

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the General Committee meeting held in the Church Room, Butleigh
on Saturday 17th March 2019

Officers and Central Council Representatives: Revd. Mark Jackson (Chairman), Jim Shepard (Deputy Master), Jenny Astridge (Peal Secretary), Julian Back (Webmaster), Roland Backhurst (CC Rep), David Bromwich (Librarian), Margaret Lee (Bell Funds Officer), Jill Hansford (Education Officer), Michael Hansford (CC Rep), Jay Bunyan (Secretary & CC Rep), Liz Lane (Treasurer), George Wyatt (CC Rep)
Elected Branch Representatives: Axbridge – Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, Bath – David Parfrey (Standing in for Matthew Butler), Bridgwater – John Hallett, Cary – Peter Alderson (standing in for Anna Joyce) Chew – Bernard North; Crewkerne – Ken Hallett, Dunster – Michael Dewar; Frome – Matthew Higby; Glaston – Ken Brown; Ilchester – Gordon Rendell Taunton by Mike Hansford (Attendance 22)

1. The Master opened the meeting with a moment of quiet and a prayer at 10.00 am. He also thanked Marilyn Backhurst and her assistant for organising refreshments.
2. Welcome to new members – Jim Shepard, Deputy Master, and Mike Dewar, Dunster Branch representative, were welcomed.
3. Apologies were recorded for Bob Boulton and Anna Joyce,
4. Declarations of interest – Matthew Higby, assisted by George Wyatt, is the contractor for Pylle, Nunney and Goathurst.
5. Notification of any other business – Liz Lane asked if agreement could be given for read only access to the association accounts. Seconded by C Pipe-Wolferstan and carried nem con at the time.
6. Minutes of the previous meeting on 17th March 2018 were signed as correct.
7. Matters Arising - none.
8. Officers' Reports - no additional comments to written statements in the 2018 Annual Report
9. Recommendations for Association Officers 2019/2020
David Parfrey to be General Secretary, Jay Bunyan to be Bell Funds Officer. David Parfrey would take Membership Secretary if necessary.
CC Representatives for 2020-2022. George Wyatt wishes to stand down. Others prepared to stand if required. Check with Aaron Moulder. Committee members were asked to canvas members in their branches for offers – new blood is certainly needed..
10. Standing Committee Appointment - Jim Shepard proposed and Margaret Lee seconded Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, who was re-elected nem con.
11. Honorary Life Members – One nomination had been received. Gordon Rendell read out the proposal for Roger Fox of Yeovil who was elected. The Master reminded members of the criteria for Honorary Life membership
12. Proposed change to rules regarding subscriptions. Liz Lane reported that the proposal to pay subscriptions by 31st January had been favourably received by branches and the all but 2 sets of subscriptions had already been received. Charles Pipe-Wolferstan proposed and Mike Hansford seconded that this be recommended to the AGM, with an amendment as proposed by David Parfrey and seconded by Jenny Astridge, transferring responsibility to members to pay rather than a branch officer to collect.
13. Financial:
 - 13.1 Review of overall financial situation: satisfactory. The Bell Fund had uncommitted funds of £59,585. There was again discussion about how much should be transferred from the General Account to the Bell Fund each year. There was general assent that the decision should continue to be made by the Treasurer each year, allowing her the competence to manage the Association's finances.
 - 13.2 The Education Budget This had been made available before the meeting. Jill Hansford proposed and Matthew Higby seconded that the figure of £3,800 should be adopted. This was carried nem con.
 - 13.3 Fund Raising: Pens and car sticker were still available. Quarter peal month will be 1-31 May 2019.
 - 13.4 CC Rep Expenses: The Master felt strongly that CC Reps should be able to claim the cost of attending the Central Council weekend. He felt that they should be able to submit their reasonable expenses claims for travel and accommodation but not for food, accompanied by either their receipts, or an expenses schedule, on which their expenses would be refunded. This was carried with 4 abstentions.

13.5 Fees & Subscriptions. The Treasurer recommended no change as it was felt that £10 was not a lot in this day and age. Mike Hansford suggested regular increases but Jim Shepard felt that this was not necessary. Matthew Higby felt that the Welcome Letter needed updating to show more information on what members received for their membership fee, Whole association charitable status was mentioned but is a nightmare to implement. David Parfrey stated that any increase needs to be properly explained and asked what was felt to be the right level of reserves for the Association. It was agreed that this could form part of the suggested review of rules and activities and that a clear policy should be drawn up. Finally, it was agreed that there would be no change to the annual subscription and affiliation fee.

14. Bell Fund

14.1 Update on outstanding grant offers:

Leigh on Mendip requested an extension to their grant period due to delays in starting work - agreed. Badgworth have received £27k in HLF funding. New ringers have started learning at Sutton Montis. Ken Brown asked when the work there might start. Matthew Higby responded that a listed bell needed tuning, and Mike Hansford replied that this was in the hands of Church Buildings Council rather than Diocesan Advisory Committee. He felt that there was a strong case as 6 bells were better than 3 and 6 bells in tune were better still. The Master hoped that the Chancellor could be encouraged to approve this.

14.2 New grants:

Ahead of the actual allocations, John Hallett asked if a further grant could be allocated to Bridgwater, which is to become a Ringing Centre. Mike Hansford reported that none of the towers concerned had approached the DAC regarding a faculty. He also mentioned that the DAC now have a structural engineer who is likely to become involved in restoration projects – especially augmentations.

On behalf of the Standing Committee, Jay Bunyan proposed grants of 15%, Roland Backhurst proposed 20%.

Before a vote was taken Charles Pipe-Wolferstan pointed out that costs were increasing at 15% this year would be a lot more next year. Julian Back suggested setting a maximum figure to use. David Parfrey felt that this showed the need for a clear reserves policy and should grants be awarded on merit rather than by percentage. It was noted that this had caused severe problems in the past. John Hallett queried the income for the Bell Fund – usually £10k - £12k plus transfers. No transfer was made in 2017 but £13,000 in the recent financial year.

Matthew Higby then proposed grants of 25%, seconded by Jenny Astridge.

A vote was taken – 25% = 9 votes, 20% = 4 votes, 15% = 6 votes.

Jay Bunyan proposed a further grant of £2,000 to Bridgwater. Mike Hansford proposed and Jill Hansford seconded, a grant of £5,000. The latter figure carried with 14 votes, 3 for £2,000.

John Hallett then formally proposed and Mike Hansford seconded that Grants of 25% be allocated to new applications plus £5,000 to Bridgwater. Carried. The Master emphasised that the 25% level was for this year only.

Grants are therefore: Nunney - £5,745; Pylle - £540; Monksilver - £5450; Wincanton - £695; Locking - £588; Goathurst - £4985, Bridgwater (additional) £5,000

14.3 **Proposal to amend Bell Fund Terms of Reference.** See also Item 18. Liz Lane withdrew this as after discussion it was agreed that the TOR should be included in any review of the association rules. Matthew Higby emphasised that we should be looking to make support wider ranging.

15. Relationship with CCT churches Matthew Higby suggested that this be included when reviewing the association rules and Bell Fund TOR. Agreed. John Hallett confirmed that he was insured to carry out the forthcoming inspection at Uphill for which a request had been received from CCT.

16. Safeguarding The Master had been in discussion with Barrie Hendry, our Safeguarding Officer, regarding diocesan policy. Each parish has a nominated person to see this policy through and Branch Chairmen will be asked to lead on behalf of the ringers. As a Branch Chairman, Peter Alderson asked if more ringer specific courses could be arranged. Jill Hansford had tried to arrange such courses, also C0 for those without internet access. She will keep trying. Certificates are needed for those attending courses. The Master outlined the legal implications e.g. certification is not transferable between organisations or denominations. Going on a safeguarding course is a means of protecting oneself.

17. GDPR Members should note that the only names appearing in the annual report are for those who signed an agreement form AND ticked the appropriate box. There was discussion on whether this should be an annual exercise and the consensus was that it was a one-off but new members should sign a consent form. Julian back, as Data Controller, to check the legality of this proposal.

18. Review of Association rules The current rules date from 1973 and are admirable in their brevity. However amendments have been made over the years and it is time to review and bring up to date. The Bell Fund Terms of Reference should be included. It was suggested that David Parfrey, Charles Pipe-Wolferstan, Liz Lane and Jay Bunyan form a sub committee to review. Jay Bunyan proposed that the General Committee meet at the 8 Bell Striking competition on 28th September to review the proposed new rules. This was agreed.
19. 2019 AGM: The Dunster Branch would host this at Dulverton on 11th May and a timetable and schedule of ringing routes would be available shortly.
20. Striking Competitions.
 - 20.1 Young Ringers' Competition: The Ringing World national Youth competition will be held in Liverpool on 6th July and a team has been entered. Jill Hansford to provide details of the association competition
 - 20.2 The six bell competition would be hosted by the Taunton branch on 15th June.
 - 20.3 The Chew Branch would host the 8 bell competition on the 28th September. The location and test piece would be notified later.
21. Any Other Business: already covered
22. Date of next meeting: 28th September 2019, prior to 8 Bell Striking Competition (review rules proposals); 14th March 2020 – full agenda
21. Vote of Thanks: already made.

The meeting closed at 13.15 p.m.

Action points:

General Secretary

Inform PCCs of grants allocated

Inform Roger Fox of HLM election

Organise meeting on 28th September to review proposed rules

Webmaster

Report back on legality of plans for members names in the annual report and inform branches

David P – convene subcommittee to review rules

CC Reps – Confirm to General Secretary their willingness to stand for re-election

Dunster Branch – confirm AGM arrangements and nomination for Deputy Master

All

Ensure that Safeguarding courses are undertaken

Grants from the Bell Fund

Tower	Details	Contractor	Cost	Grant offered
Nunney	Augment to 8	M Higby	£22,980	£5,745
Pylle	General refurbishment	M Higby	£2,162	£540
Monksilver	Rehang on modern bearings, remove cast-in crown staples (4 & 5), refurbishment of clappers, running gear etc. Fit rope guide	Taylors	£21,798	£5,450
Wincanton	Paint frame	Ian Hasman	£2,780	£695
Locking	Overhaul clapper assemblies, adjust pulley pivot bolts and dingler assemblies. General tightening up	Nicholson	£2,353	£588
Goathurst	Weld crack in crown of 5 th , drill out remaining crown staples, general refurbishment	M Higby	£18,941	£4735
Totals for new applications			£71,014	£22,980

