

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Founded 26 June 1879 as the Winchester Diocesan Guild

Presidents: THE RIGHT REVD THE LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER
THE RIGHT REVD THE LORD BISHOP OF PORTSMOUTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7 JULY 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN BISHOPS WALTHAM

1. Master's Welcome

The meeting was chaired by the Master Andrew Craddock, who was supported by the Honorary General Secretary Steve Castle, the Honorary General Treasurer Michael Bubb and the Minute Secretary Francis Mitchell. He started proceedings at 3.35 pm by asking Canon Barry Fry to say a prayer.

The Master welcomed everybody to the meeting in St Peter's Church, especially Rev David Cawley the author of "The Church Bells of the Channel Islands" which was available for sale for the first time today. He thanked all the Guild Officers who were standing down before the elections and thanked all concerned in the Portsmouth District for organising the day including the tea.

2. Striking Competition Results

The master announced the results of the 8-bell Inter-District Striking Competition held at Upham earlier in the day:

1. Portsmouth District
2. Alton & Petersfield District
3. Winchester District

Also taking part were Christchurch & Southampton District and Isle of Wight District.

3. Apologies for absence

50 members signed the attendance book.

Apologies were presented from:

Anne Bailey, Jen Churchill, Val Cleaver, Gill Gardner, Gill & Fred Hales, David Hill, Andrew & Sallie Ingram, Ruth Jackson, Eileen Jayne-Wood, Elizabeth Johnson, Viv & Graham Nobbs, Rosemary Oakeshott, Barbara Townsend, Ray Walsh, Margaret Winterbourne.

4. Loss of Members from death since the 2006 AGM

The meeting stood in silence to remember: Ruth Burrows of Micheldever, Reg Cockle (LM) of Bishops Waltham, John Huggins of Old Alresford, Ann Hunt of Catherington, J Michael Lakin of Winchester, Hazel Mitchell of Sherborne St John, John E Spice of Winchester and Leslie A Tremeer (LM) of New Alresford and Jersey.

5. Minutes of the 2006 AGM

Minutes of the 2006 AGM at Christchurch Priory had been circulated to all towers via District Secretaries. Their acceptance was proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Mike Winterbourne and agreed unopposed. They were signed by the Master as a true record.

6. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

7. Honorary Life Membership of the Guild

Alan Buswell and Joan & Ron Pike will achieve 50 years membership in 2007 and automatically become life members. They were congratulated by the Guild Master who presented their life member certificates.

8. Officers' & Sub-Committees' Reports for 2006

For each report published in the Guild Report (in alphabetical order), the Master invited questions, asked for a proposer and a seconder and requested the meeting to vote on their acceptance.

- i. Belfry Stewardship Committee Report was proposed by John Davey, seconded by Andy Banks and adopted with no votes against.
- ii. Education Committee Report was proposed by John Croft, seconded by Marguerite Bickers-Jones and adopted with no votes against. Mike Winterbourne thanked the helpers who made Education Days possible.
- iii. Librarian & Archivist's Report was proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Mike Winterbourne and adopted with no votes against.
- iv. Peal Recorder's Report was proposed by Roger Barber, seconded by Mark Esbester and adopted with no votes against.
- v. Communications Committee Report was proposed by John Davey, seconded by Mike Winterbourne and adopted with no votes against.
- vi. Secretary's Report was proposed by Steve Castle, seconded by Roger Barber and adopted with no votes against.
- vii. Striking Competition Committee Report was proposed by John Croft, seconded by Phil Watts and adopted with no votes against.
- viii. Treasurer's Report was proposed by Mike Bubb, seconded by Phil Watts and adopted with no votes against.

Mark Esbester queried the need to formally accept the reports when they had already been agreed by the Executive Committee and published in the Guild Report.

9. Report of 2007 Central Council Meeting

Tony Smith reported on this year's Central Council meeting where the Guild was represented by Michael Church, Hugh Routh, Tony Smith, Phil Watts and Mike Winterbourne. He mentioned some items likely to be of interest to Guild members:

- The Ringing Foundation, to promote Public Relations, recruitment and training;
- The next Ringing Roadshow on 5-6 September 2008 at Stoneleigh Park in Warwickshire.

Andrew Craddock thanked Tony and expressed the Guild's gratitude for the work of the Central Council.

10. Bell Restoration Fund

i Trustees Report and Accounts for 2006

There were no questions regarding the BRF Report and Accounts, acceptance of which was proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Charlotte Colliss and passed with no votes against.

ii Grant Proposals

Mark Esbester informed the meeting that five requests for grants had been assessed by the BRF and were being presented for approval at this AGM:

- 1) Froxfield - Rehang the six bells in a new frame. Cost £46,300 proposed grant £5,000;
- 2) Hannington - Retune the three bells and rehang in a new six bell frame. Cost £45,000 grant £5,000;
- 3) St John Jersey - Rehang in the existing frame. No grant proposed. The Trustees were unable to recommend a grant due to the funds already available for the work.
- 4) North Stoneham - Stabilisation of the frame and corrective work to ensure the bells can be rung satisfactorily by an inexperienced band. Cost £20,000 proposed grant £3,000;
- 5) Romsey - Major work to rehang the eight with minimal tuning. Cost approx £150,000 grant £7,500;

John Davey proposed these grants be approved, seconded by Andy Banks and agreed unopposed.

Phil Watts thanked the Guild and the BRF for the grant to North Stoneham.

Tony Smith congratulated Mark Esbester on his long service as a BRF trustee since 1976.

11. Elections

i. Master

David Strong was proposed by Derek Jackson, seconded by Mike Bubb and elected unopposed. He was presented with the badge of office by the retiring Master, Andrew Craddock who continued to chair the remainder of the meeting.

ii. Vice-Master

There were no nominations. Volunteers are required within the next 12 months.

iii. Honorary General Secretary

Pam Thompson was proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Mike Winterbourne and elected unopposed. Steve Castle was thanked by the Master for his efforts as Secretary.

iv. Honorary Treasurer

Michael Bubb was proposed by John Davey, seconded by Jack Walters and elected unopposed. Michael Bubb was congratulated for performing an outstanding job since 1986.

v. Minute Secretary

As there were no other candidates, Francis Mitchell agreed to stand again. He was proposed by Mike Bubb, seconded by Roger Barber and elected unopposed.

vi. BRF Trustee - Portsmouth Diocese

Andrew Case was proposed by Mark Esbester, seconded by Roger Barber and elected unopposed.

vii. BRF Trustee - Winchester Diocese

Jack Walters was proposed by Steve Castle, seconded by Mike Bubb and elected unopposed.

viii. Honorary Recorder of Peals

Jonathan Hetherington was proposed by John Davey, seconded by Derek Jackson and elected unopposed.

ix. Honorary Librarian and Archivist

Bruce Purvis was proposed by Jack Walters, seconded by Peter Niblett and elected unopposed.

x. Honorary Report Editor

No candidates were proposed for this post. David Strong described what was involved and appealed for all Districts to try and find someone to do this vital job.

xi. Honorary Guild Public Relations Officer

Andrew Craddock was proposed by Mike Bubb, seconded by Mike Winterbourne and elected unopposed.

xii. Honorary Independent Examiner

Peter Clarke was proposed by Mike Bubb, seconded by Mike Winterbourne and elected unopposed.

xiii. Central Council Representatives

Michael Church was proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by John Collis and elected unopposed.
Tony Smith was proposed by Michael Church, seconded by Jon Hetherington and elected unopposed.
Mike Winterbourne was proposed by Brian Oakes, seconded by Roger Barber and elected unopposed.
Peter Niblett was proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Graham Grant and elected unopposed.

Michael Church spoke of the vital work being carried out by the Guild representatives on Central Council committees. He highlighted Tony Smith's long service and his forthcoming candidature as President of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers.

There being no further nominations, the vacancy for the fifth representative would be referred to the Executive Committee with the suggestion that one of the senior Guild officials may wish to fill this role.

12. Future Guild events

i Guild Dinner 2008

Sue Craddock suggested 17 May 2008 as a suitable date and asked for ideas as to venue and format.

ii Selborne Bells

The dedication of the augmented ring of eight at Selborne is set for Thursday 27 September 2008.

13. Date & place of 2008 AGM

This will be held in the Winchester District on Saturday 5 July 2008.

14. Any other business

i. Church Bells of The Channel Islands.

Jack Walters announced that the book "Church Bells of the Channel Islands" has been printed and was on sale for the first time today at £14.95, profits will go to the Guild Bell Restoration Fund. Jack introduced the author, Rev David Cawley who thanked the Guild for taking on the task of publishing this book and achieving a fine result. He particularly thanked Jack and the other Guild officers and members involved over the years in its creation and publication.

ii. Mike Winterbourne recommended the Executive Committee to consider Mark Esbester for Honorary Life Membership after his outstanding service to the Guild over many years.

There being no further business, The retiring Master Andrew Craddock closed the meeting at 4.45 p.m.

The meeting was followed by the W&P 200 Club prize draw.