



THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING



Easter Monday, 10th April 2023 at Wrotham, St. George at 2 p.m.

1. **Welcome and introduction by the Chairman** – Neil Jones welcomed 48 members to the meeting (with 3 members listening online) and explained why an EGM had been called. The General Committee had recommended a change in the Bell Restoration Fund Rules in November in order to widen the grant-giving base to sources that would not donate for religious purposes. To save waiting an extra year to give formal notice through ADMs next October, Rule 6.(iii) had been implemented.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - David Grimwood, Peter Simms, Sheila Phyll, Roy & Sallyann Barclay, Donald & Rosemary Holden, Caroline Stockmann, Isabel Pearce, Rosemary Fletcher, Ashley Lupin, Graham Cuthbert, Andrew Gunstone, Margaret Funnell, Nigel Baker, Don & Ruth Niblett, Liz Barnes, Jacqui Barlow, Mark Chittenden-Pile, Catherine Pearce, Daniel Brady.
3. **General Committee Proposal to amend the Bell Restoration Fund Rules** at clauses 2 and 6.
 - 3.1 Clause 2 – To remove the words “to advance the Christian religion by” and add “towers and” before churches to read: The object of the fund shall be providing financial assistance to towers and churches in the county of Kent or that part of London formerly in the county of Kent for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by the making of grants from the fund.
 - 3.2 Clause 6 – To remove the words “and religious” and add “towers and” before churches to read: In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be distributed equally among those towers and churches which at the time of dissolution were in union with the Association for the charitable purposes of the said towers and churches.

Charles Sinden asked if the proposals would comply with the Charity Commission’s requirements. The Chairman confirmed that this had been checked to ensure compliance. Eric Roughly asked if the General Committee had given thought to the fact that the instruments (bells) were provided by the Church so are inextricably linked to religion. The Chairman replied that the proposals would enable inclusion of towers and redundant churches that were not/no longer used specifically for religious purposes, to benefit from other funding sources. Phil Barnes spoke strongly in support of the proposals as not all bells were in the ownership of or used for religious purposes, for example, those managed by the Churches Conservation Trust and Quex Park. If approved, at long last, the proposals would enable donations to them.

Following the proposal to adopt the General Committee’s amendments set out at clauses 3.1 & 3.2 above by Chris Bassett, seconded by Doug Davis a vote by show of hands was taken. A majority of those present voted in favour, none against and 9 abstentions were noted. The proposal was carried.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.15 p.m.

SIGNED by the Chairman as a true record as adopted by members at the AGM 2024

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[Redacted Signature]
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Chairman