

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 17 NOVEMBER 2007 AT ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH HALL, LODGE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

1. Opening Prayer & Master's Welcome

The Master David Strong, supported by the Honorary General Secretary Pam Thompson, the Honorary General Treasurer Michael Bubb and Minute Secretary Francis Mitchell, opened the meeting with a prayer at 10.18 a.m. He welcomed everybody, especially Pam Thompson (newly appointed General Secretary) and John Palk (observer) attending for the first time.

Michael Bubb welcomed David Strong who was chairing his first Executive meeting as Guild Master.

The others attending were:

Anne Bailey, Andrew Banks, Andrew Case, Michael Church, Val Cleaver, Andrew Craddock, Sue Craddock, John Davey, Keith Gillings, Maureen Kelly, June Mitchell, Rosemary Oakeshott (for Communications Committee Convenor), Sue Park, Tony Smith, Mary Tester, Barbara Townsend, Jack Walters, Mike Winterbourne.

2. Apologies for absence

Roger Barber, David Forder, Gill Gardener, Adam Greenley, Jon Hetherington, Andy Ingram, Theo Johnson, Margaret Patterson, Bruce Purvis,

3. Loss of Members from death since the last Meeting

The meeting stood to remember Armine Wodehouse of Goodworth Clatford, Keith Walpole of St Michael Basingstoke (District Ringing Master), Val Welch of Ryde.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2007 had been distributed with the agenda for this meeting. A tidier version with no substantive changes was accepted by the meeting and signed by the Master as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

i. Restoration of William Rayner's Tomb

Tony Smith questioned the authority of the Executive Committee to approve a donation towards the restoration of William Rayner's tomb. The money has not yet been paid and the proposal will be put to the 2008 AGM.

ii. Venue for Executive Meetings

Following the Executive Committee's wish to continue to meet in St Barnabas Church Hall, and to pay for its use, a hire charge of £50 had been agreed for this meeting and the hall booked at the same rate for the two meetings in 2008. Approval of these arrangements was proposed by Mike Bubb, seconded by Tony Smith and agreed with no votes against.

iii. Welcome Leaflet

Barbara Townsend distributed copies of a revised draft incorporating all comments received so far, though

more were available from Andrew Craddock. After considering printing costs and the likely number of copies required, it was decided to make the leaflet available on the Guild website for printing locally as required with no central stock of printed copies.

It was proposed by Tony Smith and seconded by Barbara Townsend that the draft be updated by Barbara Townsend then handed over to the Communication Committee for placing on the Guild website and maintaining it. This proposal was agreed by the meeting with no votes against.

The master thanked Barbara Townsend and Wendy Ling for their work on this task.

6. Election of Hon Report Editor to serve until the 2008 Guild AGM

Rosemary Oakshot proposed John Palk to fill the vacancy of Report Editor until the next AGM when the election would have to be confirmed under rule 5. This was seconded by Andrew Craddock and as there were no other candidates this proposal was approved by the meeting with no votes against.

7. Election of Central Council Representative to serve until 2008 Guild AGM

Michael Bubb took the chair for this item. John Davey proposed David Strong to fill the vacancy of Central Council Representative until the next AGM when the election would have to be confirmed under rule 5. This was seconded by Sue Park. There were no other candidates and this proposal was approved by the meeting unopposed.

8. Life Members

i. 50 Year's Membership

It was confirmed that John Rolfe of Wickham and Anne Biddlecombe of Alton St Laurence will achieve 50 years membership in 2008.

9. Budget Bids for 2008

i Librarian & Archivist	£100	Proposed by Jack Walters, seconded by Tony Smith
ii Guild Report Editor	£50	Proposed by John Palk, seconded by John Davey
iii Belfry Stewardship Committee	£100	Proposed by Andy Banks, seconded by John Davey
iv Education Committee	Nil	
v Communications Committee	£450	Proposed by Tony Smith, seconded by Keith Gillings (Domain Name Renewals £20, Web Hosting £50, Newsletter Printing £320, Post & Packing £60)
vi Social Committee	Nil	
vii Striking Competition Committee	£50	Proposed by John Davey, seconded by Mike Winterbourne
viii Public Relations Officer	£100	Proposed by Andrew Craddock, seconded by Andy Banks (For a promotional film on DVD)

All these bids were individually approved by the meeting with no votes against.

10. Bell Restoration Fund

i. Grant Proposals

Jack Walters reported on grants already made: Major work at Romsey is virtually complete; The smaller project at Abbots Ann is in progress.

A grant request from Whitwell Isle of Wight has been deferred pending clarification and granting a faculty.

An appeal from St John's Jersey against the AGM decision to decline a grant, has been answered with a request for more information to support a possible new grant request to be placed before the 2008 AGM.

11. Proposals

i. Public Liability Insurance

Michael Bubb reported progress in the search for a Public Liability policy to include maintenance work in towers. The E.I.O could provide straightforward Public Liability cover for Guild members at a premium of

£450; AXA could provide members with Public Liability cover including bell maintenance for £1000. Cover for bell restoration work would then have to be added on a project by project basis. Members are advised to check their Church insurance policy to see if maintenance by members of the band is covered, the PCC may have to take a vote on it.

It was proposed by Barbara Townsend, seconded by Andy Banks and agreed by the meeting that the AXA policy with bell maintenance be accepted subject to further investigation by the Guild Officers.

12. Future Events

i. Education Dates:

1 March, 19 April - Training days
18 or 19 March, - An Evening in Holy Week
11 October,
22 November.

Mike Winterbourne requested Districts to try and avoid these dates when arranging District events.

ii. Guild Dinner 2008

Sue Craddock gave details of a provisional booking at Alton House Hotel on 17 May 2008. The change of date is due to Hampshire 2008 school holidays not including Easter. The dinner will cost £25, with rooms available at a concessionary rate. It is hoped to arrange afternoon activities as proved successful in 2007.

iii. Striking Competitions

17 May - 6 and 8 bell competitions. The venue is to be checked to see if this is compatible with the Dinner on the same day.

5 July - Inter-District 8 bell. (AGM day)

6 Sept - Inter-District 10 bell

Tony Smith's proposal that this date should be changed away from the Ringing Roadshow was seconded by Barbara Townsend and approved unopposed.

13. Date and place of Meetings in 2008

- i. The Executive Committee will meet on 8 March 2008 and 15 November 2008 at St Barnabas Church Hall.
- ii. The AGM is set for 5 July 2008 in the Winchester District.

14. Any other business

i. BRF Fundraising

June Mitchell had produced a poster giving details of means of raising funds for the BRF, including selling copies of "The Church Bells of the Channel Islands". These are being distributed to District Secretaries.

ii. Tower contacts

Barbara Townsend passed on a report of difficulties in contacting tower secretaries by someone who did not use email because only an email address had been given in the Guild Report. Not giving other means of contacting a tower secretary was agreed to be undesirable but was not thought to be a widespread problem.

iii. Bell Stock Survey Forms

John Davey on behalf of the Belfry Stewardship Committee, had contacted Hampshire Record Office in Winchester about eventually holding completed forms. Tony Smith requested that this be progressed via the Guild Librarian and Archivist.

iv. Information for 2007 Guild Report

Forms were distributed to District Secretaries for updating the information in the Guild Report.

v. Elections

Various aspects of the rules for electing Guild Officers were discussed, including elections by the Executive Committee to fill vacancies and the frequency of elections at the AGM, currently triennially.

Nominations will be needed for the vacant post of Vice-Master, to be elected at the 2008 AGM.

Mike Winterbourne proposed that the Honorary General Secretary, the Guild Master and Tony Smith examine the Guild rules regarding elections to see if any changes to the rules need to be considered. This was seconded by Barbara Townsend and passed with no votes against.

15. Closure

The Master closed the meeting at 11.50 am.