

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS
Registered Charity No. 268588

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE 136TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM), ON SATURDAY 8TH May 2021 (10.00am)**

Prior to the meeting, open ringing was undertaken on Ringing Room. The meeting was logged into by 49 devices and opened at 10:00.

A silence was held in recognition of those people who have sadly passed away since the 2019 Annual General Meeting:

*Tony Jones (Horsham), Peter Dewar (Coleman's Hatch), John Howard (East Grinstead),
Valerie Howard (Fairwarp), Betty Stoner (Worth)*

*Jane Shutler (Westbourne), Jean Barnard (Westbourne), Cyril Shutler (Westbourne),
Liz Butler (Amberley), Stella Knight (Aldingbourne)*

Eric Wilkins (Chailey), Russell Gotham (Brighton)

*Les Baldock (Eastbourne), Marie-Louise Apps (Ewhurst Green), Tom Barlow (Ex-Eastbourne), Lionel
Robinson (Mayfield), Allan Collings (Hooe), Ruth Reynolds (Eastbourne), Linda Moores (Rotherfield),
Joyce Philpott (Bexhill), Angela Long (Westham), Roy Osborne (Hellingly).*

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Janice Bird, Nick Cant, Geoff Goodman, Ian Hodge, Adrian Miller, John and Marion Moore, Hazel Mottram, Paul and Yvonne Raab, Ian Russell, Christine Baldock, Ann Wright, Jenny Pawley

**2 Minutes of the 134th AGM held on 11th May 2019 at All Saints Church Hall, Eastbourne
Alternative AGM 2020 Report (to be considered 135th Minutes)**

Minutes of the 134th AGM

Except for the following, it was agreed the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting:

- Memory of those who have died - should read "Margaret Hope Gosse"
- Item 7 (a) – should read "Knill James"
- Item 8, paragraph 4 – should read "are"
- Item 8, paragraph 5 - should read "latter"
- Item 11, 2) - should read "installation of sound proofing into towers".

Acceptance of Minutes of Meeting was proposed by Steph Pendlebury

Acceptance of Minutes of Meeting was seconded by Alison Everett

On-line poll "do you accept the Minutes of the 134th AGM?" gave the following results:

Yes = 95%, No=0%, Abstain = 5%

3 Matters Arising

No matters were arising from the minutes.

4 Reports for 2020

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| a) Master | b) Communications & Events | c) Training & Recruitment |
| d) Safeguarding | e) Library | f) Central Council |
| g) District Secretaries | h) Peal Report | i) Quarter Peal Report |

An opportunity was given to ask questions, there were no questions on any of the reports.

Acceptance of Reports was proposed by Richard Pendlebury.

Acceptance of Reports of Meeting was seconded by Graham Hills.

On-line poll "Do you accept the reports as published in the Annual Report and Handbook?" gave the following results:

Yes = 98%, No=0%, Abstain = 2%

5 The Sussex Churches Bell Restoration Fund Report

a) Report for 2020

Graham Hills gave a summary of the contents of the report which was made available on-line prior to the meeting.

Committed grants in 2020 are for bell restorations at Piddinghoe, Portslade, Alfriston and Eastbourne (All Saints).

In January 2021 a grant was approved for Willingdon.

A meeting will be held on 13th May to discuss applications from Hooe and Pagham.

Coming out of lockdown if any assistance is required then towers should get in contact with district representative (see b) below.

b) District Representatives 2021 - District representatives are as follows:

North – Simon Alford,

South – Nick Cullen,

West - Rick Clay,

East - Pip Pawley

6 Presentation of Accounts for 2020

a) Summary of 2020 Accounts & Questions

A presentation was given of the summary of the accounts, this is available in the handbook, in summary (totals of unrestricted and restricted funds) are as follows:

- Total income was £15,735
- Total expenditure was £9,231

This leaves a surplus of £6,504

b) Unrestricted General Fund

A summary was given of the unrestricted general fund in respect of the following:

- Income sources: Subscriptions, Peal fees, Bank interest, Publicity, Events and Admin (adverts and clothing)
- Expenditure: Publicity (support), Insurance, Governance

Trends of expenditure between 2014 and 2020 were shown along with an explanation of the major differences.

c) Development Fund

This is a fund for 'any' project, it is a relatively new fund, generated in 2019 due to a surplus in the unrestricted fund. An explanation of the amounts for Income, and Expenditure was given. There is now a balance of £15,424.

d) BRF Account

The income and expenditure were summarised. The balance is currently £50,998 (with commitments of £28,800 see item 5 above).

It was noted that if current applications are granted the BRF account will be low on funds and therefore fund raising should be considered in the future.

e) SYRF (The Reg Johnson & Harold Wood Memorial Fund)

The cash balance is £10,942 (which does not include fixed assets) with no committed grants

The following points were raised following the presentation of the accounts:

- *Comments on Presentation Slide* – The 'Income Sources (unrestricted)' slide showed an income from an event titled 'ART trial workshop', Alison Everett requested this was reworded to read 'Recruitment and Retention Workshop'.
- *Interest* – Graham Hills asked the rationale behind the allocation of interest to the funds. Sue Gadd advised that whilst there were 4 separate funds, that moneys were held in a single bank account and so interest was accrued on ALL funds, therefore, the fairest way of allocating interest is proportional to the balances of each of the four funds (it should be noted that bank charges are split in a similar manner).
- *Handbook* – Alan Baldock advised that Page 26 in handbook (subscriptions & peal fees) should read districts and not divisions, which will need to be amended.
- *BRF Funds* – Val Burgess commented that it was nice to see the money used to restore bells across the association and that projects were being supported.

Acceptance of Accounts was proposed by Pip Pawley

Acceptance of Accounts was seconded by Val Burgess

On-line poll "Do you accept the accounts for 2020 as published in the Annual Report and Handbook?" gave the following results:

Yes = 100%, No=0%, Abstain = 0%

7 2021 Accounts Items

a) Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2021

Proposal is that Knill James to continue as the Independent Examiner for 2021

On-line poll for "Do you accept the appointment of Knill James as independent examiner of the 2021 accounts?" gave the following results:

Yes = 95%, No=0%, Abstain = 5%

ensure they are safe for ringing along with a 'steady pair of hands' at ringing practice sessions.

11 Any Other Business

- a) **Membership / Recruitment & Retention** – It was noted that there has been a drop in membership. Current 177 members have not renewed (and membership payment from 5 towers remains). It was recognised that some ringers have sadly passed away and some have chosen not to return to ringing. This has highlighted the need for active recruitment.
- b) **Peal / Quarter Peal Report** – Samuel Canning asked why performances rung on virtual ringing platforms (either on handbell stadium or via Ringing Room) had not been included in the report. Stephen Beckingham advised that due to the geographical location not being available for all performance participants a decision had been made to exclude from the report.
- c) **Westley Award for Church Belfry Maintenance & Improvements** – Alison Everett advised of a CCCBR award (with a small cash prize). Applications are open until 30th May for anyone who has taken up bell maintenance within the last 5 years. The link was shared in the 'chat' for anyone interested.
- d) **Recovery Convention** – Steph Pendlebury advised of the CCCBR convention happening this week (8th May), there are several webinars, talks, Q&A sessions which involve speakers from across the country and includes topics such as Tower Maintenance, Building a Good Relationship with your Church, Returning to Ringing, Managing Expectations, Developing a Ringing Cluster, Holding a Successful Practice, Ringing Schools Town & Country etc. The convention concludes with an on-line beer tasting session. The link was shared in the 'chat' for anyone interested in registering for attending any of the talks.
- e) **Welcome Back** – Rob Lane welcomed back Luke Perkins to the Eastern District.

12 Votes of Thanks

On behalf of the meeting the following thanks were given to:

- Sue Gadd for the comprehensive presentation to the AGM and for her work in preparing and keeping the accounts in order.
- All officers and members for keeping association running during the Covid pandemic (which was recognised as being one of the most challenging times in the association history). In particular thanks were given to Rob Lane for his timely communications during this period.
- Sue Childs for her work as safeguarding officer. She has kept the safeguarding policy up to date including information relating to on-line events.
- All involved in organising and running of the Saturday afternoon on-line development sessions which has kept bellringing in Sussex 'alive' during the pandemic.

The meeting concluded at 11:35