

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 15th MARCH 2025

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., welcomed those present and said a prayer.

The other members attending were Martin Barnes (Belfry Stewardship), Anne Deegan (IoW Sec.), Kirsten Cousens (Portsmouth Sec.), John Croft (Winchester Exec Rep.), Rodolph de Salis (Andover Sec. proxy), Margaret Downer (IoW Exec Rep.), Dan Graham (Safeguarding), Lucy Hopkins Till (Andover Exec Rep.), Mike Hopkins Till (CC Rep.), Andy Ingram (Education), Sallie-Louise Ingram (C&S Sec.), Pete Jordan (Immediate Past Master, Striking Competitions), Stephen Lutener (Basingstoke Exec Rep.), Micki Nadal (Winchester Sec.), John Palk (Report Editor), Bruce Purvis (Librarian & Archivist) and Margaret Smith (CC Rep., Basingstoke Sec.)

2. **Apologies for absence** had been received from Ian Carey, Michael Church, Barry Fry, David Mattingley, Roger Smith and Matthew Wilks.

3. Loss of members through death since the last Executive Committee meeting

The Minute Secretary read the following names and the Master asked members to stand in memory.

John Gresswell	Hawkley
Graeme Keel	Bentley
David Parry	Ryde
Chas Seamons	Selborne
Bill Webb	East Woodhay
John Bolt	formerly of Christchurch
Hilary Coles (née Brown)	formerly of Chale
John A Nundy	formerly of Catherington
Roger Simons	formerly of Petersfield
Sonia C Tucker	formerly of Winchester Cathedral
Pauline Wood	formerly of St. Mary Bourne

4. Minutes of the last meeting

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

5. Matters arising from the minutes

- i. **(15) Churches at risk.** The Master had received some PowerPoint slides from Simon Linford, rather than a general summary of the main points in email format which could be cascaded down to the districts and towers which was what she had requested. She asked Martin Barnes if the Belfry Stewardship Committee could consider and advise how we might best guide and support

the districts. Micki Nadal said that in the last few days she had received an email from the Winchester Diocese with links showing the level of risk to churches in the diocese and she would send this to Tony Smith for distribution to interested parties. Dan Graham said the Safeguarding Audit identified churches with bells but no ringers. The Vice-Master said he had performed an assessment of towers in the Andover District.

6. Appointments to fill vacancies

- i. **Hon. General Secretary** There were no candidates.
- ii. **Public Relations Officer.** There were no candidates.

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

Graham Nobbs (Carisbrooke).

8. Reports and accounts for 2024

The following reports and accounts had been distributed and were considered.

- i. **General Secretary.** Position vacant. No report.
- ii. **General Treasurer (and accounts).** No comments.
- iii. **Peal Recorder.** No comments.
- iv. **Librarian and Archivist.** No comments.
- v. **Public Relations Officer.** Position vacant. No report.
- vi. **Education Committee.** No comments.
- vii. **Striking Competitions Committee.** No comments.
- viii. **Belfry Stewardship Committee.** No comments.
- ix. **Communications Committee.** No comments.
- x. **Youth Ringing Committee.** No comments.

The reports were accepted *en bloc* on the proposition of Bruce Purvis, seconded by John Palk.

Tony Smith said that a PowerPoint presentation would be prepared for the AGM with a couple of points from each report, to showcase the work of the Guild. Officers and Committee Convenors (or their alternates) were asked to attend the meeting to take credit for their work and answer any questions. In answer to a question from Bruce Purvis, Tony agreed that illustrations could be included.

9. Bell Restoration Fund

- i. **Reports and accounts.** The Hon. Gen. Treasurer said the report and accounts as distributed had been approved by the Trustees on a Zoom call the previous evening.
- ii. **Report on Trustees' meeting.** Two new grant applications had been received from **Overton** and **Dogmersfield** too late for consideration and would be held over until a subsequent meeting,

10. Safeguarding

- i. **Audit Results.** Papers from Dan Graham had been distributed. The Vice-Master said that at his tower, Whitchurch, the church had suggested that references were needed for Tower Captains. Dan said that in practice churches set their own standards for safe recruitment.
- ii. **Visiting Ringers' Form Feedback and Update.** A paper from Dan Graham had been distributed. In answer to a question from Bruce Purvis about visiting ringers on the sex offenders' register, Dan said the responsibilities lay with the visiting organiser.

11. Call Change Simulator

A supporting paper from Steve Marriott seeking sponsorship for his callchangesim.co.uk website had been distributed. Andy Ingram thought the use of online facilities was a positive but thought funding from ART might be a better fit. Lucy Hopkins Till was surprised funding had been refused by the Central Council and suspected the wrong workgroup might have been approached. Following discussion the Master proposed and Bruce Purvis seconded sponsorship of £250 and this was agreed against one.

12. Future dates

5th April 2025	Education course - Listening skills, Basingstoke
12th April 2025	SEECON Youth Striking Contest - Twyford, Berkshire
17th May 2025	Inter-Tower 6-bell striking competition - Wickham
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
11th October 2025	Education course - Double Oxford Bob Minor, Eling
15th November 2025	Executive Committee Meeting
22nd November 2025	Education course - Call changes/ basic calling of PB5 and G5

13. Any other business

- i. The Master said that all officers would be up for election at the AGM. She would not be standing for re-election as Master and John Palk announced that he would not be standing for re-election as Report Editor. In reply to a question from Andy Ingram, Tony Smith said that brief job descriptions would be prepared.

There being no further business, the Master closed the meeting at 11.10 a.m.