

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Charity Registration No 270036

Executive

Notes of the meeting held on Saturday 21 May 2022 at 9am (BST) by video conference.

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

1. 2021 Accounts: the Treasurer had circulated the 2021 Accounts and Notes prior to the meeting. The Trustees examined the Income & Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and the Notes to the Accounts. The Treasurer clarified the difference between BRF grants paid and awarded. The Trustees then considered the draft letter from the Independent Examiner, Caroline Stockmann, and noted the points made in her report and a few outstanding queries. The Trustees provisionally **approved** the 2021 Accounts, subject to a final satisfactory report from the Independent Examiner. The Trustees **allocated** £4,000 from the Rolle legacy to the Bell Restoration Fund for grants for projects in the West Country and £2,000 from the Rolle legacy for a bell for Mobile Belfry 2.0.

2. 2021 Trustees' Annual Report: the draft report had been circulated and two minor corrections were made. As the Review of Financial Activities had still to be submitted formal approval of the report will be made at the next meeting on 22 June.

3. The Trustees **received** David Bleby's report on suggested improvements to the Council's Rules and Standing Orders and thanked David for his work on this. Phillip Barnes agreed to study the report in detail. This report forms part of the Governance Review required under Standing Order G1. A number of draft policies on Whistle-blowing, Volunteering and Problem-Solving Procedures had been produced by Clyde Whittaker. Alison Everett agreed to review these.

4. The President reported the end of the consultation on the proposal to change the Council affiliation fees to a charge per member with a cap increased to £400 from the originally suggested £300. One final response has been received from John Harrison representing the Oxford Diocesan Guild suggesting removing the cap altogether. David Kirkcaldy agreed to propose the final affiliation fees motion at the annual meeting.

5. The Trustees discussed whether or not to make a proposal regarding a reduction in the number of representatives, a matter on which some consultation has already been conducted. It was **agreed** that a number of different options should be modelled, particularly in view of the proposed change in affiliation fees, before a proposal to reduce the number of representatives could be put to Council members. It was unlikely that there would be sufficient time to consult on different models before this year's meeting.

The Public Relations Officer, Vicki Chapman, joined the meeting at 10.15am.

6. The President led a review of outstanding actions from previous meetings. These included: use of Crowdfunder to solicit donations for Mobile Belfry 2.0; a review of the Expenses policy; the Westley award for church bell maintenance; a retention policy for Council, former committee and workgroup reports and documents; the Governance review (report of the February Executive meeting); suitable volunteer(s) as the Council's safeguarding officers; and future articles by Alison Everett and David Smith on their experiences as Executive members and Trustees to encourage candidates to stand for election in September.

7. The Deputy President updated members on arrangements for the Nottingham meeting, social events and Roadshow with the booking form to be live in mid-June.

8. The Trustees formally **appointed** Paul Wotton as workgroup leader for the Volunteer & Leadership workgroup. There was a short discussion on the need to find future leaders for other workgroups as terms of office came to an end.

9. David Smith updated members on bookings for the North West Course. Helpers were still needed for all groups. A course based in the South West was under consideration.

10. Vicki Chapman noted that Neal Dodge, Suffolk Guild, had joined the team arranging the Nottingham meeting as an observer; the 2023 annual meeting will be hosted by the Suffolk Guild. She agreed to set up an early meeting with the Suffolk organising team.

11. Executive sponsors agreed to check the updates from their respective workgroups and ensure that any items to escalate for Executive attention were brought to the June meeting.

The meeting paused for a lunch break at 12.15pm. Executive members were joined by workgroup leaders when the meeting resumed at 1pm, when matters discussed included workgroup involvement with the Nottingham AGM and Roadshow, and a review of the Council's Strategic Priorities and workgroup input thereon, in advance of an update version in time for the Nottingham meeting.

Mary Bone, Secretary
28.05.2022