

**BRISTOL RURAL BRANCH A.G.M. MINUTES**  
**25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 – St JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, FRENCHAY**

**1. Opening and Vote of Thanks**

The Chairman opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked the Curate and Organist and for the service and the members of Frenchay Church who provided the tea.

**2. Attendance**

The meeting was attended by 25 members.

**3. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Tony and Mary York, Alison Holliday, Julie and Nigel Scudamore, Ada Thomas, Angela Robb, Sue Elliott, Janet and Nick Moller, Robin Shipp.

**4. Approval of 2022 Minutes** The minutes had been circulated on the Branch website before the meeting and were approved. Proposed by Gill Greef, seconded by Neil Evans.

**5. Matters Arising**

The Association is looking for all towers to use What 3 Words as an aid for the emergency services should it be necessary, Alison Holliday dealing.

**6. Approval of 2023 Accounts**

The Accounts were circulated on the Branch website before the meeting and were approved. Proposed by Linda Gittings, seconded by Phil Coward. Linda Gittings also enquired where the money for fundraising activities came from, mostly Barbecue and Quiz. Sandi Hardwicke mentioned the auditor should sign the sheet with his/her name rather than initials.

**7. Committee Reports**

The Committee Members reports were circulated on the Branch website before the meeting and there were no issues.

**8. Branch Officer Elections** All the officers except the Chairman were prepared to stand again and were re-elected. Bryan Hardwicke, proposed by Geoff Pick and was unanimously elected as Chairman by the membership. It was suggested the post of Publicity Officer was created but nobody was able to take it. Catherine White-Horne said she was willing to offer advice on recruiting young people. Geoff Pick suggested using Facebook to pass the message around.

**9. Applications to Belfry Repair Fund**

Siston - The Chairman proposed a grant of £1474.68, matching the grant from the G&B, towards the repair work - unanimously accepted. Grants may also be required later at Doynton to hopefully get the bells ringing again, and Dyrham for repairs.

## **10. Membership**

The following new members were elected:-

Abson - Tricia Connor.

Mangotsfield - Andrew Ryrie.

Thornbury - Elizabeth Clarke

Tytherington - Paul Selby, Richard Stephens

40 years + membership - Bill Liebow

## **11. Association Matters**

The Peal Secretary and Central Council Rep, Simon Edwards, will be standing down at the AGM. The Branch did not propose anyone for those positions but supported all other committee members who are prepared to stand again.

## **12. 2022 Recruitment and Training**

The Branch programme was approved and it was decided we should stick to afternoon meetings.

## **13. May Day Outing 2023**

Geoff Pick suggested South Wales but is open to any other suggestions.

## **14. Achievement of the Year Competition**

It was suggested Siston should be entered as their rehang should be completed within 1 year of the cracked bell being found.

## **15. CCTV Bookings**

Towers to let branch know if CCTV is required.

## **16. Proposal for ringers contribute £1 at Branch meetings**

This was proposed by Geoff Pick as it was done in his previous area. He decided to withdraw after it was pointed out by the treasurer that it was not in line with G&B rules. He felt, however, that members should consider leaving a small donation whenever they visit another tower, including at Branch Meetings

## **17. A.O.B.**

Farcited - Linda Gittings wished to stand down from organising the monthly meetings as she felt it was better for a local person to do it. Geoff Pick agreed to take over, he also thanked Linda for her work over the last few years.

John Payton proposed a vote of thanks to Chris Greef for 18 years as Branch Chairman.

On behalf of Syston tower Bryan Hardwick expressed gratitude to Chris Greef and Robin Shipp for their work to assist Nicholson's bellhanger's thereby resulting in a significant cost saving for the installation of the replacement bell.