

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 18th NOVEMBER 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN ST. MARK'S CHURCH CENTRE, ARCHERS ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON

1. Welcome

The Guild Master - Rachael Barber, supported by the Vice-Master - Peter Niblett, Hon. Gen. Treasurer - Robin Milford and Minute Secretary - Tony Smith, opened the meeting at 10.15 a.m. and Barry Fry said a prayer. The Master welcomed those present and encouraged members to claim travelling expenses.

The other members attending were Roger Barber (A&P Exec Rep.), Martin Barnes (Belfry Stewardship), Ian Carey (Peal Recorder), Michael Church (CC Rep.), Nici Collins (Basingstoke Sec.), Lizzie Colliss (Communications, Portsmouth Sec.), John Croft (Winchester Exec Rep.), Margaret Downer (IoW Exec Rep.), Barry Fry (BRF Trustee), Mike Hopkins Till (CC Rep.), Andy Ingram (Education), Sallie-Louise Ingram (C&S Sec.), Nick James (CC Rep.), Pete Jordan (Immediate Past Master, Striking Competitions), Stephen Lutener (Basingstoke Exec Rep.), David Mattingley (BRF Trustee), John Palk (Report Editor), Richard Paxford (Andover Sec.), Simon Poyser (A&P Sec. proxy) and Matthew Wilks (Portsmouth Exec Rep.).

2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Dan Graham, Lucy Hopkins Till, Micki Nadal, Bruce Purvis and Mary Tester.

3. Loss of members through death since the 2023 AGM

The Minute Secretary read the following names and the Master asked members to stand while Barry Fry said a prayer.

Theo Getty (LM)	Alverstoke
June Mitchell	Brading
Rona Mitchell	Liss
Joy Scanlan	Romsey
Mavis Whitehead (LM)	Portsmouth Cathedral
Kath Baldwin	formerly of Portsmouth Cathedral
Philip Carter	formerly of Winchester Cathedral
John Chamberlain	formerly of Fawley
Catherine Griffiths	formerly of New Alresford
Peter Hadaway	formerly of Fawley
Eric Headleand	formerly of Bramshott
Brenda Hough	formerly of Alverstoke
Peter Jenkins	formerly of Broughton & Houghton
Brian Kempton	formerly of Buriton
Thelma Mills	formerly of Tangley
Sheila Padley	formerly of Bentworth
Canon George Rayner	formerly of Shanklin
Dawn Williams	formerly of Broughton & Houghton

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The [minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2023](#) were proposed by John Croft, seconded by Michael Church, approved *nem. con.* and signed by the Master as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

6. Appointments to fill vacancies

- i. **Hon. General Secretary.** There were no candidates.
- ii. **Public Relations Officer.** There were no candidates.
- iii. **Central Council Representative.** So that we could be fully represented at the CC annual meeting in Ipswich following Steve Castle's resignation, and as Executive Committee members were advised by email on 26th August, the Master invited Nick James to fill the vacancy. This appointment was formalised on the proposition of the Master, seconded by Tony Smith.

7. Life membership (*on completion of 50 years' ringing membership of the Guild in 2024*)

Graham E Brown	Alverstoke
William A Harris	Catherington
Stephen N Hough	Eling
Ann P LeMarechal (<i>née Bennett</i>)	Bishopstoke
Anne K Longman	Eling
Ian M McCallion	Hursley
Stephen P Noyes	Brighstone

8. Budget bids for 2024

- i. Peal Recorder - Nil.
- ii. Librarian and Archivist - £200.
- iii. Report Editor - £35.
- iv. Public Relations Officer - Position vacant.
- v. Education Committee - Nil.
- vi. Striking Competitions Committee - £345.
- vii. Belfry Stewardship Committee - Nil.
- viii. Communications Committee - £500.
- ix. Young Ringers' Group - £900.

The bids were approved *en bloc* on the proposition of Roger Barber, seconded by Peter Niblett.

9. Budget for 2024

A Budget for 2024 prepared by the Hon. Gen. Treasurer had been circulated.

10. Bell Restoration Fund - Report on Trustees' meeting

David Mattingley provided brief updates on the outstanding grants: **Eling** completed, signed-off by the BSC and £1,000 paid; **East Tisted** completed, signed-off by the BSC and £2,000 paid; **Brading** over £28,000 raised, an updated grant application will be considered at the next Trustees' meeting, completion expected next Summer or Autumn; **Ropley** completion expected second half of next year; **Hawkley** completed, signed-off by the BSC and £7,000 will be paid soon; **Netley Abbey** bells are out, timescale not exactly known; **Portchester** no update received; and **Andover** completed, signed-off by the BSC and £1,750 will be paid soon.

A new grant application had been received from **St. Peter, Titchfield** where damage to a wheel had been covered by insurance, apart from an excess of £600. On behalf of the Trustees, David proposed a grant of £100 which was seconded by John Croft and agreed *nem. con.*

11. Safeguarding feedback and update

The Master said that, in view of his absence through injury, Dan Graham would instead write a statement to be circulated to members and if anyone had any safeguarding queries they should contact him direct by [email](#) and he would be happy to advise.

12. Future Guild events

- 13th January 2024 Alton & Petersfield ADM - Hawkley
Andover ADM - Andover
- 20th January 2024 Basingstoke ADM - Bramley
- 27th January 2024 Christchurch & Southampton ADM - Hordle
- 3rd February 2024 Portsmouth ADM - Shedfield
- 10th February 2024 Winchester ADM - Bishopstoke
- 17th February 2024 Isle of Wight ADM - Chale
- 16th March 2024 Executive Committee Meeting
- 23rd March 2024 National 12-bell competition eliminator - Portsmouth Cathedral
- 27th April 2024 Isle of Wight Open Day
- 11th May 2024 Inter-Tower striking competitions - Isle of Wight
- 8th June 2024 Inter-District 8-bell striking competition - Portsmouth District
AGM - Swanmore
- 6th July 2024 RWNYS - London
- 21st September 2024 Novices' striking competition
- 16th November 2024 Executive Committee Meeting

13. Any other business

- i. Tony Smith reported that, following the offer of county surveys of church bells by Frederick Sharpe in *The Ringing World*, Bruce Purvis had persuaded the editor and *de facto* retail sales manager to take the outstanding stock of *The Church Bells of the Channel Islands*, the remainder of the edition being some 70 copies, off the Guild's hands for £60 which, in accordance with the author David Cawley's wishes, would go to the BRF. Sales hitherto had covered the costs of the edition; the remainder was being stored for the Guild by Jack Walters, and, in his increasing infirmity, Jack was anxious to have the volumes off his hands and out of his loft.

There being no further business, the Master closed the meeting at 10.49 a.m.