



MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 2023 GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at The Village Hall, Steeple Aston, OX25 4SF on Saturday 25th November 2023 at 2:30pm.

Attended by 39 Committee members (apologies and attendees recorded in the ODG Attendance Book).

The meeting was chaired by Catherine Lane, Master, who welcomed members to the meeting and told them that the meeting would be recorded.

A microphone and Audio capability were in operation to aid hearing the meeting.

1. Apologies

18 apologies for absence were received:

Ken Darvill, Jon Chamberlain, Lindsey Barker, Brian Gatward, Hilarie Rodgers, Cris Galatanau, Kate Edgar, Richard Law, Venerable Jonathan Chaffey (Archdeacon Oxford), David Tyler (Archdeacon of Dorchester), Cheryl Watson, Rob Needham, Pauline Needham, Richard Loyd, Gill Loyd, Peter Robson, Kathryn Grant, & Katherine Stonham.

A list of members attending is recorded at the end of the minutes.

2. Any other urgent items of business

None.

3. Minutes of the General Committee meeting on 11th March 2023.

Procedural errors in the minutes required correction so that the names of members elected to the Education (Learning & Development Workgroup) and Towers & Belfries Sub Committee were recorded in full.

An incorrect recording from Towers and Belfries activities was removed.

The CCCBR representatives report has been added to the 11th March 2023 papers.

The minutes were agreed with the above amendments. Proposed by Doug Beaumont, seconded by Graham Clifton.

The minutes of 11th March 2023 were immediately amended following the meeting and the correct version is now in the official ODG record and ODG website.

4. Matters arising.

None

5. Correspondence

- a. ART Statement was noted.
- b. Ashmolean One World Handbells event on February 10th, 2024, was a combined ODG and Oxford Society of Change Ringers Handbells band. Members to attend if they can.
- c. CCCBR correspondence will be distributed to Branch Secs by Hon Sec.

6. Case for Change Update:

a) Member Communications

Jenny Bennett presented a short item on Membermojo (MM) software. She highlighted items in the short report provided in the meeting papers. The system is fully GDPR compliant and provides communication abilities. MM has been successfully implemented in Essex, Lincoln, and Birmingham ringing guilds. This endorsed ODG's decision to use MM and not another software product such as Love Admin. The MM project team was looking at how best to use MM communication features. ODG proposed to implement the first phase on January 1st, 2025, which creates a membership database. The financial phase will follow phase 1 implementation in 2025. The Master agreed that more than MM was required to improve communication in ODG but this was a good first step. Stuart Gibson advised that MM cost approximately £475.00 per annum for 5,000 members. Richard Stanworth (Server Manager) advised general committee members that he was undertaking a server migration through December 2023. Savings of £150.00 will ensue plus greater storage capabilities.

b) QR Code

The Master proposed that QR (Quick Response) codes were used on posters on church noticeboards. John Harrison endorsed as using QR codes effectively in Sonning Deanery Branch. Andrew Goldthorpe (Website Manager) also endorsed with his professional expertise. Appropriate use was required as some members concerned about safety. Implementation of QR codes where appropriate will be implemented.

7. Reports from sub-committees

a. **Education (Learning & Development Workgroup)**

Report was noted. Members directed to the workshops and courses planned for 2024. The successful Tower Leaders workshop is to be run for 3 branches – Central Bucks, North Bucks and Chiltern.

A grant of £40.00 was awarded as part of a total cost of £120 in support of increasing to 8 photo sensors on the Bagley 8 bell Multi-Bell Interface (MBI) at Kirtlington.

b. **Towers and Belfries subcommittee**

Report was noted.

New members are welcomed for the subcommittee. Members were requested to note the courses available and commend to their members.

c. Finance and General Purposes

Report was noted.

8 Reports from:

a. CCCBR

Report from November 2023 General Committee meeting will be added to the papers. Items to highlight to members – use of an agency ‘Yello Yoyo’ to tackle publicity and marketing. Around 10% of ringing membership had been lost during pandemic but the situation was now stabilised and membership increasing. The central library is being relocated to Loughborough Museum. Consideration to be given to creating a photographic record of peal boards. More emphasis on developing and recruiting young ringers.

To note the proposal to reduce the number of representatives sent by ringing organisations was rejected. ODG are entitled to 1 more representative (6 in total).

There was a financial surplus due to the activities around the coronation.

b. Safeguarding Officer

None

9 Diary of Events & 15-year plan

a. 15-year plan

The Master raised the matter of the 150 anniversary in 2031 so the guild festival will be held then. The gaps between festivals had been affected by the pandemic. It was proposed that money was put aside to enable a good celebration at the 2031 guild festival in 2031.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

10 Subscriptions for 2024

Proposal made by Stuart Gibson (Hon Treasurer) to raise subscription to £10.00 (£3.00 to branch and £7.00 to guild). Additional funds required to cover Insurance increase, IT costs, and youth development and competitions among other matters.

The proposal was approved after a short discussion by the meeting.

Proposed Stuart Gibson.

Seconded Graham Clifton.

11 Resident Ringing Members & Associate members

Proposal of subscription of £10 per member.

Proposed Stuart Gibson.

Seconded Patricia Newton

12 Non-resident ringing members.

One off payment of £10.00 per non-resident ringing member.

13 Peal fees for 2024

These are set at 50p per rope. For handbells 50p per person.

Proposed Stuart Gibson

Seconded John Harrison

14 Guild Budget

Acceptance:

Proposed Stuart Gibson.

Seconded by Robert Newton.

Approved by meeting.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUDING ITEMS

15 Any Other Business

A replacement Odd Bob editor is needed as our current editor is standing down. The Master requested that replacement(s) were sought in the branches.

A proposal was made that ODG looked to simplify their procedures and take a more pragmatic approach.

Specifically, John Harrison said '*We (ODG) should change the rule that currently allows a committee only to coopt people who are not on the General Committee (who would have to be elected at the General Committee Meeting)*'.

The proposal was accepted.

Proposed John Harrison

Seconded Robert Newton

The Master agreed to look at the ODG rules to see if a change was required.

16 Concluding Vote of Thanks

The Deputy Master Chris Mundy thanked Banbury branch for hosting the meeting. Especial thanks were extended for the excellent refreshments, coffees, teas, and audio capabilities. The Deputy Master also thanked the General Committee for their active participation in the meeting. It was noted that the ringing competition had been enjoyable. Media interest in the competition was high. Publicity about the ringing will be shown on Meridian TV filmed at St. Edburg's church, Bicester. Also there will be articles in the Oxford Times and Oxford Mail.

17 Date of next meeting

9th March 2024 Spring General Committee meeting & Oxford Diocesan Bell Fund (ODBF) AGM – North Bucks Branch

Attendees at General Committee Meeting (as signed in Attendance book) – Steeple
Aston Saturday 25th November 2023

Note that some names occur more than once as the individual performs more than one role. Individuals are counted once for the purpose of attendee numbers.

Catherine Lane (Master)
Chris Mundy (Deputy Master)
Karen Pile (General Secretary)
Stuart Gibson (General Treasurer)
Doug Beaumont (Librarian)
John Payne (Membership Secretary)
Ken Davenport (Peal Secretary)
June Wells (Safeguarding Officer)
Andrew Goldthorpe (Website Manager)
Richard Stanworth (Server Manager)

Vice Presidents:

Robert H Newton
Patricia M Newton
Graham Clifton
E J Wells

Stewards:

Tony Crabtree
Patricia M Newton
Stephen Rossiter
Colin M Lee

Trustees:

Robert Newton

Central Council Representatives:

John Harrison

Banbury Branch:

Alan Griffin (Branch Rep)

Bicester Branch:

Anne Martin (Branch Rep)

Central Bucks:

Karen Pile (Deputy Branch Secretary)

Chiltern Branch:

Chris Potter (Branch Rep)

Chipping Norton Branch:
Geoffrey Stretton (Branch Secretary)
David Salter (Ringing Master)

East Berks & South Bucks (EBSB) Branch:
Angela Darvill (Branch Rep)
Patricia M Newton (Branch Secretary)
Jan Galloway (Branch Rep)

Newbury Branch:
Martin Rice (Branch Chair)

North Bucks Branch:
Doug Hird (Branch Secretary)
Ted Fawcett (Branch Rep)

Old North Berks:
Richard Peters (Branch Rep)
Josie Irving (Branch Rep)
Charles Morrish (Branch Rep)
Jenny Bennett & Andrew Bennett (speakers re. Membermojo IT system)

Oxford City:
No attendees

Reading Branch:
Stephen A Rossiter

Sonning Deanery:
Jan Glen (Branch Secretary)
Sue Davenport (Branch Rep and Branch Treasurer)

South Oxon:
Amy Herlihy (Branch Rep)
Japh Slaney (Branch Rep)

Vale of the White Horse:
Tony Crabtree (Ringing Master)

Witney and Woodstock:
Andrew Goldthorpe (Branch Secretary)