

## BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Minutes of the General Committee meeting  
held by Zoom on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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Attending by Zoom:

Revd. Mark Jackson (Master), David Parfrey (General Secretary & CC Rep), Liz Lane (Treasurer), Jill Hansford (Education Officer), Michael Hansford (CC & Taunton Rep), Jay Bunyan (Report Editor, Bell Funds Officer & CC Rep), Charles Pipe-Wolferstan (Axbridge Rep), John Hallett (Bridgwater Rep), Bernard North (Chew Rep), Ken Hallett (Crewkerne Rep), Michael Dewar (Dunster Rep), Matthew Higby (Frome Rep), Mike Palmer (Glaston Rep), Gordon Rendell (Ilchester Rep).

Steffi Penny, who will be proposed as Safeguarding Officer at the AGM, attended as an observer.

Apologies had been received from Bob Boulton, Julian Back, Ken Brown, and David Bromwich

### 1. Introduction

The Master welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanking everyone for the flexibility in holding the meeting by Zoom.

### 2. Financial Update (Oral)

The Treasurer gave a brief oral update on the financial position. Both the General Fund & the Bell Fund are in a healthy position with close to £100k unfettered deposits across both accounts.

### 3. Honorary Life Members

No nominations for HLMs had been received

### 4. Grant Recommendations

Committee members had been provided with full details of the recommendations, there were two:

#### 4.1 St Mary & St Andrew Pitminster

£2,545 was awarded to St Mary & St Andrew, Pitminster for the replacement of cracked 7<sup>th</sup> with a replacement from the Keltec Trust, together with new headstocks for the treble, 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### 4.2 St James Taunton

£200 was awarded to St James, Taunton – works on clappers

### 5. 2020 Ringing

#### 5.1 Brief positional review

A brief discussion agreed on the sadness of the present situation, and most importantly how it was affecting lives. The absence of ringing is understandable, whilst of course disappointing and in its own way its absence is having negative affects on well-being and the message the sound of our bells give to those listening. We all hope for some rapid return.

#### 5.2 Ringing restart

CCCBR guidance had been provided to committee members with the papers, and the general membership had been made aware of them. These gave clear guidance about how and when ringing could recommence. It was noted that the return would be very measured, and it would be some time before ringing as we would wish it could recommence.

#### 5.3 Ringing Restart Grant

The Treasurer outlined a proposal to offer small grants to Parishes who might need assistance with ensuring their bells were capable and ready to ring again following the extended cessation of ringing. The proposal was that a maximum of £10,000 be set-aside in the General Fund to provide for these to be available on a first come first served basis. The grants would be awarded at a maximum of £250 per parish and would only be available for use against relevant external

spend (evidenced by invoice). The scheme would be on-off and be time limited. The proposal was agreed by the Committee.

6. AGM

It being clear that a physical meeting would not be possible for the foreseeable future it was agreed that the AGM would be held by Zoom this year. Arrangements would be made for the meeting to be held in October.

7. Striking Competitions

It was agreed that striking competitions would not be possible this year, but it is hoped that competitions would be possible in 2021.

8. Website

There is a general feeling that the Association website has served us well, having been right at the forefront when it was implemented, however the time has come for redevelopment. Julian has indicated that he wishes to step down as Webmaster, and that he believes that this would also be an opportune moment for a new Webmaster who was prepared to take forward the construction of a new Website. The meeting was keen to record their appreciation of Julian's work over many years and recognise that investment would be required to create a new website suitable for our needs.

9. Safeguarding

Everyone agreed that safeguarding is a matter that, is no more or less important than ever before, but increasingly is being paid more attention to. The Master indicated his desire that we in B&WDACR take a leading role in how this is managed in the ringing environment. Discussion took place around the potential of membership cards that would be shown when visiting other towers. The need for a standard level of awareness to be required for all members, with enhanced training for those leading and instructing. It was noted that the Bishop of B&W was leading for the CofE in a review of safeguarding. The meeting noted that Barrie Hendry had indicated that he would like to retire as Safeguarding Officer this year, and Steffi Penny has volunteered to stand for election to this post. The meeting showed its appreciation to Barrie for leading in this very sensitive area for many years. Steffi is a professional advisor in this subject and the meeting noted that we are lucky to have her expertise. The rules review will take note of the current thinking in this space and, at a minimum, members should work within the Diocesan requirements as implemented through the Parish structure.

10. Rules review

This was the subject of much discussion, it was noted that the Committee had been fully involved in the development of several iterations, and the latest of these was discussed in detail, with several further refinements made. The result was a final draft agreed by the General Committee that would be recommended by the Committee to the AGM. The rules agreed by the GC provide for a Standing Committee comprising the: Master, General Secretary, Association Treasurer plus two further members appointed by the GC; the GC meeting suggested that the two Members should be the Association Tower Advisor and the Association Education Advisor.

11. AOB

There was no Any Other Business

The Master thanked everyone for their attendance and input and closed the meeting with prayer.