

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 16th NOVEMBER 2024

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

1. Welcome

The Guild Master - Rachael Barber, supported by the 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 Martin Barnes (Belfry Stewardship), Ian Carey (Peal Recorder), Michael Church (CC Rep.), Nici Collins (Basingstoke Sec.), John Croft (Winchester Exec Rep.), Anne Deegan (IoW Sec.), Rodolph de Salis (Andover Sec. proxy), Margaret Downer (IoW Exec Rep.), Barry Fry (BRF Trustee), Dan Graham (Safeguarding), Andy Ingram (Education), Sallie-Louise Ingram (C&S Sec.), Pete Jordan (Immediate Past Master, Striking Competitions), Stephen Lutener (Basingstoke Exec Rep.), David Mattingley (BRF Trustee), Micki Nadal (Winchester Sec.), John Palk (Report Editor), Margaret Smith (CC Rep.) and Roger Smith (C&S Exec Rep.).

2. Apologies for absence had been received from Roger Barber, Lizzie Colliss, Lucy & Mike Hopkins Till, Nick James, Peter Niblett, Simon Poyser, Bruce Purvis and Matthew Wilks.

Tony Smith said that Matthew had just been discharged from hospital following an operation to prepare him to be able to receive a donated kidney sometime in the spring. The Master asked Tony to write to Matthew with the good wishes of the meeting.

3. Loss of members through death since the 2024 AGM

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

David Atkins	Alverstoke
Tony Ayres	New Alresford
Alan Bentley	Ringwood
Colin Hares	Amport
Derek Jackson (LM)	Eling
Maggie Johnson	Hawkley
Gwen Mackrell (LM)	Chesterfield, formerly of Eling and St. Lawrence, Alton
Alan Price (LM)	Surrey, formerly of Romsey and Lockerley
Angela Brown	formerly of Chale and Brighstone
Chris Kippin	formerly of St. Michael, Southampton and Ellisfield
Canon Gary Philbrick	formerly of Hursley, Fawley, Southampton and Fordingbridge
Kate Rogers	formerly of Wonston
Jack Shovel	formerly of Silchester
Adrian Tumber	formerly of Southampton
Cressida Wheelwright	formerly of Brown Candover
Geoffrey Whitear	formerly of Micheldever

4. Minutes of the last meeting

The [minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2024](#) were proposed by John Palk, seconded by Nici Collins, approved *nem. con.* and signed by the Master as a true record.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

Andy Ingram said that the W&P Youths came first in the SEECON Youth Striking Competition at Bushey and a close second in the RWNYS Eight-Bell Method Ringing Class in London.

6. Appointments to fill vacancies

i. **Hon. General Secretary.** There were no candidates.

ii. **Public Relations Officer.** There were no candidates.

7. Correspondence

A message had been received from Christine and Peter Hill thanking the Executive Committee and the Guild for electing them life members at the AGM. They were sorry not to have been present but were touched by the proposal and very pleased with their certificates.

8. Life membership (*on completion of 50 years' ringing membership of the Guild in 2025*)

Roger A Barber	Hawkley
Carol Cooper	Blackmoor
David M Lay	Sopley

9. Budget bids for 2025

i. Peal Recorder - Nil.

ii. Librarian and Archivist - £250.

iii. Report Editor - £40.

iv. Public Relations Officer - Position vacant.

v. Education Committee - Nil.

vi. Striking Competitions Committee - £402.

vii. Belfry Stewardship Committee - £16.

viii. Communications Committee - £500.

ix. Young Ringers' Group - £935. In reply to an enquiry from Steve Lutener, Andy Ingram confirmed that there were three rather than five towers on the outing making the donations of £45 correct.

The bids were approved *en bloc* on the proposition of Pete Jordan, seconded by Michael Church.

10. Budget for 2025

A Budget for 2025 prepared by the Hon. Gen. Treasurer had been circulated. Robin said insurance premiums were up by 18% but income was still expected to exceed expenditure.

11. Bell Restoration Fund - Report on Trustees' meeting

David Mattingley said the grants to **Binsted** (£350) and **All Saints', Basingstoke** (£500) had been paid since the last meeting and provided brief updates on the outstanding grants:

- **SMV, Brading** (£20,000) waiting to hear the result of their application to the Heritage Lottery Fund;
- **St. Peter, Ropley** (£10,000) completion expected in December with rededication by the Bishop of Winchester on 12th January;
- **St. Mary, Portchester** (£800) there has been no ringing for some time and the project is no longer that for which the application was made, grant withdrawn but they can reapply;
- **St. Mary & All Saints', Droxford** (£1,000) completion expected March 2025;
- **Blessed Mary, Upham** (£1,000) done;
- **St. Mary, Southampton** (£300) awaiting work by the church to exclude pigeons from the belfry;
- **St. James, Bramley** (£5,750) £32,000 of £50,000 raised.

A new grant application had been received from **SS Peter & Paul, Ringwood** for augmentation from 8 to 10, replacement of existing wheels and reconfiguration of belfry access, at a cost of £127,082 inc VAT (assuming LPW Scheme ends March 2025). On behalf of the Trustees, David proposed a grant of £15,000 which was seconded by Margaret Smith and agreed *nem. con.*

12. Youth Ringing Committee

- i. The Master proposed and Andy Ingram seconded that a new Guild committee be created, specifically there should be a motion at the AGM to add "Youth Ringing Committee" as rule 9.b.v and the following Terms of Reference as rule 10.e.

To encourage and promote youth ringing within the Guild; to arrange regular practice and events for young ringers under the age of 19 within the Guild area, providing youth ringers an opportunity to ring with people their own age; to coordinate, when appropriate, participation in national and regional youth ringing events, such as the Ringing World National Youth Contest and the South East England Youth Contest.

Following discussion this was agreed *nem con.*

- ii. Tony Smith explained that the new committee would be appointed when the rule change was agreed at the AGM but there was no reason why an interim committee should not be appointed immediately. The Master proposed and Roger Smith seconded Andy Ingram; Andy Ingram proposed and Tony Smith seconded the Master; and the Master proposed and Ian Carey seconded the Safeguarding Officer. These appointments were approved *nem. con.*

13. Safeguarding update

Dan Graham presented a verbal report including a plan to conduct a Guild-wide survey of safeguarding in the New Year, to determine which towers are doing safeguarding well and could share experience with towers that could benefit from additional support, and safeguarding requirements for visiting ringers.

Following discussion Dan proposed and Martin Barnes seconded that the form to be completed by visiting bands from outside the Guild area be endorsed, subject to the correction of the use of the adjective "Diocesan" as a noun to "Diocese" (four occurrences) and the addition of the date when the form was approved by the Portsmouth Diocesan Safeguarding Team. This was agreed *nem. con.*

14. Code for Ringing

The Master proposed and the Vice-Master seconded that the Central Council [Code for Ringing](#) be adopted as a Guild policy. This was agreed *nem. con.*

15. Churches at risk

The Master said that Simon Linford had given a presentation during the Central Council weekend, *Changes in churches - What are we going to do?* highlighting the likelihood of 10% of churches closing over 10 years which could include churches with important rings of bells. ([Recording](#), [Slides](#)). She had written to Simon asking if he could produce a general summary of the main points (with links etc.) in email format which could be cascaded down to the districts and towers. He had agreed that it was a good idea and was thinking about how it could be achieved.

16. Future Guild events

11th January 2025	Alton & Petersfield ADM - East Meon Andover ADM - Goodworth Clatford
18th January 2025	Basingstoke ADM - All Saints', Basingstoke
25th January 2025	Christchurch & Southampton ADM - Lyndhurst
1st February 2025	Portsmouth ADM - St. Mary, Portsmouth
8th February 2025	Winchester ADM - Northington
15th February 2025	Isle of Wight ADM - Newport
15th March 2025	Executive Committee Meeting
17th May 2025	Inter-Tower 6-bell striking competition
14th June 2025	Inter-District 8-bell striking competition - New Alresford AGM - Ropley
5th July 2025	RWNYC - Birmingham
20th September 2025	Inter-Tower 8-bell striking competition
15th November 2025	Executive Committee Meeting

17. Any other business

- i. John Croft said that the Dean of Winchester, the Very Revd Catherine Ogle, a Patron of the Guild, was retiring “for personal reasons” on 1st May 2025.

There being no further business, the Master closed the meeting at 11.45 a.m.