THE FOUR SHIRES GUILD OF BELLRINGERS

Minutes of the committee meeting held at Church House, Evesham
On Monday 17th August 2026

Present: Alison Lee (AL), Christina Ireland (CI), Claire Penny (PCP), Graham Lee (GL), Jess McCarthy (JM), Lena Stranks (LS), Len Morley (LM), Michael Dane (MD), Peter Quin (PQ), Sarah Elliot (SE)

Apologies for absence: Yvonne Davis (YD), Stuart Cummings (SC)

Agree minutes of the last meeting.
The minutes of the meeting held 11th May 2026 were agreed and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes.

Guild Handbells: Are at Taylors for assessment. Report is expected before the end of September, but initial indications are it is unlikely that they can be re-tuned.

Reports

Guild Master: Nothing to report.

Secretary: New members:
Sharon Casserley (unattached) and Isal Casserley (unattached0 both proposed by AL and seconded by JM.
Susan Clegg (Willersey) proposed by LS and seconded by AL

As several committee members were standing down at the AGM a quick review of the positions was carried out.

- Guild Master, Ringing Master and Treasurer all intended to stand again
- LS indicated that she would stand as Secretary
- This left up to two committee positions to be filled
- There was still one CCCBR rep position.

This was to be advertised on the website **ACTION: PCP**

Treasurer: SE reported that there was £11, 221 in the bell fund and £2,900 in the general fund. There were currently 156 members, with 4 members recently deceased and 7 who had been in contact to say they were not rejoining.

There was a brief discussion about adopting MemberMojo as several other Guilds and Associations were using it. **It was agreed** that it wasn't necessary at present.

Ringing Master:

The report of the 2026 tour is in the newsletter.

Some of the summer Saturday practices have been poorly attended as people were on holiday or on ringing tours. There was discussion around how to advertise and how the people indicated they would be attending. Options considered included social media and a WhatsApp poll. PCP raised the

problem with GDPR if using WhatsApp. AL suggested everyone was asked at the AGM if they wished to be included in a Guild WhatsApp group. **ACTION: LS to look at setting up a group.**

LM said we had to be proactive so that we could plan for next summer.

Safeguarding: No report

Programme Secretaries: GL brought the new rules regarding ringing at Temple Guiting to everyone's attention. This meant that we could no longer hold Saturday practices at the tower. It was noted that Temple Guiting had received grants from the Guild bell repair fund in the past.

LM noted that Kingham and Churchill required ringing to be finished by 5pm, but that we should still go to these towers whenever possible. GL agreed to include them for the afternoon practices.

CI suggested there was full review of towers looking at suitability, availability and if payment was required.

GL stated that someone would be needed to take over from CI after the AGM, but he would cover both areas until then.

Newsletter Editor: AL is standing down as Newsletter Editor. Ray Nicholson has agreed to take up the post.

Website and IT: Nothing to report

Health and Safety: No report

Peal Secretary: Sandra Parker does not have the peal book. **ACTION: PCP to obtain the book from Chris Povey.**

CCCCBR rep: JM reported that the CCCBR would be sending out a census to be completed by individual ringers. It would take no more than 15 minutes to complete and would give an accurate picture of the state of ringing to measure against the outcome of Ringing 2030.

The Heritage Open Day pack is available on the CCCBR website. AL asked if it would be possible to link the Heritage Open days to schools. JM to talk to Matthew Turvey. JM stated that lesson plans were included in the Ringing 2030 package.

JM reminded the meeting that you do not have to be a member of the Central Council to volunteer to work with the groups.

<u>Bell Repair Fund</u>

No applications had been received.

<u>Update on Trophies</u>

LM reported that the Newing Shield and Spencer Jones cup had been updated.

LM had received a quote to replace the paper around the Brazier Trophy with an engraved strip. The total cost including bringing the list of winners up to date was £320. CI and PQ suggested that we

should get a new trophy instead. After much discussion a vote was held: LM proposed that we have an engraved strip on the current trophy, seconded by PCP. 6 for 2 against with 2 abstentions.
ACTION: LM to organise the addition of the strip and the engraving.

The issue of the security of the trophies was discussed. At present they can be kept by the winners for a maximum of 2 weeks before they are returned to the Guild and locked in Chris Povey's safe. It was agreed that the winners should have something to keep in the tower. It was noted that the Newing Sheild replicas would be available for the next four years. It was suggested that something like the Mini-Mouse trophy that could be hung on the wall would be suitable. **ACTION: LM to look into alternative trophies for the Brazier and Spencer Jones winners.** JM suggested that once returned to the Guild the trophies could form an exhibit at the museum in Chipping Campden. It was agreed that if this happened the president's chain should be included. **ACTION: LM to send JM photos of all the trophies and regalia so that she can approach the museum.**

ACTION: PCP to find out exactly what the rules are relating to the trophy winners keeping them.

Guild Activities

AGM & Striking Competition: GL reported that everything was arranged for 17th October at Blockley.
ACTION: AL to find out if the Guild Chaplain is able to take the service, and if not approach the Vicar of Blockley or Peter Banton.
ACTION: LS to co-ordinate bring and share food, tea, coffee etc.
ACTION: GL to confirm the facilities available in the church

Inter-Shires Competition: AL reported that she has the trophy. She has had responses from Warwickshire, Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire Guilds, but is having trouble contacting the W&DCRA.
ACTION: PCP to try and find contact details.

Christmas Party: It was agreed that a different venue and format was required after several successful years at Badsey. **ACTION: LM to look at holding an event in Shipston at the beginning of December.**

2027 Dinner: The Golden Cross at Ardens Grafton where the dinner has been held for two years has closed. After some discussion **it was agreed** to book the Lion at Treddington for 6th March 2027.

AOB

None

Date of next meeting

Monday 16th November 2026 at Wellesbourne.