

Standing Committee Minutes Sunday 8th Sept 2024

Meeting via Zoom

Present

- Eleanor Linford – Guild Master
- Kirsty Gifford – Public Relations Officer
- Malcolm Paulson- Treasurer
- Sand Cooper – Secretary
- Trish Everett - Safeguarding Officer

Apologies

- Mark Eccleston – Archivist and Webmaster
- Rachel Mitchell – Ringing Master

Item	Issue	Owner
1.	Welcome and apologies from Mark and Rachel	
2.	Matters Arising Items were dealt with within the agenda.	
3.	<p>Other upcoming events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Walking Tour - 29th June A Newsletter article has been written and submitted. ● Online General Meeting - 15th Sept The draft agenda was updated during the meeting. ACTION 47/24 List members ratified since the meeting at Moseley ACTION 48/24 Issue agenda and ask for AOB requests and apologies by close Friday 13th Sept ● Guild Outing Wellington and Shrewsbury - 12th October Action 39/24 Tower details have been included in the Monthly Update and Newsletter. A google form has been created and shared but is no longer working so a new form has been shared on facebook. 18 people have indicated an interest. ACTION 49/24 Share new link and Sand who will include it in separate mail with a Tower Keeper course invite. ● January 2025 AGM Venue to be established. ACTION 50/24 Ask The Horton's if we could be accommodated at Smethwick. ● Henry Johnson Dinner 2025 Bookings made - to be progressed after the outing when we will be working on the early 2025 dates for the dinner and AGM. 	<p>Sand Sand</p> <p>Eleanor/Sand</p> <p>Sand</p>
4.	RWNYC 5th July SMG will host the event and Simon Linford has agreed to lead this. This event is evolving. Possible twin pathways with 6 bell competition in	

	Mosley and bussing people to the Solihull area. Also using towers in the north of the city. City centre towers, St Paul's and St Martins will be available.	
5.	<p>Treasurer's Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BRF Balances stand at £35,043.25 ● Guild Insurance Policy - Public Liability Action 54/23 Competitive quotes obtained. Malcolm had previously issued a mail to Standing Committee members and it had been agreed outside of the meeting to stay with our existing insurer. He had also spoken to a charities insurer who had given an initial quote at about half the amount of our current insurer. He'd asked questions of both which raised concerns about current public liability cover. Our website tells members they have public liability insurance but both providers tell us this isn't correct unless they are attending an event controlled by the Guild e.g. Guild tours and practices. Individual tower's tours are not covered. The School relies on our public liability insurance and concern has been raised that as SMG does not control The School, they are not covered so the decision was made not to change supplier until the matter is resolved. Considerations include discussing cover with The School, updating the website and making sure members generally understand the situation. We are aware that other events have 'piggy backed' our insurance but unless sanctioned by the Guild, cover wouldn't apply. Malcolm explained how training might be covered if the training was an introduction by the Guild but, if arranged directly, it would not be covered. <p>An alternative for The School might be to create a subcommittee to SMG reporting to the StandCo though this may not be acceptable and would involve rule changes.</p> <p>ACTION 51/24 Arrange a meeting with Clare McArdle and Tony Daw. Sand will join the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mojo membership 1 payment outstanding but this in hand. ● Wishaw - Brenda Thomson Contribution towards 3 new ropes cost £644. ACTION 40a/24 Follow up with Tony Daw. Malcolm will follow this up. ● Aston - Margaret Griffin Re-scraping and painting rust-proofing to bell frame. Action 40b/24 Respond to Aston re Tony Daw's advice re quotes. Tony has confirmed BRF support at 50% of the cost of painting the frame and the lower quote from a local painter rather than Taylors. The more expensive quote had included additional protection to bells, frame and fittings. Aston can't afford the higher quote. 50% of the lower quote equates to £2160. The band are encouraged to remove ropes themselves before painting. Support for the project was agreed by all. ACTION 52/24 Update Aston and progress payment. ● Merchandise Action 65/23 Investigate merchandise. 	<p>Malcolm</p> <p>Malcolm</p> <p>Malcolm</p>

	<p>Details now received. Polo shirt £15.40, sweatshirt £18, Beanies £12, Mugs £11.</p> <p>We discussed likely colours thought previously to be white and blue.</p> <p>ACTION 53/24 Look for previous order form to check parameters.</p> <p>Consider a small discount to Guild members buying their first piece of merchandise - based on trust. We are not looking for a profit from our merchandise.</p> <p>ACTION 54/24 Consider distribution costs - there may need to be a requirement to collect at AGM or other Guild events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CCCBR Financial Consultation <p>Action 42/24 Richard Andrew, CCCBR rep was updated re our support for the increased fee.</p> <p>Malcolm attended a further meeting regarding proposals and subsequently the proposal was agreed at the CCCBR meeting this weekend.</p> <p>Malcolm summarised that CCCBR have 2030 plans to increase ringing numbers. CCCBR is currently running a slight deficit. They have reserves of circa £175K with £75K ring fenced should it require closure. £18K has been spent on market research and marketing for the 2030 plan whilst funding has been unclear and, whilst capital is being spent, interest is being lost. The consultation has resulted in the fee rising by £1 from 2026.</p> <p>Ring for the King was the most successful campaign to date but it has shown a shortage of teachers and resources. The council doesn't yet have the answers to this.</p> <p>We can cover some of the increase for the time being but we will potentially need an increase in our fees by 2026. This may need to be discussed at the AGM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tower fees for Guild events - Edgbaston <p>BUSCR have requested a fee increase from £15 to £25 for the Surprise Major practices, which are well attended. The request is in line with peal fees. Discussions included; which events are Guild practices, comparisons to other towers where practices held, towers aligned to receive the same fee, affordability at £300 p.a. for each tower. We also discussed BRF funding to Edgbaston.</p> <p>We agreed an increase to £20 from October would be acceptable and to be paid to Moseley and Solihull.</p> <p>ACTION 55/24 Confirm to BUSCR team</p> <p>We will consider fees as an AGM agenda item. Subsequent to the meeting Eleanor has asked Malcolm to look at 2025 forecasts and potential Guild fee increases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Edgbaston BRF request - refurbishing clappers, reinstalling and improving striking. <p>Circa £1000 with additional cost avoided by using local labour and asking for expertise to join them. They have circa £600 ring fenced in church funds. We agreed in principle to fund 50% from the BRF.</p> <p>ACTION 56/24 Ask Tony Daw for approval and progress.</p>	<p>Sand</p> <p>Malcolm</p> <p>Sand</p> <p>Malcolm</p>
6.	<p>Young Ringers challenge</p> <p>ACTION 66/23 Young Ringers challenge - share a proposal for a SMG scheme. Action carried forward.</p>	Rachel

7.	<p>Safeguarding Update Action 43/24 The Online policy has been recirculated to members with a brief explanation. Trish will be attending the next safeguarding officers group 24th Sept. However, she has seen a draft CofE General Synod safeguarding training document which suggests all ringers must complete basic training, which we have been recommending for some time. Whilst Tower captains currently complete foundation training going forward those at prominent towers, cathedrals, those with frequent visitors and people learning along with the district chair and safeguarding officers, will need to complete the leadership training. Those impacted are expected to include St Phillips, St Martin's and The School. Trish will be asking for a course specific to Tower Captains.</p>	
8.	<p>Membership Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Associates Jo Bramall ● Full members Robert Vaughan Jayne Shipley Emma Lansberry <p>All agreed</p>	
9.	<p>Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WhatsApp Group Action 86/23 Social media links have been added to the Guild gmail footer. <p>Action 44/24 Progress Gmail ownership. Mark's details are now held against the gmail account which is effectively a personal email facility.</p> <p>Safeguarding emails. Discussed safeguarding mails going to Trish's personal email account. A solution might be to set up a separate email account so that emails are not accessed by other StandCo members.</p> <p>ACTION 57/24 Discuss with Mark and update website accordingly.</p>	Trish
10.	<p>Guild Yearbook All delivered or awaiting email responses.</p>	
11.	<p>100 Club Bursaries Action 45/24 Payments now dealt with. ACTION 58/24 Chase Newsletter submissions for those that have received grants.</p>	Sand
12.	<p>Bell Maintenance skills Action 46/24 Towers have responded about their Tower Keepers, support required/skill levels/sharing of knowledge and interest in training/facilitating training. Summary document shared before the meeting. We will include in the online general meeting agenda next week and ACTION 59/24 Share Alison Hodge's invitation to another Worcestershire Guild course.</p>	Sand
13.	<p>SMG Data ACTION 41/24 Consider data requirements, what data we are using and whether Mojo holds this data. ACTION 42/24 Seek views from Tracy Stephens and Clare McArdle. This item will be carried forward.</p>	All Malcolm

14.	BUSCR Recruitment Simon Linfood had provided an update before the meeting. The Touring Tower will be at Aston Uni Tuesday 17th Sept. BUSCR have applied for an ART Grant £250.	
15.	Upcoming meetings 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Date of next StandCo to be agreed 17th November 7:30pm	