

**THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN
GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS**

Founded 20 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 21 NOVEMBER 2009
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 at 10.17 a.m. by asking Canon Barry Fry to say a prayer. The Master welcomed everybody, especially those attending for the first time.

The others attending were:

Andrew Banks, Chris Caryer, Andrew Case, Michael Church, Val Cleaver, John Davey, Nicky David, Barry Fry, Keith Gillings, Maureen Kelly, Ros Oakeshott, Margaret Paterson, Hugh Routh, Mo Routh.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from:

Anne Bailey, Diana Bishop, Andrew Byford, Andrew Craddock, Gill Gardner, Jon Hetherington, Peter Niblett, John Palk, Bruce Purvis. Tony Smith, Mary Tester, Barbara Townsend.

3. Loss of Members from death since the last Meeting

The meeting stood to remember:

Cynthia Kemp (LM) of Overton, Helen Mary Allcard of Droxford, Colin Inman of Overton, Joseph Cripps of Bramshott, Dorothy Leach of Alderney and Tim Wyeth of Ropley.

4. Minutes of the last Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2009 had been distributed before the meeting. Acceptance was agreed with no votes against. The minutes were signed by the Master as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

i Refurbishment of Guild handbells.

Bruce Purvis had obtained a complex quote from Taylors with estimates ranging from £600 to well over a thousand pounds for various items of maintenance work. It was agreed to discuss this at the next Executive Committee meeting when Bruce Purvis could be present. The handbells are ringable at present.

ii Guild Library.

Hugh Routh reported that the upwards extension to the library had been approved by the Winchester Cathedral authorities. He expected to complete the work early in 2010. He was thanked by the Guild Master.

iii AGM Date

Michael Church asked if any progress had been made on checking the best time of year for the AGM, in order to try and improve attendance. There was some feeling that a meeting in the spring or autumn would conflict with fewer weddings and holidays. The national 12-bell competition in London may have had some impact on attendance at the 2009 AGM.

The meeting agreed that members at the ADMs should be asked for their views on this matter.

6. Life Members

No members were known to have achieved 50 years membership in 2010.

7. Budget Bids for 2010

i	Librarian & Archivist	£75	Agreed
ii	Guild Report Editor	£25	Agreed
iii	Belfry Stewardship Committee	£250	Agreed
	(Includes safety equipment and inspection expenses)		
iv	Education Committee	Nil	
v	Communications Committee	£470	Agreed
	(Domain Name Renewals £10, Web Hosting £50, Newsletter Printing £360, Post & Packing £50)		
vi	Social Committee	Nil	
vii	Striking Competition Committee	£25	Agreed
viii	Public Relations Officer	£10	Agreed

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

8. Bell Restoration Fund Grant Proposals

Andrew Case reported on progress at towers with approved grants:

work at Bishops Waltham is complete with an inspection by the BSC imminent; Bramshott have completed the work and the grant has been paid; work at North Stoneham is planned for next year; the two new trebles for Portsmouth Cathedral were the last bells cast by Taylor Eayre and Smith and are in the Church; work at Shanklin completed last Friday.

New applications for grants have been received from:

St Mary's, Portsea, where two quotes had been obtained for replacing some bearings plus work on clappers and pulleys. A BSC Inspection had advised new quotes to include replacement of all bearings.

Newnham plan to augment from 3 to 5 at a cost of £35,000 with £27,000 already raised.

9. Reports for 2009 Social Committee

Mo Routh's report had been circulated with the agenda, was seconded by John Davey and agreed.

10. Guild Insurance

Mike Bubb proposed that the Guild's Public Liability be increased from £1 million to £5 million at the suggestion of the Guild's Independent Examiner, which could increase the premium by about £350. The BSC would still have to supply names to be covered for individual projects. This was seconded by Andy Banks and carried with no votes against.

11. Guild Striking Competitions

Chris Caryer had prepared a written proposal circulated with the agenda that a new trophy be purchased for £135 to fit on the existing engraved plinth. This was agreed by the meeting.

The reduced number of entries for Guild Striking competitions was felt to be in line with a general decrease in ringing activity in the Guild area. No easy solution was forthcoming.

12. Vacant Guild Positions

David Strong emphasized the importance of the post of Vice-Master. He is actively seeking candidates and appealed to District Secretaries and Representatives to find someone.

He also stressed the need for an active BRF Fundraising Committee to ensure the flow of funds into the BRF to maintain bell restoration activities. Barry Fry informed the meeting that the original concept of the BRF Fundraising Committee was to seek large scale sponsorship.

13. Receipt Books

The existing supply of Receipt Books is almost exhausted, so Mike Bubb asked whether more were needed or would a standard letter suffice. Although opinion was divided, a majority wished to keep the books. Districts were to be asked how many they had in stock.

14. Date of March 2010 Executive Meeting

The Guild Treasurer cannot attend on the scheduled date of 13 March 2010, so the meeting agreed to change the date of the next meeting to Saturday 6 March 2010.

15. Future Events and 2010 Meetings

i. Guild Dinner 2010

Mo Routh gave details of the arrangements so far for the Guild Dinner at Park Hotel, Southampton on 15 May 2010.

ii. Arrangements are well under way for the AGM at Basingstoke on 3 July 2010.

iii. The Executive Committee will meet on 20 Nov. 2010 at St Barnabas Church Hall.

14. Any other business

i A letter of thanks had been received by Basingstoke District Secretary expressing gratitude for the Guild's support in their augmentation from 3 to 6 bells. Mike Bubb had received good feedback from Hannington who were also grateful for the Guild's help.

ii Andrew Craddock had made copies of the Guild DVD for each District. It may be copied but not changed and will be available on the CCCBR website. It had cost him £100 to make. If reimbursed by the Guild he offered to donate the same sum to the Guild under Gift Aid. John Davey proposed that Andrew Craddock's costs of £100 be reimbursed, seconded by Val Cleaver and carried unopposed.

iii Keith Gillings reported that he had been required to have separate CRB check for teaching at another tower, but the Diocese had lost it. Transferable checks will be available under the next implementation of Child Protection legislation.

- iv** It was reported that Andy Ingram had stood down as Convenor of the Guild Education Committee. He was thanked for the work done while in that post.

15. Closure

The Master closed the meeting at 11.56 a.m.