

MINUTES OF THE EGM and AGM HELD AT SPELDHURST

Easter Monday 25th April 2010

(Subject to adoption by the AGM to be held in the Ashford District in 2012)

The meeting was hosted by the Tonbridge District. The service was held in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, Speldhurst and attended by over 60 members and friends. Karol Leeves, Reader at Speldhurst with Groombridge and Ashurst, took the service and preached the sermon, the lessons were read by Peter Simms, the Chairman of the Association and Margaret Funnell, Hon Gen Sec of the Association, the prayers were led by Rev Stanley Evans, a Vice President, and Rev David Cawley, an Honorary Life Member. 11 towers were open before the service and 4 towers were open after the meeting.

An excellent lunch was served to approximately 60 people in the Village Hall before the Extraordinary General Meeting commenced at 2.55 p.m.

1. Welcome. The Chairman welcomed 88 members and visitors, including three Vice Presidents and Kate Flavell, Vice President of Central Council. The Chairman invited Rev Stanley Evans to open the meeting with a prayer. He further advised that the Welcome and the apologies for absence applied to both the EGM and the AGM

2. Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from *Isabel Pearce (Sevenoaks), Neil Jones and Peter Cornell (Rochester Cathedral), Alex Britton (unattached Lewisham District), Cathryn Hills (St. Dunstons, Canterbury), Hugo Tracey (Tonbridge Wells), Damien Smith (Ashford), Phil and Clare Larter (Ospringe), Paul Thompson, Doug Davis and Sven Wraight (Rainham). Dennis Cox (Upchurch), Richard Bourne (Frittenden), Daphne Pollard (Speldhurst), Philippa Rooke (Chelsfield), Alan Driver (High Halstow). Jo Horton (Sturry) and Marie Evans (Associate Member St Laurence-in-Thamet).*

3. Motion: To reverse the decision made at the AGM on Monday 5th April 2010 that the division of subscriptions between General Fund and BRF for 2011 should be 50/50 and to agree to allocate 100% of the subscriptions for 2011 to the General Fund.

Details of the reasons for the motion, that had been put forward by the General Committee, had been circulated with the Agenda and the Chairman explained this in detail. Under our Rules the allocation of subscriptions have to be agreed the year before they are needed which in this instance had caused the problem. Mr Basford asked as to whether in view of the fact we are only clawing back approximately £5000 will this need an increase in subscriptions. The Treasurer advised that this will be brought up at the AGM part of the meeting and explained that if the Motion is carried this will give us sufficient cash to meet our outgoings for the current year. The vote was then taken and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Extraordinary General Meeting closed at 3.15 p.m.

The AGM commenced immediately

.1. Minutes of the AGM held at Rainham on Easter Monday, 5th April 2010

The minutes were taken as read having been printed in the Handbook and displayed on the Web site. The Chairman signed them as a true record.

2. Matters arising from the minutes. There were no matters arising.

3. Notice. The Chairman advised that the memorial service for Terry Barton is on 27th April at 2.00 p.m. at Tunstall Church with ringing commencing at 1.00 p.m. and also after the service and all are welcome. Donations in lieu of flowers to Tunstall Church or McMillan Cancer Care

4. General Secretary's report. The General Secretary moved the adoption of her report, which is printed in the Handbook. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's report. The Treasurer Mrs P Phipps advised the accounts were printed in the Handbook. Mr Basford queried why the Districts held over twice the amount they held on previous years. The Treasurer said the Districts did not always pay the funds into the General Account as soon as they received them. The Financial statements had not been signed by the Auditor as there is too tight a time scale to get the accounts audited before the AGM. Tim Wraight said that as the BRF holds £150,000 that grants should be increased to say £12,000 or £15,000. This will be put to the General Committee. Rev David Cawley said thanks should be given to the Treasurer for all her hardwork. The Treasurer said she cannot ask for the accounts to be approved as they have not yet been audited.

i) Subscriptions for 2012

The Treasurer proposed and Lesley Barclay seconded that subscriptions should be raised to £10 for full members and £5 for the under 18s and over 65s for the year 2012. Angela Clark proposed and Craig Huxley seconded that they should be raised to £12. A vote was taken and this amendment was not carried. A further vote was taken and the first motion of an increase to £10 was carried by the meeting

ii) Division of Subscriptions for 2012

The Treasurer proposed that the split should be 50/50 for General Fund and BRF. Phil Barnes put forward a counter proposal and Doug Snoswell seconded that for a further year the division should be 100% to the General Fund. A vote was taken and with 2 against and 2 abstentions the motion for the division to be 100% to the General Fund was carried.

6. Peal Secretary's report. Dr Phillip Barnes said his report was in the Handbook on pages 80 to 97 but unfortunately some of the peals have not been printed. He said there had been an increase in peals today and congratulated Jackie Barlow on being the saddest person in the County.

7. Quarter Peal Secretary's report. Mr Leeves advised there had been a further 3 quarters since he had prepared his report, he moved the adoption of his report which was printed in the Handbook on pages 70 to 79.

8. Librarian's report. Mrs. Basford advised the library was quiet! She had received some items from Rochester District but would be pleased to receive more as today's matters are tomorrow's history.

9. Officers' reports

Bell Restoration. Mr Butcher moved the adoption of his report which was printed in the Handbook on page 13. He advised that Stone next Dartford have now completed and Northfleet will be completing shortly. £40,000 of grants will mature this year.

Webmaster. Mr Lewis said the Website was his report. The following are now on the web – Child Protection and Risk Assessment templates. Porch Notices and details of books held on the Bookstalls. Postcodes have now been added for all towers. The 100,000 hit had been made by Ian Young and the Chairman had an Easter Egg to give him.

Child Protection. Mr. Spencer said his report is in the Handbook. He said it had been a frustrating year with lack of progress and CRB checks are still essential. Canterbury Diocese will still not accept C of E guidance and insist on all Bellringers being CRB checked. He will be sending out interim guidance shortly but will be pleased to visit towers or Districts if more information is required.

Health & Safety. Mr. Sims said there is a short report in the Handbook. All matters that had been reported have been resolved. If further advice required please contact him

Handbook Editor. Mr. Huxley said thank you to everyone for letting him have the information. There is a problem with some of the books where some pages are missing and he will speak to the printers in this respect. He is arranging for the missing peals to be printed on the website. Dr Barnes proposed and Mr Dale

seconded that the Handbook should be re-printed at the printers cost. Mr Huxley requested all Handbooks should be returned to him. He advised he will try and improve the look for next year. He thanked all tower secretaries and officers for all their assistance. Dr. Barnes said we should give Craig a vote of thanks for all his hardwork.

The Chairman thanked all officers for their hardwork especially as it is on a voluntary basis.

11. Election of officers. The following officers were elected, all having agreed to stand:

	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Secretary	Margaret Funnell	Diana Wraight	Florence Hamp
Treasurer	Patricia Phipps	Tim Munt	Sheila Phyll
Peal Secretary	Dr Phillip Barnes	Peter Dickinson	Jacqueline Barlow
Librarian	Hazel Basford	Josephine Horton	Len Huckstep
Handbook Editor	Craig Huxley	Josephine Horton	Malcolm Smith
Quarter Peal Sec	Anthony Leeves	Graham Everitt	Alan King
Bell Rest Officer	Brian Butcher	Helen Webb	Chris Saunders
Webmaster	Frank Lewis	Fraser Clift	Eric Roughley
Health & Safety	Peter Sims	Sheila Phyll	Tim Munt
Child Protection	Nigel Spencer	Brian Butcher	Ian Hart
Extra 3	Damien Smith	Karen Edwards	Paul Barton
	Rev. David Cawley	Rev Stanley Evans	Jacqueline Barlow

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Philip Barnes	Jacqueline Barlow	Peter Dickinson
Peter Dale	Josephine Horton	Donald Niblett
Richard Edwards	Kate Rawlinson	Keith Hammond
Philip Larter	Damien Smith	Donald Niblett
Catherine Lewis	Eric Roughley	Fraser Clift

The Chairman advised that there are two positions, namely Training Officer and Publicity Officer which need filling and asked everyone to take this back to their Districts for discussion. It is very important that we publicise ourselves in order to gain new members.

12. Appointment of auditor Mrs. Phipps proposed Mr. John Carter this was seconded by Mr. D. Brady and agreed by the meeting.

13. Certificates for 50 years' membership. The Chairman read out a letter from Lambeth Palace thanking all our members for their service. Three members were presented with their certificates by the Chairman: Rev. David Cawley (Honorary Life Member), Andrew Corby (Canterbury Cathedral) and Brian Trill (Hoo St Werburgh).

14. Forthcoming events. Notice was given of the following:

- 19th June Ashford District outing to Bruges (see Damien Smith)

- 26th June 'Putting in the Bobs' at Dover Ringing Centre
- 3rd July Real Striking Competition at Herne

15. Any other business. Mr. Wraight advised that so far there has been no interest in respect of the transfer of bells from Chatham. The Trafford Ring will be at the Kent County Show on the Friday and Saturday.

20. Votes of thanks. The Chairman thanked Rochester District for organising the event and the Rainham Ringers for tea, Canon Alan Vousden for the use of the church and the bells, Rev Ren Harding for officiating at the service, Gordon Lucas for playing the organ, Rev. Stanley Evans for the prayers and Kenneth Clark for preaching the sermon.

Rev David Cawley closed the meeting with a prayer.

The raffle was then drawn. All tickets were sold on the day and all winners were present. All prizes were donated and there were no costs. The sum of £81.50 was raised. Thanks for the combined effort of Florence Hamp for organising the raffle and to Sonya Gowdy for arranging the licence from Swale Borough Council.

Meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.