

SUSSEX CHURCHES BELL RESTORATION FUND

Registered Charity No. 268588

BYE-LAWS

1. THE FUND shall be known as the Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund and shall be registered as a charity and shall comply with the requirements of the Charities Act.

2. THE OBJECT of the Fund shall be to provide financial assistance for the Church in the County of Sussex within the Diocese of Chichester for the following purposes:

- (i) The restoration, maintenance and improvement of existing bells and of the towers and belfries housing them.
- (ii) The preservation of bells from redundant churches.

3. ADMINISTRATION

(i) The Administrators of the Fund shall be the Master, the General Secretary, the Restoration Fund Secretary, the Treasurer, the Trustees and four other duly appointed persons being members of the Sussex County Association of Change Ringers (the Association).

(ii) A Restoration Fund Committee shall be formed consisting of the Administrators, five of whom shall form a quorum providing that at least one Trustee shall be present, which shall have power to co-opt no more than four other persons whether members of the Association or not. Co-options shall be valid for one year, unless a shorter time is specified at the time of the co-option, but they may be renewed. Co-opted persons shall be entitled to vote at such Committee Meetings.

4. INCOME

The responsibility for raising income for the Fund shall rest with the Restoration Fund Committee.

5. EXPENDITURE

All administrative and other expenses incurred in respect of the Fund including those specifically relating to the acquisition and realisation of investments shall be borne by the Fund.

6. INVESTMENTS.

The Trustees acting together shall have power to invest or otherwise deal with the assets of the Fund, in such manner as they think fit in the best interests of the Fund in accordance with the Trustee Investment Act 1961 or any other statutory modification for the time being in force.

7. GRANTS

(i) Application for a grant for financial or other assistance shall be made to the Restoration Fund Secretary prior to the commencement of work, whenever possible.

(ii) All applications shall be accompanied by a report on the existing condition of the bells and/or tower as appropriate, a specification of the work necessary, an estimate of the costs involved, the latest available accounts of the Parochial Church Council and details of any other related Funds.

(iii) The Restoration Fund Committee shall consider each application upon its merits and, if approved by a two-thirds majority (including a majority of the Trustees present), shall be

empowered to make a grant or loan available to the applicant. The General Committee shall be advised of any action so taken at its next meeting.

(iv) No grant or loan shall be offered for work which is contrary to professional advice. Where conflicting professional advice has been received, no offer shall be made until the conflict has been resolved. Any change of specification of the work subsequent to the offer shall be made known to the Restoration Fund Secretary and the offer shall be reviewed (and may be amended) by the Restoration Fund Committee.

(v) No grant shall be paid until the work has been completed and has been inspected by, or on behalf of, the Restoration Fund Committee to ensure compliance with the specification. If the work is not commenced within two years of the application being made the application shall be deemed void. If the grant is not claimed within two years of the completion of the work, the offer shall lapse automatically.

8. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS.

The Treasurer shall prepare Accounts for each year ending 31st December and shall present these at the March General Committee Meeting. These Accounts, together with a Report prepared by the Restoration Fund Secretary, shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting. Any audit or examination of the Accounts shall take place before they are presented to the Annual General Meeting or published in the Annual Report.

9. CHANGE OF BYE-LAWS

(i) These Bye-laws shall not be amended in any manner which would cause the Fund at any time to cease to be a charity in law.

(ii) Any alteration or addition to these Bye-laws shall be made only at a General Meeting of the Association and shall require a two-thirds majority of those Resident Ringing Members present and voting. Notice of such proposed alterations or additions must be made in writing to the General Secretary who shall adequately publicise the proposals within 30 days and at least 14 days before such Meeting.

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE FUND

Any decision to dissolve the Fund shall only be taken at a General Meeting of the Association, two months' prior notice having been given by the General Secretary to Tower Correspondents of such intent in addition to such notice as is required in accordance with Rule 5 of the Association. The assets shall be disposed of to either, or between both, of the following:

(a) such other charitable Bell Restoration Funds as the Association shall select

(b) the Cathedral Church of Chichester for the religious and charitable purposes of the said Cathedral.