

# THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Charity Registration No 270036

## Executive

Notes of the meeting held on Saturday 15 May 2021 at 9am by video conference.

Present: Simon Linford (President), David Kirkcaldy (Deputy President), Mary Bone (Secretary), Fergus Stracey (Treasurer), Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett and Clyde Whittaker. Apologies for absence were received from David Smith.

1. Accounts for 2020: the Treasurer reported that a discrepancy in the Library Fund had now been resolved satisfactorily; this had concerned the treatment of depreciation in the Library accounts. The Trustees **reviewed** the current policy for revaluation of the Library and **agreed** that a revaluation was not necessary in 2021.

The Trustees **approved** the Council's accounts for 2020.

2. The Trustees considered the management letter received from the Independent Examiner, Caroline Stockmann, and **confirmed** (1) that the Council is a going concern; (2) their understanding of the restricted and unrestricted designated funds and the allocation of investment monies to these; (3) that bank and signatory controls are appropriate; (4) that the Council is in a position to settle outstanding invoices, bills and commitments; (5) the reserves policy as recorded in the formal Trustees' Report. The Trustees **noted** that there had been no independent confirmation of levels of Publications and Library stock but that this was not of concern.

3. Subject to additional wording on the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic and on the review of financial controls, the Trustees **approved** the Trustees' report to the Charity Commission for 2020.

4. Members of the Executive were joined at 9.30am by Ann White, Safeguarding Officer, who had provided a report on safeguarding activity since appointment in May 2020. Ann had prepared a draft revised safeguarding policy for the Council's own events. Much recent work had focused on inappropriate behaviour on social media, in email and on online ringing platforms. Guidelines for online ringing had recently been published in *The Ringing World*. However many recent incidents were not within the Safeguarding Officers' remit and should be dealt with locally and by all ringers rejecting inappropriate behaviour and bullying. Ann looked forward to the establishment of a network for association safeguarding officers. The Executive thanked Ann for all her work.

5. The Executive **noted** that nominations will be required for Treasurer, two Ordinary Trustees and two Independent Examiners, for election at the annual meeting. A preliminary notice for the 4 September meeting will appear in *The Ringing World* and will be distributed to members and societies. A draft motion on the number of Independent Examiners was in preparation.

6. Further work on risk assessment will be done and brought to the Executive's June meeting.

7. Discussions continued after 10.30am when Executive members were joined by the workgroup leaders (Vicki Chapman, Alison Hodge, Graham John, Tim Hine, Colin Newman, Chris Ridley and Ian Roulstone), Apologies for absence were received from Mark Regan.

8. The President presented ideas for alternative Council structures, including a reduced number of representative members. Phillip Barnes, Alison Everett, David Kirkcaldy and Clyde Whittaker, as representative members, had previously declared conflicts of interest on this. A number of points were made in discussion: what is the optimum size for a representative body; how should the Council's work be funded; is there a role for ringers as ambassadors for the Council; should there be job descriptions for representatives and, if so, was this a matter for individual societies or the Council; are there other ways of consulting society leaders at regular intervals; how should other stakeholders in ringing be involved; does effective representation require structural change; the role of technology in attendance or voting at annual meetings; would society representatives in effect become delegates? The President and Deputy President would consider these reactions and conduct further work on the CRAG recommendation to reduce the size of the Council.

9. Alison Hodge, Stewardship & Management, presented proposals for moderated networks of interest among groups of ringers (eg public relations or maintenance officers etc). Moderation should avoid the many ill-considered or inappropriate interventions common to the various social media groups. The Executive **agreed** limited expenditure on pilot projects.

10. Workgroup updates: these had been provided in advance. H&A were considering criteria for recording historic peal boards; they agreed to see if the Carter ringing machine could be displayed and demonstrated at the RWNYC in Worcester in September. PR hoped to work with the Clerical Guild on a Bell Sunday proposal. SSL had reached agreement with the Churches Conservation Trust for consultation on the bell installations of future redundant churches offered to the CCT. SMWG were re-writing a number of old publications; old out-of-date publications should either be withdrawn from sale or download or, depending on timescale, an errata slip be provided. T&T had prepared version 2 of the Framework for Method Ringing which would go out to consultation; they were seeking additional support for the webmaster.

11. The President updated those present on funding bids with the Big Ideas Company and to the HLF; a ringing centre at the Churches Conservation Trust's Old Black Lion site in Northampton; Mobile Belfry 2.0; and the Cast of 1000 initiative.

12. The Executive **agreed** that extracts from *Bell News* and *Church Bells* could be used in commemorative volumes on a number of Exeter towers and on the Revd Ellacombe on a non-commercial basis.

13. The next meeting of the Executive will be held by video conference on Wednesday 23 June.

Mary Bone  
Secretary  
25.05.2020