

CITY BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 19th November 2011

St PETER, WOLVERCOTE

MINUTES

The members stood in silent respect of those members of the City Branch who had died since the 2010 AGM

Paul Foote, David Lane and Rose Townsend.

There were 35 members present.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Robert Newton, Hilarie Rogers, Paul Lucas, Robert Bruce, Lesley and Rebecca Smith, James Haseldine.
- 2. Approval of minutes:** of the half year meeting held on Saturday 14 May 2011. The minutes had been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 3. Matters arising:** the Secretary thanked the Branch members who had helped with the preparation and clearing up at the Guild Festival in July.

4. Election of new members:

Stanton St John – Paul Landsdown

Headington – Pauline James

Iffley – Catherine Godfrey and Anne Johnson

Kidlington – Christopher Brown and Peter Trowles (Renewed membership: Peter J Franklin)

St Aldate's (Renewed membership and transfer from another Branch Katherine Stonham) Samuel Press

St Giles – Sue Fenn

Marston – Alex Marshall

These ringers were proposed, seconded and unanimously elected to the Guild.

5. Reports from officers:

a) *Hon. Secretary:*

Marsh Baldon: the secretary explained that the Hon. Guild Secretary, a member of the South Oxon Branch, had been approached by a member of the St Peter, Marsh Baldon congregation regarding the training of a new band. (There has not

been a regular band ringing at Marsh Baldon for a number of years since the Greenaway family stopped ringing.)

The City Branch secretary had been consulted and it had been suggested that Marsh Baldon move from the City Branch to the South Oxon Branch. This appeared to be a sensible idea because the South Oxon Branch has been more closely linked to Marsh Baldon in recent years and regularly help out with ringing requests when required.

The meeting discussed the suggested move and it was proposed that the Secretary should start the process of the transfer for St Peter, Marsh Baldon to be transferred to the South Oxon Branch. This was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Proposed: J Anthony Ellis

Seconded: Matthew Malek

The secretary thanked all the tower correspondents who had so promptly responded to the request for information for the Guild Reports and reported that only one tower remained outstanding.

The secretary confirmed that, after nearly 17 years in the post, she would not be standing for re-election and she thanked City Branch members for their help and support over the years.

The Rev J Anthony Ellis thanked her for her work for the Branch.

b) Hon. Treasurer:

The treasurer reported that the funds were in good order. There were 130 paying members. £520.00 had been paid to the Guild and £73.50 each to the Guild Bell Fund and the Guild Restoration Fund.

He raised a matter regarding the subsidy of Guild courses from Branch funds. He confirmed that there was no difficulty with subsidising courses but his attention had been drawn to the fact that the subsidy for some courses (e.g. the Steeple Aston course) includes the price of the evening meal but Branch members who helped on courses had to pay for the evening meal out of their own resources. Therefore a helper would be in a less advantageous position than a student on the course.

The matter was discussed and the following decisions were made:

1. Students can request the Branch to subsidise the course and the meal, if the price is included in the course fee.

Proposed: Jonathan Cresshull

Seconded: Catherine Lane

2. Helpers may make a request to the Branch for their evening meal to be paid, if the meal for the students is included in the course fee.

Proposed: Roy Jones

Seconded: Clare Morgan

Both proposals were accepted unanimously.

c) Ringing Master

The ringing master reported on the success of the London outing which had been handsomely supported by more experienced ringers from the Branch and further afield. He thanked everyone for their support.

Another London outing has been mooted for October 2012 and Leon Thompson has been asked to arrange it again.

d) Representative

The Branch representative asked members to recognise all the help that learners are given within the branch and by the Guild.

6. Election of Officers

Position	Name		Proposers
Chairman	Simon Edwards	Standing	J Anthony Ellis Roy Jones
Deputy Chairman	Roy Jones	Standing	Catherine Lane Matthew Malek
Treasurer	Matthew Malek	Standing	Andrew Dunn Ron Burgess
Secretary	Catherine Lane	Not standing	
Secretary	Katherine Stonham	New election	Catherine Lane Jonathan Cresshull
Ringing master	Hugh Deam	Standing	Roy Jones Mary Carroll
Representative	Clare Morgan	Standing	Jonathan Cresshull Matthew Malek
Representative	David Lane	Deceased	

Representative	Matthew Malek	New election	
Auditor	Anthony Hughes		J. Anthony Ellis Catherine Lane

All nominations were proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

The Rev J Anthony Ellis said that the Branch should consider the tenure of its elected officers. Katie Lane had spent many years as secretary because no replacement could be found. He said it was important to give other people the opportunity to take responsibility within the Branch and suggested a maximum length of 5 years in post for any officer. He reminded members that new leadership often brought fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the post and enabled a variety of people to demonstrate and develop their strengths.

He asked the Branch to bear this in mind at the next AGM.

7. Any other business

The Rev J Anthony Ellis voiced his strong regrets and sadness that there was no service at the AGM. He indicated that he would have been more than happy to take the service, had he been asked. He reminded the Branch that we were all members of the ODG Guild of **CHURCH BELLRINGERS** and to bear this in mind when organising future Annual General Meetings.

The secretary went through the list of dates, which are attached to the minutes.

In addition there will be ringing for the Queen's Jubilee celebrations and the Olympics. The Olympic torch will be travelling through Oxford on Monday 9 July and it is hoped that towers on the route will be able to ring. Some media publicity has been given to a non-ringer's request to ring as 'fast and furiously' as possible at 8.00 on 27 June, but this suggestion is unlikely to be upheld by the Central Council.

There is a new triples method composed for the Olympics, the details of which can be accessed on the Central Council website.

A request was made to rationalise the various emails that are being circulated ad hoc to members. There is a system in place which should be adhered to, that is that all messages should be sent through the secretary and on to the Tower Correspondents and Branch officers. Information can then be put into The Newsletter and on the website. There is present inconsistency in the information that is being sent to members and confusion frequently arises as a result.

John Pusey told the members about the re-cast and re-hung bells at St Giles and invited members to come to practice nights. He also wished Margaret Marsh 'Bon Voyage' for her return to her native Australia and members agreed that they would miss her regular contributions to *Hugh's News*.

The Chairman gave a vote of thanks to the Wolvercote ringers for hosting the AGM and for providing the excellent tea.