

**PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD OF CHURCH BELLRINGERS
RUTLAND BRANCH**

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting Friday 29 September 2019 at 7.30pm
Forth Close, Oakham.**

Present: Sue Baker, Alan Ellis, Simon Forster, Peter Furness, Ted Phillips, Helen Pollard, David Rippin, John Tomalin, Sue Webster, Alan Wordie (chair.)

1. Apologies Tim Holt, Louis Totaro, Hui-yen Bloodworth

2. Minutes of the last meeting Agreed and Adopted

3. Matters Arising

- Branch website: rutlandbellringing.org. Peter Furness has changed the host, at a reduced annual fee of £42 (previously in excess of £100.) He has written to all towers in order to check that Tower Correspondents' contact details are correct. The newsletter will continue to be emailed to members monthly by Sue Webster, and in addition, it will be available via the branch website. If members of the committee are interested in assisting with updating the website, they will be given username and password. **Action: all.** Peter was presented with a bottle of wine to thank him for his time and expertise.
- 2020 AGM. 3pm ringing at Market Overton **Action Alan Ellis**; 4pm ringing at Whissendine ; 4.30 Service; 5.30 AGM and with tea and further ringing to follow. **Action Peter Furness** to check that the hosts will book the vicar, organist, church 4.00-7.30 – for service and AGM- and local assistance with tea for approx 40 if desired. A reader will be needed for the lesson. **Action Sue Webster** to advertise AGM and call for items for tea if not provided by the hosts. Orders of service booklets will be provided by the secretary.
- The Chairmen has yet to contact Guild and confirm whether active ringers in the area need to be members of the branch. **Action Alan Wordie**

4. Correspondence

We will ask the guild to publish a link to the new branch website for contact with towers whose Tower Correspondents have yet to complete a guild data protection permission form. Those towers for whom we have no up-to-date Tower Correspondent will continue to appear on the guild website as 'refer to branch secretary.' **Action Helen Pollard**

5. Treasurer's report.

- There has been no change since the last report: ~ £2200 funds available to the branch; subs totalling £696 have been collected.

- There was a discussion about the use of branch funds, as the membership secretary would like to be able to communicate this to members as they pay their subs/make donations. Branch funds are mainly directed toward bellringing training and recruitment.
- The treasurer circulated the accounts as they will be presented to the membership at the AGM in January 2020.

6. Membership Secretary's report.

- There will be a few new ringers whose guild membership will be proposed at the AGM. The Chairman clarified that new ringers are eligible to take part in the branch striking competition (for example) provided they are supervised, prior to being proposed and becoming members of the Branch, when they are fully competent.
- The membership sec sought clarification from the committee to find out if some listed members are no longer active ringers. Some remain unknown. Committee members agreed to chase those in their area. **Action all**
- A new draft letter and membership form has been prepared by Sue. This was circulated for the committee's approval. The clarity of GDPR approval, status as a ringer, and intention to pay subs/make a donation were well received by the committee. The letter and form, in draft, will be circulated to the committee for careful check/modification prior to sending to members. **Action Sue B Replies to Sue by 6 Dec Action: all**

7. Ringing Master's report.

- The report was read by the Chairman, and copies of the proposed programme for 2020 were circulated. After discussion Helen agreed to check the dates and update the programme with the agreed events and tours (see below). **Action Helen.**
- 11 Preston villagers have expressed an interest to learn to ring via Monica Spence. After discussion, it was agreed that they should be invited to an introduction to ringing at Uppingham followed by the offer to observe an 8 bell practice. This would take place on a Thurs before Christmas. **Action Sue Webster** to liaise with Monica. Alan Ellis suggested that they should be offered both afternoon and evening opportunities to learn to ring at Uppingham (simulator) and then Preston (if the proposed maintenance work has been completed) to reduce the group size to something more manageable. **Action Monica Spence and Alan Ellis.** Alan Wordie said he would be available to assist in teaching the group after the summer. Sue Baker offered assistance. It is felt the new Belton ringers might join in at Uppingham also.
- The Chairman thanked Louis for preparing the draft programme, and after discussion, the following suggestions were made:

1. The branch striking competition on 16th May should be held at North Luffenham
 2. The summer tour will be local, and may comprise Greetham, Cottesmore and Market Overton, with lunch at the Black Bull, MO. **Action Alan Ellis**
 3. The autumn tour may include Easton, Sproxton and Branston **Action Alan Ellis**
 4. The summer cathedral ring might be arranged to coincide with the Rutland High Sherriff's service at Peterborough. **Action Peter Furness** for the date.
 5. John Tomalin offered to arrange the branch dinner again. Fri 27 March, possibly at the Fox, Nth Luffenham
- Louis' wish to relinquish the role of Ringing Master at the end of this year was announced at the last meeting. Ringers who might succeed him were proposed, and the chairman asked Alan Ellis to consider stepping up from deputy to take on the role of Master, especially as he was already doing much of the work with teaching, tours and general support throughout the Branch. We aim to finalise this before Christmas. **Action Alan Ellis** to liaise with Alan Wordie. Louis Totaro has also suggested Roger Scholes, either as Master or deputy. There were no other suggestions. **Action Alan Wordie to engage with Alan Ellis and then Roger Scholes.**

8. Steward's report.

Empingham and Preston still awaiting work. The latter was not serviced by Taylors, despite dates set and volunteers arranged to help. A deposit of £4000 was required, prior to work commencing, and paid (1/3 total cost) **Action: Master/Steward to contact Taylors** for new date. The chairman recommended that Preston requested return of the deposit, since Taylors cancelled. The steward will give updates on the branch newsletter. **Action Ted Phillips.**

9. AOB

- News for the annual report to the guild which has not appeared in the monthly newsletters: John mentioned that both of his grandsons have achieved quarter peals which will be used to qualify for their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards.
- Health and Safety: Risk Assessment and Health and Safety guidelines in towers is available on the guild website and members were reminded that ringers are not responsible, but should support and help PCCs with health and safety matters in their towers.
- It is likely that we will be making a request for members to join the committee at the AGM. Social secretary and, separately, administrative support for the ringing master (eg assistance in booking towers, halls and meals for tours.)

10. Next meeting

7.30, Friday 24th January hosted by Peter Furness.
The Old Vicarage, 2 Station Road, Whissendine. LE15 7HG

The chair thanked Sue Baker for hosting this meeting.
The meeting closed at 21.20

Helen Pollard 30.11.19