

## BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held in the Church Room, Butleigh on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017

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Officers and Central Council Representatives: Rev'd Mark Jackson (Chairman), Anna Joyce (Deputy Master and Cary Branch representative), Julian Back, Roland Backhurst, David Bromwich, Margaret Lee, Jill Hansford, Michael Hansford, Jay Bunyan (Secretary), Charles Pipe-Wolferstan (Treasurer),

Elected Branch Representatives: Axbridge – Fran Johnson, Bridgwater – John Hallett, Chew – Bernard North; Crewkerne - Lynne Smith; Dunster – Jan Swan; Frome – Matthew Higby; Glaston – Ken Brown; Ilchester – Gordon Rendell; Taunton – Bob Boulton (Attendance 20)

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and a prayer at 10.00 am. He asked that we should be granted patience, forbearance and a sense of humour as there was a great deal of work ahead.
2. The Master welcomed new members to the Committee: The new members were Anna Joyce and the Master himself. Jay Bunyan welcomed the Master to the General Committee.
2. Apologies were recorded for Richard Newman and Jenny Astridge. Matthew Butler (Bath) gave his apologies after the meeting
3. Declarations of interest – Matthew Higby is the contractor for Leigh on Mendip, Publow and North Cadbury. Julian Back is the Project Leader for Leigh on Mendip.
4. Notification of any other business – None
5. Minutes of the previous meeting on 5th March 2016 were signed as correct.
7. Matters Arising - Mike Hansford enquired about a date for a final inspection at Taunton, St Mary Magdalene. Jay Bunyan mentioned that the Work Complete form had not yet been received. John Hallett said that he would carry out the inspection as soon as possible after this had been received.
8. Officers' Reports (additional comments to written statements in the 2017 Annual Report)

Master	The Master recognised the sheer volume of work done by officers at Branch and Association level, and asked that they should “keep beavering away”. He said that unthanked work was appreciated and that the Diocese was grateful. He hoped to receive invitations to Branch (and Tower) events and activities.
Secretary	The Secretary asked that changes in membership, tower contacts &c should be notified to her.
Treasurer	The Treasurer mentioned ongoing communication problems emanating from the increase in the Affiliation Fee from £15 to £20. He wanted to put on record thanks to Valerie Stone for her assistance with contacting PCC treasurers.
Peal Secretary	Peals were up on last year. She asked that peal fees could be paid promptly.
¼ Peal Secretary	Clifford Nicholls was now using Bell Board, as well as the RW, to collect his statistics. Naturally, this resulted in an increase in the numbers recorded.
Tower Adviser	No comments. However, Mike Hansford (DAC Advisor) mentioned that work had been done at Skilgate without a faculty and by a builder rather than a bell hanger. John Hallett said that the (then) churchwarden had been notified of the correct procedure. If this (written) advice had been ignored then it was not the Association's responsibility. However, it was noted as important that all concerned should be aware of the new faculty procedure.
Librarian	No comments
Education Officer	No comments (but see later)
Bell Funds Officer	No comments
9. Association Officers for 2016/2017

With the exception of the Association Treasurer, all officers were willing to stand for re-election. Janet Wyatt has been nominated for Deputy Master for the coming year. Jay Bunyan is willing to take over Membership Secretary from Jenny Astridge.

Two candidates have been put forward for the post of Association Treasurer and these should be formally proposed and seconded at the AGM. Full details of the candidates, with the Terms of Reference for the post, will be posted on the website. Candidates will be asked to provide a pen picture of themselves and their suitability for the post and will be given time for questions from the floor at the A. (CP-W to d/w)
10. Standing Committee Appointment - Richard Newman had indicated that he was prepared to stand again. However it was noted that he had not attended the last four GC meetings. John Hallett proposed Charles P-W, Fran Johnson seconded and CP-W was appointed nem con.
11. Honorary Life Members – Three nominations had been received. As one of the nominees was present (the outgoing Treasurer) he left the meeting. The three nominations were for: Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, Terry Nicholls and the Rev'd Tim Hawkings (previous Master). After some discussion, all were elected, and CP-W rejoined the meeting.

12. Financial:
- 12.1 Review of overall financial situation: satisfactory. The income reserve was up from £28½k to £47k.
- 12.2 The Education Budget had been made available before the meeting. Jill Hansford reported that 70% of those trained under the modular scheme (and receiving cash awards) were still ringing regularly.
- 12.3 Fund Raising: Margaret Lee and Charles Pipe-Wolferstan have a nascent scheme for an Association pen.
- 12.4 CC Rep Expenses: The Master felt strongly that CC Reps, generally having to pay hotel as well as travelling costs, should not be out of pocket. It was agreed that the maximum expenses available (as the CCCBR AGM was in Scotland) should be £300 for *this year*. The amount for following years would be reviewed, not least by taking the location of the meeting into account.
- 12.5 Fees & Subscriptions. The Treasurer recommended no change and, after some discussion, this was agreed.
13. Bell Fund
- 13.1 Update on outstanding grant offers: The work at Kilmersdon has been complete for some time but the grant still hasn't been claimed! Jay Bunyan will write to the PCC to ask if they would still like the grant to be paid. Work at Taunton St Mary Magdalene was complete. Badgeworth: Matthew Higby explained the "sad" situation there where Bev Hearn had almost single-handedly raised money and was training a band. The bells had been removed but more money was needed to re-install them. However, the new church warden wanted to put in only a recording (like Christchurch in Clifton, Bristol). Mike Hansford said that no faculty had been requested for their re-installation. Whitestaunton: The bells are at Whites. Backwell: The faculty had been obtained. The two additional bells had been ordered from Taylors. Bridgwater: Margaret Lee reported that there had been some delay owing to the reordering of the church. However she also said that a grant had been made by the Central Council. Marksbury: The faculty was in place. Stanton Drew: The Keltek Trust has donated a sixth bell. There is a six bell frame.
- 13.2 New grant applications (see details at the end of these minutes). The Standing Committee had recommended a 10% (rounded up) grant in each case. However several committee members pressed for a much more generous grant level. The treasurer warned against depleting the funds, as had happened twelve years ago, After heavy discussion, the meeting voted on proposals for 12½% or 15%. The 15% proposal was carried by 9 votes to 7 (4 abstentions).
- Matthew Higby mentioned that bells at two CCT churches were in regular use. Clapton-in-Gordano were being rung frequently, but were now in serious need of attention. There were plans to turn Cameley (currently hung dead) into a ringing centre. Would grants be available? The Treasurer said that if the tower was affiliated then yes, it would (but see 13.3). CP-W enquired about the insurance implications (there being no Personal Accident cover at a CCT church.) Matthew said that the insurance situation had been taken care of.
- 13.3 Qualifying period for grant. Jay Bunyan & Charles P-W had expressed concern about one or two situations in the past where churches had joined the scheme in order to claim immediate access to a grant (e.g. Tolland). They proposed a two year qualifying period. After some discussion the meeting approved a five year qualifying period together with making it clear to claimant PCCs that it was expected that they would continue to contribute to the scheme. [Preb. Warren's Scheme Description to be revised]
- 14 Training for Branch Maintenance Contacts. Delays had been encountered with the production of the Central Council's Maintenance Handbook. As this was still not available. Mike Hansford said that he was writing his own! It is hoped that training will be in place soon so that BMCs can be appointed and carry out their job.
- 15 The Association AGM.
- 15.1 2017 AGM: The Chew Branch would host this at Yatton. The Master will take the service with Charles P-W on the organ. The meeting will be held in the church with refreshments afterwards in the Chapter house. Ringing routes to and from the meeting will be published soon. The times of service and meeting need to be adjusted and Jay will write to Chew Branch Chairman and Ringing Master on this.
- 15.2 Date for future Association AGMs. The Master said that he had received several representations that the Easter Bank Holiday Monday was causing travel and family problems. Problems were also mentioned with the Saturday after Easter. After discussion, it was agreed that the GC would recommend to the AGM that future AGMs should be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May as this date was: 1, away from any Bank Holidays with the associated travel problems and 2, a date that didn't move about according to the date of Easter.
- 16 Striking Competitions.
- 16.1 The Striking Competitions sub-committee had recommended that for the six bell competition, bands should be allowed to recruit up to two ringers from any other tower in the same benefice. They recommended that the 8 bell competition should stay as it is. The four members then resigned, hence disbanding the sub-committee and one member, Roland Backhurst, suggested that the matter should be allowed to rest for three years.
- 16.2 This year's Young Ringers' Competition would be held in the Bath Branch on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September. Jill Hansford also mentioned that a team would be entered for the National Youth Competition in Birmingham
- 16.3 The Glaston Branch would host the 6 bell competition on the 17<sup>th</sup> June, the final being on the back six at Butleigh. (This caused some comment).
- 16.4 The Bridgwater Branch would host the Eight Bell Competition. Again there were varying comments about this competition and a proposal will go to the AGM that the hosting Branch would be asked to state 1, whether the test piece should be Triples or Major and 2, its length. Not all committee members agreed with this proposal.

- 17 Any Other Business; None
- 18 Date of next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 at Butleigh
- 20 Vote of Thanks: to Roland and Marilyn for local arrangements, especially the cakes and to Aileen for being 'tea lady'

Grants from the Association Bell Fund – see Minute 13.2

Tower	Details	Contractor	Cost	Start date	Faculty	Grant
Leigh on Mendip	Replacement of bell fittings, drill out cast in crown staples, re-tune	M Higby	£31,653	Autumn 2018	Not yet	£4,750
Drayton	Replace pulleys, add new ground pulleys, fit new sliders/brackets, check over/tighten all fittings, check bearings	Whites of Appleton	£7,649	Early 2017	Not needed	£1,150
North Cadbury	Re-rope bells 2 & 6. Clean, treat and paint all ironwork, Overhaul all bearings, tighten clapper bearings	M Higby	£2,148	June 2017	In progress	£325
Publow	Replace headstocks, wheels, stays and sliders. Provide heavy duty horizontal X braces to create safety cradle	M Higby	£28,994	Jan 2018	Not yet	£4,350