

Minutes of the Lent Term Business Meeting held in St Bene't's Church, Cambridge on Friday 19th January 2007

Members Present

President: C Y Barlow
Master: J E Butler
Senior Treasurer: M S Edwards
Secretary: L T W Smith

M D Dawson	J Pratt
P J Earis	J D Shanklin
C M P Johnson	R A Smith
J E A Lewis	D A Winter

The President was in the chair and opened the meeting at 21:08.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

T K Beadman
J D Sherwood
L D G Simpson

2. Minutes of the Michaelmas Term Business Meeting

The minutes of the meeting were read by the Secretary. The meeting voted to accept them as read, and they were signed by the President as a true and correct record of the meeting.

3. Matters Arising

The President reminded the meeting that as S C Farrar is standing down as a Central Council representative, the Guild needs to find someone to fill this vacancy. This has to be done before the end of the Lent Term, because nominations for Senior Officers must be submitted before the dinner. R A Smith enquired if we in fact need to elect two representatives due the end of the Council's triennium approaching. After brief discussion, the meeting agreed that two representatives need to be elected this year.

The Master spoke about the introduction of the donation box at St Andrew's practices, whose purpose was to raise funds for the Guild's handbells. She reported that discussion amongst the students showed that the box system was impractical, so it was agreed that donations would be submitted on a termly basis. P J Earis enquired if these donations could be gift aided, but D A Winter doubted this because students do not pay tax. D A Winter also apologised for continually forgetting to bring the donation box along to practices, which was another factor in the lack of success of the system. P J Earis recommended that people also make contributions at St Bene't's practices, commenting that the church treasurer is very much in favour of this happening.

The Master noted that there had been no further news regarding the peal board for St Mary the Great. It was agreed that F H King should be left to deal with this project, but it was recommended that enquiries are made about its progress.

There had been no further action concerning washing the bellropes at St Andrew's. However, J Pratt commented that he had checked them for wear.

The Master reported that the SUA had proved to be a success and she had received nothing but good reports about the event. The Guild was placed first in the 6 bell competition and second in the 8 bell competition.

With respect to the Guild's library, there had not been much progress since the last meeting. The Master reported that the junior officers had sorted the books in C M P Johnson's room into the categories agreed on at the last meeting, but this had not been easy because they were not book experts. It was planned to contact the Central Council and College Youth's librarians to seek their advice on any valuable books the Guild might possess.

M S Edwards commented that he had little input into the organisation of the tea for the Joint Meeting due to the efficient work of J D Shanklin. J D Shanklin said that all the reports he had received from the Ely D.A. about the event had been very positive.

4. Election of New Members

There were no new members to elect.

The Master pointed out that although there were several people learning to ring with the Guild, discussion with them had showed that they would be more comfortable becoming members once they were slightly more advanced – possibly at the AGM. The President encouraged them to be invited to the dinner.

5. Michaelhouse

The President reported that she had had a meeting with the vicar of St Mary the Great to discuss the Michaelhouse project. The church is very keen and enthusiastic about the project at the current time, but it was noted that in the future its view might change and we would have to respect this. There is no guarantee of any financial support from the church, but they are nevertheless happy for us to progress the project further. It was requested that a Guild representative attend a future PCC meeting to discuss the project.

The Secretary said that he had not received any response from Whites of Appleton regarding carrying out a survey of the tower. R A Smith noted that Brian White had retired, and suggested contacting Graham Clifton by e-mail. The Secretary agreed to further pursue this matter.

6. Diary Dates

The key dates for the term were provided on the agenda.

The Master encouraged members to support the ringing for University Sermons, as attendance is sometimes lacking. She particularly made reference to the sermon on 4th February, as several

members will be away in Oxford that weekend. She also announced that the date for the Joint Outing with the OUS is different to that previously advertised. It is to be held in London, and lots of support would be appreciated.

The Master confirmed that the speakers for the dinner had been arranged and the prices were decided upon (£43 drinking, £37 non-drinking). She asked members to send their replies to the Secretary soon. It was noted that there had been several requests from members for the seating plan to be less static – people found that they tended to sit with the same group of people each year. J D Shanklin suggested solving this by drawing names from a hat.

The Master finished by advertising the OUS dinner to be held on 3rd February, and a quiz to be held at St Mary the Great on the evening of 10th March.

M D Dawson welcomed members to attend the Liverpool University dinner on 17th February.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The Master speculated that the date for this is to be Sunday 6th May. The President confirmed this, stating that a bank holiday weekend had been chosen to make it easier for non-resident members to attend. The Secretary enquired about the location for the meeting, and C M P Johnson confirmed that it will be possible for it to once again be held in St John's College.

8. Any Other Business

P J Earis reiterated that if any member would like any issue brought to the attention of the council then they should contact him. He also pointed out that S C Farrar is still banned from his Council related activities.

With no other business, the President closed the meeting at 21:41.