

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS
Registered Charity No 270036

**The 127th Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on Saturday 7th September 2024
at West Exe School, Hatherleigh Road, Exeter, Devon EX2 9JU, starting at 2.00 pm.**

Will members please sign the roll and be in their seats by 1.50 pm.

AGENDA

Welcome and introduction

Opening prayer

1. Election of Fellow to the Council

- Christopher Mew
- Barbara Wheeler

Supporting statements are given in the Appendix of this agenda. *Page 7 of the meeting papers*

2. Application to affiliate

3. Other changes to affiliation

4. Welcome to new members

5. Apologies for absence – must be provided in advance.

6. In Memoriam. *Page 6 of the meeting papers*

7. Minutes of the 2023 Annual Meeting. *Page 8 of the meeting papers*

8. Matters arising from the Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda
(Please notify the secretary in advance, if possible)

9. Trustees Annual Report for 2023. *Page 12 of the meeting papers*

10. Accounts for 2023. *Page 17 of the meeting papers*

11. Annual Report of the Executive and Workgroups for 2023 – May 2024.
Page 20 of the meeting papers

12. Forward Plan for 2025.

13. Financial update for 2024 and outline General Fund budget for 2025.
Page 24 of the meeting papers

14. Election of Trustees: the following nominations have been received.

Office	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Treasurer:	Fergus Stracey	Alena Wardle	James Kirkcaldy
Ordinary Trustee:	Peter Harrison	David Smith	James Blackburn

I certify that the above are valid nominations. Ernie de Legh-Runciman - Secretary

Supporting statements are given in the Appendix of this agenda.
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15. Election of Independent Examiners (2)

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

16. Motions.

Motion A.

That with effect from the close of the 127th Council Meeting on 7th September, 2024, all Council Stewards shall retire no later than at the end of the ninth Annual Council Meeting after their appointment or election (instead of the sixth Annual Council Meeting), but otherwise in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order W2.2.

That the Council approves the future amendment of Standing Order W2.2 by the Executive to reflect the above change.

Proposed by: E de Legh-Runciman – Secretary

Seconded by: C Whittaker – Ordinary Trustee

Explanatory note:

Each of the Council's Officer roles is subject to a maximum term of service (normally six years) in the interests of good governance. The effect of this motion is to extend the maximum term of service for the Council's Stewards from six years (as applies to other roles) to nine years.

In contrast with other Officers, Stewards act principally as curators of the Council's assets, in some cases taking care of them in their own homes, and do not have significant financial or management responsibilities. A longer maximum term of service is therefore felt appropriate. Extending the maximum term will not prevent the appointment of new Stewards as up to 3 or 4 Stewards can be appointed for each role.

In all cases, the Council can extend the maximum term of any Officer or Steward in a particular case by resolution at a Council meeting and this power remains unchanged.

Motion (B)

1. Change Standing Order F1.1 to: The Annual Subscription for each Affiliated Society shall be £0.40 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership. This change to come into force on 1st January 2025.
2. Change Standing Order F1.1 to: The Annual Subscription for each Affiliated Society shall be £1.00 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership. This change to come into force on 1st January 2026.
3. The Executive are requested to create a new Standing Order aimed at ensuring visibility in the statement of accounts of the Council for the year ended 31st December previous, required at the ACM by Rule 6.1 b) (2), of how the Council has performed as a charity.
4. The Executive are requested to create a new Standing Order aimed at ensuring visibility in the Executive's forward plan and budget for the next year, required at the ACM by Rule 6.1 b) (3), of how sustainable the finances of Council are, and how it plans to use funds to further its objects.

Proposed by: Paul Wotton (Bath & Wells Association of Change Ringers)

Seconded by: Ian Roulstone (Society of Royal Cumberland Youths)

Explanatory note:

Ringling 2030 – the flagship project of the Central Council – is important, because the cost of doing nothing is not just high. The cost of doing nothing will be all current ringers witnessing our unique art blighted by fewer and fewer ringers, a public that doesn't comprehend what we do and is indifferent to the cultural value we add, and a physical environment disappearing through financial pressures. The cost of doing nothing is the

end of ringing as we know it. *In the future, if ringing is to flourish it must have a solid financial basis.*

While much of the work involved in delivering Ringing 2030 will be done by volunteers, some projects will require engagement with professionals, particularly in the three pillar areas of marketing, recruitment, and the ringing environment. Going forward, third parties will be needed to drive key components (branding, unified recruitment platform, marketing campaigns, hosted services). Some of these are things we already pay for to a certain degree and we have to accept that to fulfil our ambitions we will need more of this. Failing to invest in these areas could render projects ineffective and unsuccessful. Therefore, we must

- ensure that the Council is a sustainable organisation, able to meet its operating costs through affiliation fees, including insurance, key meetings, volunteer expenses, fees and licenses, and at least one part time administrator
- manage significant project costs from a combination of revenue, donations, sponsorship, and grant funding.

To achieve a solid financial basis, we propose to raise funds through an increase in the affiliation fee, starting this year with an increase to 40p per member, rising to £1 per member from 2026. This will allow associations time for their own financial planning. With these increases, we will achieve a stable income that will allow us to sustain our projects in support of the future of ringing and meet our charitable objectives.

17. Future meetings.

2025: An invitation has been received from the Yorkshire Association
2026:

18. Any other business.

To be taken if time permits. Items must be notified in advance to the secretary

19. Vote of Thanks

20. Meeting attendance

Ernie De Legh-Runciman
Secretary
9th August 2024