Tattingstone – a visit has not yet been arranged.

Elmsett – Crawford Allen is applying for a faculty for the next bell.

7.4 South West

Woolpit – AM reported that there was a PCC subcommittee to organise the rehangng of the bells.

JT asked about Mendlesham. JJS reported that he had heard nothing from the parish since he sent them his report. Rope guides may go in so that they may be rung from downstairs but probably not for two years. JT is writing up the history of the frame which he said is fascinating.

8. Resignations

Bruce Wakefield has resigned as he feels he is not able to go up towers any more due to his health. WG suggested that JJS should write to BW to thank him for his work on the committee.

CMc asked if there were any rules about attendance levels of individual members at BAC meetings. JJS suggested the list may be looked at in due course. Perhaps it is more important to be practical than to be good at meetings. It is useful to have people in all locations; information can be passed on if necessary.

JJS said he would not be standing as BAC Chairman at the AGM although he is willing to stand at Guild Technical Advisor.

WG said that it was sad JJS was standing down as Chairman as he had put in a lot of work. JJS said that someone was needed as Chairman who would give the committee a boost. He had worked to raise the profile of the BAC through the magazine Awl A'Huld etc and it would be good to carry that on.

AM thanked JJS for his work.

9. Grant Applications

Clopton - AM had been at the meeting.

JJS explained that the proposal was that a new frame be put under the ceiling to the existing ringing chamber. This would mean that the bells would be substantially lower in the tower than they should be to be heard outside. JJS had taken sound readings and there was a substantial difference in sound between up and down. With the current proposal it would be three times the difference in height and the timber from the old frame would be in the way.

AM said that it had been tentatively agreed that the floor was reused. The frame would go as high up as possible under the new frame. There would still be timber in the way but it was the best that could be done because there are two steep long ladders. There would be a new ringing chamber and a reasonable sized chamber between. They are waiting for prices. Ventilation would be through the floor and it would be decorated, with heating and lighting. They wanted to keep the old floor.

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

DS not present at the meeting.

11. Any other business

Helmingham – WG asked if any of the BAC had been invited in the first peal. Apparently they had not, nor had those who had contributed volunteer labour. It was commented that if the time given by volunteers amounted to a sizeable donation which the parish had not had to find.

JJS reported that Whitechapel had completed everything on the snagging list that was their work. Other things on the list may not be completed; light/power in the ringing room, light underneath, trap opening the other way and a handrail put in, sound control. The provision of sound control is in the grant conditions.

WG asked if sound control was necessary. JJS explained that the bells were 85 dBA at the church door which was too loud and the people living in the Old Rectory did not like the bells.

If sound control is in place then problems in the future can be avoided. The grant has been paid in full. The parish had awarded the contract for sound control but then it had been rescinded.

A close eye would be kept on the use of the bells. If their use is restricted because of sound issues comment may be made.

12. Action List

- **JJS will write to Bruce Wakefield to thank him for his work on the BAC over many years.**

13. Date and venue of next meeting

Thursday 24 May 2012. Woolpit. 7.00 pm ringing, 7.30 pm meeting.

JS thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm.

The PCC of Campsea Ashe states that "After two years we have no concerns about the installation at all" 16.05.2013. Jonathan Stevens BAC Chairman.