

# **THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS**

Minutes of the committee meeting held at Church House, Evesham

on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024

**Present:** Peter Quinn (PQ); Alison Lee (AL); Claire Penny (PCP); Christina Ireland (CI); Chris Povey (CP); Graham Lee (GL); Len Morley (LM); Michael Dane (MD); Nick Allsopp (NA); Stuart Cummings (SC)

## **1. Apologies for absence**

Lena Stranks

## **2. Agree minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were signed as a true record by Guild Master.

## **3. Matters arising from the minutes.**

### Guild Handbells

Neil Garner's report on the Guild handbells had been circulated with the agenda. It was agreed that they do not get enough use to warrant spending a large amount of money on them. **ACTION: PQ** to ask Simon Adams (Taylors) what the options are regarding retuning.

## **4. Reports:**

### a. Guild Master

Nothing to report.

### b. Secretary

New members. The following was elected unanimously:

- Muriel Paxton (Tysoe): proposed by Kathy McCarthy, seconded by SC

Bell Sunday: The W&DCRA had send out some information about 'Bell Sunday' which none of the committee members were aware of. Bell Sunday is an initiative by the CCCBR to acknowledge the contribution of bells and ringers to the life of the Church. The intention is that the bells and ringers are somehow included in the service. Bell Sunday is the nearest Sunday to St Dunstan's Day (19<sup>th</sup> May) that does not conflict with any significant days in the Church calendar. It was agreed that we would promote Bell Sunday in 2025.

Volunteers Week: The CCCBR had sent out information about Volunteers Week (3-9 June 2024) and were keen for towers to recognise the volunteers that 'make ringing happen'. It was agreed that it was too late to do anything this year but we would take part next year.

c. Treasurer

MD provided a written report on the Guild's finances (attached), and the examined accounts for 2023.

- Insurance: the cost of the insurance was raised and CP reminded the meeting that it covered all the Guild Silverware. The insurance is with Ecclesiastical and it was agreed that there were not really any other providers for the cover we need.
- Dinner: The deposit cheque for the 2024 dinner has still not been cashed so is showing as outstanding in the accounts.
- Membership: Currently showing 156 members, down about 30 on last year. MD reported that Bretforton had paid subs for 2023 and 2024.
- Newsletter: AL asked for an updated membership list for newsletter distribution. PCP asked if savings could be made on printing/postage and SC replied that as only essential copies were printed and sent out there would not be any real saving. NA and PCP asked why the newsletter was only sent to current members as it was generally available anyway. CP replied that is used to be the biggest cost and therefore was only sent to people who had paid. It was agreed that maintaining an up to date membership list for newsletter distribution was now causing more work than was necessary. PCP then asked about using something like MailChimp to distribute the newsletter and other Guild information, but it was felt that this would still need administering and therefore would not be an improvement. **NA proposed** that a master list should be created and that new members would be added, but individuals would need to ask to be removed. This was unanimously agreed. NA said he would be able to create the list, but not keep it updated. **ACTION: NA to create distribution list.**

d. Ringling Master

AL reported that there had been one Saturday afternoon practice, but it was difficult to judge how popular they would be.

Dedicated practice: AL had identified a gap in provision which was dedicated practices to help those who are already competent ringers improve. All agreed that this was a good idea. AL reported that one surprise minor practice had been held and it was very successful.

e. Safeguarding Officer

No report

f. Programme Secretary

LM asked if some of the afternoon practices could be on the third Saturday as otherwise they were all in one area. It was felt that they should be consistently on the second Sunday so LM and CI to liaise to ensure they were spread as evenly as possible.

g. Newsletter Editor

See distribution under 4c

h. Website and IT

PCP said that no problems had been reported. A specific page for training was discussed, including links to places offering training. LM gave the example of the Mike Rigby Center and Lighthorne.

**ACTION: PCP to look at adding a page**

i. Health & Safety

CP had nothing to report. GL reported that the issued with the lawnmower and petrol at Broadwell was now resolved, but that things like this seem to be common.

j. Peal Secretary

No report.

k. CCCBR Update

NA asked what the progress was with the CCCBR Mobile Belfry. **ACTION: PCP to find out current position.**

CP informed the meeting that he was considering giving up his role as CCCBR representative. PCP asked what the Guild gained from affiliation and MD replied that the committee had previously considered leaving, but had chosen to remain an affiliated society after a meeting with Alison Hodge.

**ACTION: carried over to the next meeting.**

**5. Bell repair fund:**

Application from Treddington was distributed and considered. Taylors had spotted corrosion in the frame. NA was there at the time and reported that the work needed to be done promptly or the bells would have become unringable. The work had already been completed by Taylors. A grant of £200.00 **was proposed by NA, seconded by LM and agreed unanimously.** LM to inspect the work.

Winchcombe: the work had been inspected by Ian Povey who had noticed a faulty pulley. This will be replaced by Taylors. MD reported that the agreed grant had been paid.

## 6. Guild activities:

### i. Striking Competition & AGM

It was agreed that the timings would be the same as at the 2023 event. **ACTION: NA** to contact Peter Baunton about officiating at the service and Steve Bowley about playing the organ. AL reported that last year's judge had suggested some rule clarification/changes. **ACTION: PCP to provide details for next meeting.**

### ii. Guild Tour 2024

AL reported that the towers were booked. There were places available on the mini-bus.

### iii. Inter-shires competition

No new information. **ACTION: CP to contact Richard Lewis-Skeath.**

### iv. Guild Dinner 2025

PQ asked if the membership still wanted an annual dinner as we had specifically found a venue to seat 50 people and take up had been poor. NA felt a dinner was a good idea and the meeting generally agreed. PQ reported that most venues had a capacity of 40 people. AL suggested that places should be booked on a 'first paid' basis and MD agreed as it would remove the need to chase for payment after the event. The date for the 2025 dinner was set as 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. **ACTION: PQ to start making enquiries.**

## 7. Any other business

It was noted that the Newing Shield is still at Ilmington. PQ to organise retrieving it.

NA stated that he was disappointed that the President didn't attend the annual dinner. The meeting agreed that the role of President needed to be formalised. **ACTION: PCP to add the President to the general distribution list. NA to start a list of expectations for the committee to consider.**

AL asked if committee meetings could be conducted via Zoom or a similar platform. Many members said they would not be happy with this.

## 8. Date & location of next meeting

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 7pm at St Davids Centre, Moreton in Marsh

Agreed as a true record on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_