

Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers

East Berks & South Bucks Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 31st October 2020 via Zoom

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions it was not possible to hold an in-person meeting so the AGM was held using the Zoom virtual platform. The meeting was attended by the Guild Master, Katie Lane and 22 Branch members representing 17 towers (Alison Bayley, Michael Bayley, Cliff Blundell, Charles Botting, Margaret Carlyle, Jane Cockman, David Cornwall, John Davidge, Angela Darvill, Ken Darvill, Jan Galloway, Ros Garrett-Bowes, Jill Glennerster, Josie Godfrey, Rosemary Hogan, Matthew Johnson, Patricia Newton, Robert Newton, John Payne, Andrew Simpson, Peter Sippitt and James White.

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting from Francoise Allen, Gill Blair, Sheila Bruce, Vikki Bulbeck, Ann Davies, Marcia Dieppe, Peter Jasper, Helen Riddoch and Mandy Salter.

The meeting started at 3.06 pm.

1. Welcome and introduction:

The Chairman welcomed the Guild Master, Katie Lane and all attending the meeting. Instructions were given regarding voting and requests to speak at the meeting. He thanked Beverley and Charles Botting for hosting the zoom meeting.

2. Minutes of the HYM held at Hughenden on 12th October 2019:

These had been circulated prior to the meeting and were accepted (72% in favour, 28% abstentions) with no amendments.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Obituaries

Written obituaries had been circulated prior to the meeting for all members (and past members) who had died since the last AGM in April 2019. The following names were read by the Chairman and a minute's silence was kept as we remembered them:

Les Hollingbery (Clewes), Brian Edwards (Beaconsfield), Doreen Cox (formerly High Wycombe and Hughenden), Angela Blundell (Burnham), Derek Fowles (Bray), Joyce Pearson (formerly Bray), Anthony E Cox (formerly Hughenden), Myles Hawkins (Chalfont St Giles), Roger Hazell (formerly Hughenden) and Graham Jones (formerly Langley).

5. Treasurer's report and 2019 accounts:

The accounts and Treasurer's report had been circulated in advance. The accounts were proposed by Michael Bayley and seconded by Ros Garrett-Bowes. They were accepted (83% in favour, 17% abstentions).

6. Election of members

The following had been nominated for membership of the Guild by members of their towers and were seconded by Jan Galloway.

Chalfont St Giles

Eleanor O'Connor
Ella Riley

Dorney

Morgan Rook

Penn

Judith Ellis
Sue Riley

Bray

Claire Boyles (re-election)

Burnham

Sian Lipscome (re-election)

All new members were elected (en bloc) unopposed.

7. Election of Officers for 2020-21

The following officers had been nominated and seconded in advance of the meeting and details had been circulated:

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
Chairman	John Davidge	Ken Darvill	Patricia Newton
Ringling Master	Matthew Johnson	Patricia Newton	Angela Darvill
Deputy Ringling Master	Angela Darvill	John Davidge	Michael Bayley
Secretary	Patricia Newton	Gill Blair	Sheila Bruce
Treasurer/Memb. Sec.	Michael Bayley	Robert Newton	Jan Galloway
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Newton	Sheila Bruce	Michael Bayley
Young Ringers Organiser	Peter Jasper	Cordelia Thompson	Charles Botting
Branch Representative (1)	Jan Galloway	Ros Garrett-Bowes	Stuart Galloway
Branch Representative (2)	Ros Garrett-Bowes	Jan Galloway	Stuart Galloway
Branch Representative (3)	John Davidge	Ken Darvill	Robert Newton

Having established that there were no further nominations, the Chairman proposed that the officers should be elected en bloc. This was agreed and the above officers were elected unanimously.

8. Appointment of other Managers

The following had been nominated and seconded in advance of the meeting and details had been circulated:

Position	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
IT Manager	Ken Darvill	Matthew Johnson	Robert Newton
Webmaster	Ken Darvill	Matthew Johnson	Robert Newton
Independent Assessor	Peter Blower	Patricia Newton	Jan Galloway
Assessor			
100 Club Manager	Margaret Carlyle	Michael Bayley	Angela Darvill

There being no further nominations, these people were elected unanimously.

9. Report and Accounts of Fundraising Committee

The report and accounts of the Fundraising committee had been circulated in advance. The secretary (Patricia Newton) commented that in addition to the money sent from the Committee, £600 had also been sent to the Bell Fund from the 100 Club during 2019.

10. A.O.B.

a) Michael Bayley (Treasurer and Membership Secretary) raised the matter of next year's subscriptions. Katie Lane (Guild Master) informed the meeting that there is likely to be a reduction in the level of Guild subscriptions, and this will be discussed at the General Committee meeting at the end of November. Branches may also offer a reduction. There are some expenses, such as insurance, that still have to be covered.

Ken Darvill (Guild Secretary) pointed out that the £8 subscription that we normally pay is split with £5 going to the Guild and £3 being retained by the branches.

Michael Bayley stated that Branch finances are healthy so we could take a cut in subscription. This will be discussed and a decision made by the Branch Officers.

The new members elected today will pay/have paid £8 for this year's membership. Alison Bayley said that she would pay next year's for her new members out of their funds because her new members have had very little ringing this year.

b) Jan Galloway raised a comment from Chris Potter who said that at the recent Chiltern Branch AGM a suggestion had been made that since there are many 6-bell towers in the Chiltern Branch where ringing cannot currently take place, Chiltern Branch ringers could ring at EBSB towers so that they can keep their hand in. The Chairman pointed out that following this meeting the Government announcement may mean that there will be no ringing at all anyway. This matter could be taken to the Branch Committee meeting. Patricia Newton and Alison Bayley both had their own ringers on a rota basis so could not accommodate outsiders. This is probably the situation at some other towers. Peter Sippitt said that there is no ringing at Chenies because of the size of the ringing chamber so they cannot accept visitors.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.30 pm, thanking again Bev and Charles Botting for hosting the meeting. He welcomed the new Ringing Master, Matthew Johnson, and hoped that he would get the chance to run a practice, thanked the existing committee for the work they have done this year and thanked everyone for attending the meeting.