



# Kent County Association of Change Ringers

## Ashford District

Annual District meeting held on 17th October 2020 at 10.30am via Zoom

### Draft Minutes

- 1. Welcome by the Chairman:** Charles Sinden welcomed a total of 20 attendees online to the meeting. Sixteen members of the district were present and three members of the KCACR General Committee joined the proceedings: Phil Barnes, Chairman, Jen Thomas, Youth Officer and Doug Davis, Webmaster. The Chairman also welcomed Janice Brown, a Life Member of the Association and former member of the Folkestone band, now living in Hastings. The Chairman explained how the meeting would operate technically as we were unable, due to Covid-19, to meet in person as in previous years. All attendees would be muted throughout the meeting except for the Chairman & Secretary. An attendee would be able to contribute to a discussion by raising a hand to indicate that they wished to be unmuted or the chat facility could be used to direct a written question or comment to the Chairman or Secretary.  
The meeting would also be recorded to assist the Secretary in the process of writing the minutes but the recording would then be destroyed.

The meeting began with a few moments of silence in memory of Tom Barlow, KCACR Vice-President, who had passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Our thoughts are also with his wife, Jacqui, at this difficult time.

- 2. Apologies for absence:** These were received from Donald Holden (Willesborough), Richard Wilsher (Cheriton), Gay Quearney, Rod & Karen Lebon (Benenden), Lynn Hatton (Saltwood), Frank Wenham (Stone-in-Oxney), Janet Lockyer (Charing), Richard Steele (Frittenden) and David Wilkinson (Folkestone).
- 3. Agreement to take Any Other Business notified in advance:**  
Members had been invited to notify items of AOB in advance by 10<sup>th</sup> October. The Secretary had not received any AOB items prior to the meeting. Jen Thomas, Youth Officer, asked via the chat facility if she would be able to address an AOB item at the end of the meeting under agenda item 7.
- 4. Election of new members:**  
The district was pleased to elect one new member on a show of hands with everyone in favour.

Name	Proposer	Seconder	Tower	Membership Category
Barbara Woods	Alan Bourner	Maureen Poole	Bethersden	Adult

The Chairman welcomed Barbara to the Association and said that she would be presented with her certificate at a future meeting.

- 5. Election of Officers:** The district officers for the current year were willing to stand again for election. The names and posts had been sent out to members in advance of the meeting. The Chairman stated that if there were no other nominations for posts put forward at the meeting

then a proposal was needed to re-elect the standing officers en bloc. There were no other nominations. Mike Godfrey proposed and Brian Butcher seconded the re-election. The proposal was accepted on a show of hands with everyone in favour.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee</b>
Chairman	Charles Sinden
Secretary	Maureen Poole
Treasurer	Sue Atkinson
Ringling Master	David Robinson
Ringling Master	Alan Bourner
District Representative	Charles Sinden
Communications Officer	Mary Faherty
Youth Officer	Maureen Poole

## **6. KCACR Matters:**

### **i) Notification of Rule Change**

The Secretary read aloud the proposed Association rule change for Rule 9i) which removes reference to triennial elections to the Central Council as these are no longer required. This proposal is being put forward at the 2021 AGM by the General Committee and had been brought to the meeting as an official notification.

### **ii) Notification of Proposal for KCACR to become a Charitable Organisation**

Prior to the meeting members had received the notification that the General Committee will be putting forward the proposal at the AGM 2021 for the KCACR to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Subsequently the KCACR Chairman, Phil Barnes had issued a letter to members to give notification of an update on these plans. In revisiting the different types of charity structures the principal officers of the Association now held the view that an Unincorporated Charitable Association will provide the best structure for the whole Association to gain charitable status.

Charles Sinden read this letter aloud and invited Phil Barnes to make comment. He stated that initially the CIO was considered to be the best option because it would provide financial protection for the Association trustees. However, the disadvantages of this structure outweigh the advantages as the day-to-day running of the Association would be more restricted.

A draft constitution for the Association to be registered as a CIO has been published on the KCACR website. The first part of the draft CIO constitution describes the Objects of the Association. These objects will be the same as those being put forward in any application for charitable Association status. These are not quite the same as the current objects of the Association because they need to be phrased in a way that is Charity Commission friendly. These objects are about ringing and ringers, improving the public appreciation of bell ringing in churches, in community or national life whilst recommitting to Bell Restoration and Training.

Phil asked for feedback from members regarding both charitable status and the objects of the constitution.

The discussion was then opened to attendees. Peter Sims asked whether anyone had looked in more detail at the proposed financial advantage of claiming Gift Aid if the Association has charitable

status. The District Secretary responded as Association Treasurer and stated that this was an exercise that should be undertaken in due course.

The discussion concluded and the Secretary stated that views of district members would be sought via the regular district update emails for any further feedback on the proposals to register the Association as a charity and on the proposed Objects of the Association in the draft constitution.

**iii) 2021 Subscription Renewal Process:**

The Secretary reminded members that the subscription for 2021 would be made online. Doug Davis, who is designing and implementing the new process stated that members would be able to renew and pay membership fees individually or via tower bulk membership. Details will be issued in due course and hopefully there may be some online training sessions.

**Any Other Business:**

- i) Jen Thomas, Association Youth Officer reported on the excellent progress made by many of the Kent Young Ringers with their handbell ringing. There will be some sessions taking place at half-term including two young ringers from Benenden, Will & Ben Dellow. Charles thanked Jen for all her hard work with the youngsters.
- ii) Brian Butcher, Association Bell Restoration Officer, informed us that the 2 new bells for Faversham are in the process of being cast.

**Vote of Thanks:**

Thanks were given by the Chairman to everyone in attendance. Charles thanked the Association Officers for attending the meeting: KCACR Chairman Phil, Barnes for explaining the issues surrounding charitable status and Doug Davis for hosting the Zoom meeting. Thanks were also expressed to the Secretary for her work within the district and as Association Treasurer.

The meeting finished at 11.02am

Maureen Poole

District Secretary  
20/10/2020