

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS

Registered Charity No. 268588

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE HELD AT THE VILLAGE CENTRE,
HURSTPIERPOINT ON SATURDAY 3rd March 2018 (10.00am)

PRESENT:

| | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Master: | Graham Hills | Central Council Reps: | Rob Lane (S) |
| General | Sandra Alford | | David Kirkcaldy (W) |
| Minute Taker: | Julie Quinn | | Stephanie Pendlebury (N) |
| Treasurer: | Sue Gadd | | Stella Bianco (E) |
| Trustees: | Peter Wilkinson | District Reps: | |
| | | (N) | Steph Pendlebury |
| | | (S) | Rob Lane |
| BRF Secretary | David Kirkcaldy | (W) | Moya Hills |
| Web Master | Richard Pendlebury | (E) | David Hollands |

A silence was held in recognition of those people who have sadly passed away since the last meeting. Anne Daughtry (Walberton), Reg Thompson (Kirdford), Ken Knight (Aldingbourne), Roy Tappenden (Burwash), Mavis Clack (formerly Eastbourne), Rob Tiffin (Seaford), Barbara Salmons (Westbourne), David Threlfall (Battle) and Thelma Hayes (formerly Uckfield and Hailsham).

- 1. Apologies for absence** had been received from Pat Aylward (Safeguarding), Val Atkins (Trustee), Mary Burr (Southern District Secretary), Alison Everett (Communications & Events Team Leader), Marion Hollands (Eastern District Secretary).
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2017:** The Master countersigned these as a true record.
- 3. Matters arising** – the following matters were arising:
 - (a) Risk Management Policy* –GH advised that he was still in the process of asking for volunteers and this is on-going. Stella Bianco advised that she is aware of someone who may suit the role and will forward contact details.

ACTION GH to email to ask for volunteers
ACTION SB to advise names
 - (b) Safeguarding Policy* – PA has updated the Safeguarding Policy. Minor amendments in wording have been made along with recommendations that all tower captains (and those teaching young people) should attend C1 and C2 course every 3 years; in addition, all bell ringers should attend the C0 (awareness) on-line course. The policy (with amendments) was approved and will be updated on the SCACR website.

ACTION RP to publish on website
 - (c) Badges* – these have now been ordered, once available they will be available for members to purchase for £1 each.
 - (d) Library valuation* – Stella Bianco has advised that this was not required for another 15 years. However following a discussion it was agreed that a quotation will be

obtained for doing a valuation.

ACTION SB to get quotation for valuation

4. Updates on 2018 and approval of reports for 2017:

(a) *Training & Recruitment* – Approved

(b) *Safeguarding Officer* - Approved

(c) *Communications & Events* – Approved (with amendments listed below)

Alison Everett had sent an additional paragraph including details of the Barn Dance along including a typing amendment to read “Palm”

(d) *Library* - Approved

(e) *Peal Report* – Approved

Consideration should be given in the future to mention that people that have rung their first quarter peal.

(f) *District Secretaries* – These had already been approved at the individual district meetings

(g) *Master* - Approved

(h) *Treasurer* – Approved

The full financial reports have been prepared and submitted to the auditor, it is hoped that these will be approved (by the auditors) by the end of March.

A draft summary of the accounts was distributed; it is proposed that this summary is used at the AGM (although a full report will be distributed before for those who would like to know the details). The following discussion ensued:

i) *Summary* - All funds are quite healthy although unrestricted funds are down slightly, this appears to be largely due to reduced membership. A report on membership figures should be presented at the November GCM, the report should include the number of members leaving along with any new members gained through the “Ringing Remembers Campaign” (the latter should be available from Central Council).

ACTION SG Produce a membership report

ii) *Unrestricted Fund* – Has had a surplus since 2013 in accounts (whilst subscriptions haven’t gone up in this period, spend has reduced), there was some concern about the level of surplus and several options were considered. The preferred option was that there should be a new “restricted fund” to support capital projects eg. Items which are not covered by bell restoration fund (such as new rings of bells, improved access to towers or recruitment and trainers of new ringers). This should be presented at the AGM for approval.

ACTION SG Produce Terms of Reference including governance of the new fund

iii) *Sussex Young Ringers Fund* - There was little movement in the fund during 2017. It was noted that there is potential that the fund will be used during 2018 for 2 events;

- a. Sussex are hosting the South East Youth Competition at Warnham
- b. The Sussex Young Ringers will also be entering a band for Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC) which will be in London this year and so expenses will be less than last year
- c. It was also noted that the fund can be used for young ringers attending a 2 day course.

iv) *Bell Restoration Fund* – see item 5 below

5. Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund

(a) Report for 2017 – Approved.

It was noted that a meeting had been arranged on 21st March when it was anticipated that 4 applications for funds were likely to be received from Lindfield, Findon, Angmering, Eastbourne (All Saints). It is hoped that these applications will be received in time for them to be approved at the AGM meeting.

There was some discussion about Churches in the County which have bells and are being sold eg. Hammerwood church which is up for sale but the diocese is not prepared to discuss removal of the bells at this stage. They may even be sold with the building.

(b) 2017 Accounts – Approved

It was noted that there are currently no committed grants

(c) District Representatives for 2018

These were noted as being Simon Alford (North), Roger Watts (West), Nick Cullen (South) and Pip Pawley (East)

6. Nominations:

(a) Master - no nominations although it was stated that someone had expressed an interest by email however they wanted to withhold their nomination at the present time.

(b) General Secretary - Sandra Alford

(c) Treasurer - Sue Gadd

(d) Safeguarding Officer - Pat Aylward (although it should be noted that she has advised that this will be her final year)

(e) BRF Secretary - Graham Hills

(f) Trustee – Margret Sherwood (Peter Wilkinson is retiring)

(g) Vice Presidents - no nominations

(h) Honorary Life Members – no nominations

(i) Central Council representatives 2017-2020

- Alison Everett will represent the East

(j) Teams and Team Leaders

- Alison Everett will continue as Team Leader
- Janice Crawford has volunteered to be a member of the Training and Recruitment Committee; it was noted that someone else is considering leading the group.

7. Future Association Events:

(a) Saturday 12 May – AGM will be held at Ditchling

A draft poster has already been produced. The format of the day will be

- open ringing in the morning
- service
- AGM starting at 2pm (Westmeston Village Hall) – full details will be released nearer the time.

(b) 1 June – Centenary of the death of George Attree who was the first master of the Association. Following investigations, it will unfortunately not be able to ring in Brighton and so the venue has been changed to Henfield. The band will comprise of ALL past masters. It was suggested that any tower where George Attree had rung a peel were made aware to give them the opportunity to undertake a commemorative ring.

ACTION DK Advise towers where George Attree has rung a peel

- (c) 7, 8, 9 June – South of England Show – Alison Everett is the principle organizer for the event and has made a request for volunteers. Any volunteers should contact Alison, volunteers will be allocated time slots to help on the stand after which they would be free to go and see the other exhibits at the show, volunteers would be needed from 9am to 6pm for all 3 days of the show. We will be the main focal point of the Diocese of Chichester stand. Focus will NOT be on recruitment but on raising the profile of bell ringing. **ACTION ALL to find volunteers**
- (d) 6 – 16th September – Sussex Quarter Peal ‘Week’ – There were 36 quarter peals rung in the 2017 quarter peal week. This will encompass 2 weekends and Heritage Open Days.
- (e) Horsham District Year of Culture – Stella Bianco advised that two meetings had been organized and towers were being approached to canvas interest. Attempts were currently being made for a ringing event in 2019 that would be linked to the Billingshurst Show.
- (f) Bells at National Trust – There has been little progress as nationally there seem to be a lack of communication from NT. The approach in Sussex has been to contact the properties direct.

8. Any other business

- (a) GDPR Update – the group have met however this was prior to central council guidelines been distributed. Work is ongoing work although it was noted that this needs to be in place by 25th May
- (b) Ringing Remembers campaign – Circa 60 ringers are required in Sussex – there is a poster on line what can be downloaded. It was noted that the Central Council have received £20K funding in support of campaign. Any new ringers (that have joined since November 2017) should be registered, there is a link from the SCACR website. Although details are being finalized, it is hope that on Remembrance Sunday ALL bells should be rung (within a 2 hour slot).
POST MEETING NOTE: advice from CCCBR is that new recruits or returning ringers since August 2017 can be registered.
- (c) Central Council reform – this is going ahead, draft rules are already available.
- (d) Hailsham Training Centre - Christine is going to stop running Hailsham as a training center. There was some discussion what to do with the simulator which was provided with funding from SCACR. It was proposed that the simulator is left in situation.
- (e) Sussex clothing – this is now available for ordering through the SCACR website. It was thought to be of good quality and a good length (to allow for bellringing!)
- (f) South East Youth Competition –is being hosted at Warham on 14th April
- (g) Essex Trophy Competition – Is being hosted by Horsham on 8th September
- (h) Badges - have been procured these will be given to new members along with a new members booklet.
- (i) ART Bell Handling Courses - Are scheduled for April and June 2018

The Master thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at noon.

A HUGE vote of thanks was given to Graham for all of his hard work in chairing the association over the last 3 years.