

Minutes of the GMC meeting held on Saturday 15th October at Stowupland

Present-: Philip Gorrod (Chairman), Jed Flatters (Ringing Master), Gordon Slack (Treasurer), Mandy Shedden (Secretary), Jonathan Stevens (BAC Chairman), Trevor Hughes (NE Hoxne), Marion Turner (NW Mildenhall) Maurice Rose (NW Thingoe), Peter Harper (SE Colneys), Robert Scase (SE Loes), Sally Munnings (SE Ipswich), Mary Garner (SE Samford/ CPO), Derek Rose (SW Sudbury), Richard Knight (SW Clare), Jason Busby (NE Halesworth) Rev. Brian Redgers (SE Bosmere) David Steed (NW Stowmarket)

Apologies Alan Stanley (NW Hartismere) Julie Rapior (Ne Saxmundham) Brian Hale (NW Ixworth), Sue Freeman (SW Hadleigh),

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th June

Gordon Slack proposed adoption of approved minutes MR seconded

Sub- Committee reports

Belfry Advisory Committee

Our most recent meeting was at Reydon on Thursday 22 September. Members reported on work at, amongst others, Stowmarket, Ofton, Tostock, Hinderclay and Helmingham.

Redgrave's project continues on course.

Your Technical Advisor has completed tower inspections at Bramfield and Theberton, been problem solving at Westhall and also attended the Central Council seminar of Tower Inspections at Kineton on 24 September, which was a good opportunity to bend Graham Pledger's ear about a couple of Suffolk projects. Apart from that, only a little was learned, which was reassuring.

Thurston. I have not yet managed to join the band on a practice night so I can talk the project through with them and encourage them to get additional quotes.

Hinderclay. The repaired bell is back in the tower and ringing; awaiting inspection.

Helmingham. This project is well on its way. The grant aided work has a few remedial works needed but on the whole is a lovely example of what can be achieved when all involved are free to work together. I would like to commend John Pereira and Chris McArthur for their sterling work as volunteers.

Campsea Ashe. The parish decided not to do the remedial works recommended by your technical advisor and relinquished the £1000 retained grant monies.

Recruitment and Training

JF will be arranging a meeting of the R&T committee very shortly, he has been working on issues behind the scenes. He has ideas about training the teachers. MT congratulated Ruth Suggett and Mary Dunbavin for their regular attendance and support over several months at Mildenhall which had brought the learners along very nicely.

Applications for Grants

The meeting agreed a grant of £700 towards the work at Elmsett to augment the bells there.

An application has been received from Clopton which has no regular band. There are several issues that need to be addressed before approving the grant, notwithstanding some historic preservation matters. JS feels that no recommendation is appropriate yet until further investigation has been done, perhaps including a study of existing bell frame. The meeting agreed to be supportive of the project with the proviso that the details of the proposed work are firmed up on. JS will write to the correspondent.

Ringing Master's Report.

JF had been unable to get a band for Essex association 10 bell comp. JF attended the George Pipe training day at Brandeston but felt that was not as successful as the previous one. He went on the Young Ringers day which was very successful. The Guild Social had a disappointing attendance but it was enjoyed by all. He has been to two dedications (Campsea Ashe and Helmingham) and was impressed by both installations. He has spent a lot of time in the belfry at Bury. He had been asked to visit Whepstead and Dalham and given advice to both. He will be attending the launch of the Paul Cattermole Fund on October 30th. He encouraged people to attend the Bailey Day.

Treasurer's Report

General Fund

A stock of lapel badges has been ordered at a cost of £450. There were no other unusual items.

Restoration Fund

The Gift Aid refund this year was £1500 compared with last year's figure of £1100. The Guild Social made a profit of £60. The draw at the Social in aid of Christchurch Cathedral raised £86.25. As agreed at the last meeting, the GMC needs to decide how this money will be passed on. PH proposed that money raised at the Guild Social be passed on to the CC to purchase a mini ring for Christchurch. All at the meeting agreed.

A generous donation was received from Mr & Mrs Busby following their wedding and income from the St Edmunds Clapper Competition has exceeded that from last year.

Following the grants agreed at the last meeting, the allocated balance in the BRF is £13,800. The main tranche (£7,500) of the Helmingham grant will be paid this week. Unallocated balance is £43,000

St Peter's Sudbury Fund

It was agreed to fund the repair of the headstock on the 4th at St Peter's from the Fund at a cost of £966. The Friends of St Peter's generously contributed 50% of this sum. The Fund now stands at £1541.

Ratification of NRLM's

Nicholas A M McMahon, Oliver H J Thompson, Andrew S Green, Michael Hatchett, Philip D Bailey, Alan G Reading were all ratified.

LHMs –Change of constitution

It had been previously agreed that nominations from the districts be approved by GMC first before election at the next AGM. Any nominations need to be given to the GMC by the February meeting preceding the AGM. The revised constitution follows (new wording in italics)

H3 Life Honorary members may only be nominated by the GMC or a District and shall only be elected at a Guild AGM *after their nomination has been approved by the GMC*. No further subscription is payable after election.

Proposal from the chair is that the revision is adopted immediately after the AGM in 2012 – agreed by the meeting.

Deanery Representatives

Two deaneries in the NE have merged and this may be followed by more across the county as the number of clergy decreases. This will cause problems when determining how the deaneries are represented at GMC meetings and at Guild Meetings and the constitution needs to change to accommodate this. PJG suggested that it would be beneficial to set up a subcommittee to draw up proposals of how the deaneries are represented. Agreed that PJG would write to District Chairmen asking them to elect a representative from their District. GS agreed to convene the committee if nominated by his District.

Conference Ringing for the Future

MJS and Becky Munford will be going to "Change Ringing for the Future" at Wellesbourne Parish Centre and report back.

Diamond Jubilee Ringing

PJG suggested having a Guild qtr. peal week to celebrate the Queens Diamond Jubilee. Or aim to ring at each tower in the Guild.

Storage of the Library

Meeting agreed to store what is left of Suffolk Guild library in the Norman Tower.

Mini Ring

Was at Henham Steam Rally, and PJG has been asked to take it to another event at Henham next year. Wings and Wheels. Some discussion ensued; there has been some success in recruiting new ringers. Good PR for the Guild but a lot of hard work. JRB offered to organise the Wings and Wheels event.

Guild Dinner Spring 2013

MJS plus MG plus MT to organise.

Guild Clothing

The Guild has been asked by several members for sweatshirts etc. so it has been decided to take orders and payment before arranging a supplier to make some up with the Guild logo on. Stephen Cheek will organise this.

Any Other Matters arising

Mini Ring insurance has been updated to reflect the new value, handbell insurance still being investigated.

PJG and JF will consult on the rules for striking competition.

AGM Fringe meeting- JS has arranged for John Harrison to talk on Thinking the Unthinkable (training) Brian Meads will give an address in answer to it. Both will be allocated 15 mins and there will be time for questions from the floor.

Guild Social Sproughton Tithe Barn 15th September 2012 for a barn dance.

Correspondence

Ringling for the Olympics - the Central Council had been asked to arrange for all the bells in England to be rung at 8am on 27th July for 3 mins at 8am. PJG and JF agreed that we would not cooperate as this idea is unworkable. PJG has written to the organisers.

Any other Business

MR encouraged people to visit elderly ex ringers in their locality who would welcome some ringing news

Date of Next Meeting Saturday 18th February 2.30pm Stowupland