



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



Saturday, 22 June 2024 at 12 noon
Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, Birchington, CT7 0BH

1. **Welcome and introduction by the Chairman** - Neil Jones welcomed 45 members to the meeting explained why an EGM had been called.
The General Committee had recommended a change in the wording of the Bell Restoration Fund rules, as some organisations and companies are no longer able to sponsor or support projects that are supporting religious activities.
Additionally, as not all places where ringing takes place are churches, the inclusion of "towers" in the rules was being proposed.
2. **Apologies for Absence** - Freda Parker, Cathy Hall, Jen Thomas, Sue Bassett, Chris Bassett, Eric Roughley.
3. **General Committee Proposal to amend** the wording of both Rule 2 and Rule 6 of the Bell Restoration Fund Rules.

3.1 **Current wording of Rules 2 and 6:**

Rule 2:

2) The object of the fund shall be to advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to 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.

Rule 6:

6) In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be distributed equally among those churches which at the time of dissolution were in union with the Association for the charitable and religious purposes of the said churches.

3.2 **Reasoning for the changes:**

Rule 2

The reason for the change is that some organisations and companies are no longer able to sponsor or support projects that are supporting religious activities. There has recently been a successful bell restoration project which lost a potential donor because of rule 2. Whilst bells are rung for church services, one can argue that the activities of the Association are not actually religious, rather that we are supporting the church through ringing bells. It is therefore proposed that the wording of Rule 2 in the Bell Restoration Fund Rules is changed so that it no longer includes the phrase 'advance the Christian religion'.

Rule 2 and 6 reference to churches

In addition to the churches that fall within the boundaries of the Association, there are some rings of bells that are housed in redundant churches, such as St Alphege in Canterbury, and there are also some secular rings of bells, notably the Waterloo Tower at Quex Park. With the likelihood that more churches are going to close in the future, we feel that it would be prudent to include the term 'towers' as well as 'churches' within the definitions of what the BRF can support. Consequently, we would like to add 'towers' to both Rule 2 and Rule 6.

The chairman also noted we would like to remove 'and religious' from Rule 6, for the same reasons as above.

It was noted by those present that the proposed wording still included the words 'and religious' in Rule 6, but agreed that this would be treated as a misprint.

3.3 Proposed changes to Rule 2:

The object of the fund shall be to provide 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.

3.4 Proposed changes to Rule 6:

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.

Following the proposal to adopt the General Committee's amendments set out at clauses 3.3 and 3.4 above by Neil Jones, seconded by Peter Joyce, a vote by show of hands was taken. A majority of those present voted in favour, none against and no abstentions were noted. The proposal was carried.

The meeting was declared closed at 12.09 p.m.

SIGNED by the Chairman as a true record as adopted by members at the AGM on 21st April 2025 at St Nicholas, Rectory Lane, Sevenoaks TN13 1JA:

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Chairman