

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELLRINGERS BELL RESTORATION FUND

Registered Charity No. 508531

FUND RULES as formally adopted on 6th March 2019

(Page 1 of 2)

1. (a) The fund shall be known as The Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers Bell Restoration Fund (hereinafter to be called "the Fund"), and be a registered charity as defined in law.

(b) Members of the Fund (who are entitled to speak and vote at general meetings) shall consist of fully paid up members of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers (other than Non-Resident Life Members), and one representative from each affiliated church.
2. The objects of the Fund shall be:
 - (a) To assist bell restoration, installation and augmentation in the Diocese, and the churches of New Radnor, Glasbury, Talgarth, Welshpool and Knighton, (the eligible churches), by means of monetary grants.
 - (b) To acquire, by purchase or otherwise, bells, frames and fittings which may become redundant or otherwise be available, with a view to having them installed in eligible churches.
 - (c) To purchase, preserve, restore, maintain and exhibit bells from within the Diocese, which are considered of historic or other importance.
3. (a) Management of the Fund shall be vested in the Trustees who shall number between six and nine.

(b) Trustees shall be Members of the Fund, and be elected (or be re-elected) at the Annual General Meeting. At their discretion, they may co-opt new Trustees as needed to maintain a viable working Committee.

(c) The Trustees shall meet as often as they deem necessary, but at least once a year, and will appoint from within their number a chairman, treasurer and secretary to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The assets of the Fund (monetary or property) shall be vested in the names of the Trustees.
5. (a) Affiliated Membership of the Fund shall be available to all eligible churches on payment of the appropriate annual fee. An eligible church wishing to become affiliated may make its first payment by cheque or direct transfer to the Fund's bank account, but thereafter the annual renewal fee shall be paid by standing order. A closed or redundant church may not become affiliated to the Fund, and any existing affiliation ceases if a church is closed, formally declared redundant, or placed in the care of The Churches Conservation Trust.

(b) The annual affiliation fee is due on January 1st, and any church not making the correct payment by March 31st will be deemed to have resigned its affiliation to the Fund. The Trustees will make reasonable efforts to investigate any late, unpaid or incorrect affiliation fee payment, and will refer any unresolved cases to the Annual General Meeting for a final decision on that church's membership.

(c) Grants may only be made by the Fund to affiliated churches who are fully paid up to date. All applications must be made on behalf of the affiliated church's PCC, and grant monies will only be paid to that PCC.

(d) The amount of any grant will be considered by the Trustees, and a recommendation for its approval will be put forward at a general meeting of the Fund. Factors affecting the decision on all applications will be the amount of funds available, how long the applicant church has been affiliated, their previous grant history, and the merits of the project itself. Unless otherwise specified, grant offers will be valid for two years from the date of offer, and work must have started within that period, but need not have been completed.

(e) No grant monies will be paid from the Fund unless the grant has been previously approved at a general meeting of the Fund, and until the work to which the grant relates has been satisfactorily completed.

(f) No grant will be made for work to clock mechanisms, chiming apparatus or tower repairs, the renewal of stays, or to bells not set up for full-circle ringing. No grant will be made for the repair or renewal of ropes, except in the case of equipping any additional bell(s) to the tower. At their discretion, the Trustees may consider grant-aiding new ropes for a derelict tower project where the old ropes are deemed unusable.

6. (a) An Annual General Meeting will be held on a date agreed by the previous meeting, and at least fourteen days' notice given in "The Ringing World" or any similar publication which may succeed it. The Trustees may call Extraordinary General Meetings as they think necessary, and a similar period of notice be given. A quorum for any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting shall be twelve Members of the Fund.
- (b) The business of the Annual General Meeting shall include:
 - i) Approving the election of Trustees (to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting), and the Trustees' nominations for Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary for that period.
 - (ii) Approving the Fund's Annual Accounts, and the Trustees' nomination of an independent examiner for the following year, to certify that the accounts are in accordance with the bank statements and other records.
 - (iii) Approving the Trustees' recommendation for the investment of funds for the following year.
 - (iv) Approving any other officials (as recommended by the Trustees) for the proper administration of the Fund, and the planning of fundraising activities, providing the Fund does not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary charitable objective.
 - (v) Approving the level of the annual affiliation fee to be levied on the number of full circle ringing bells in the towers of affiliated churches, excluding Sanctus bells.
 - (vi) To receive a report of all actions taken by the Trustees under the provisions of Rule 8 (a) hereof.
 - (vii) To discuss any applications made by affiliated churches to the Fund, and to approve monetary grants.
 - (viii) To make funds available to the Trustees to allow for the purchase, transportation, storage and insurance of bells as empowered by Rule 8 (a) hereof.
 - (ix) To approve the Trustees' recommendations for the storage or installation of any bells bought by the Fund.
7. Applications for grants from the Fund must be made in writing to the Secretary at least one calendar month before the Annual General Meeting. These must contain a fully completed application form, with estimates for the proposed work, and where possible an expected completion date. All relevant information requested by the Trustees must be provided for a grant to be considered.
8. (a) The Trustees are collectively empowered to purchase bells, bell frames or fittings which become available between meetings of the Fund, out of monies allocated by the previous general meeting for that purpose under Rule 6 (b) viii, and to arrange their retention, transportation, storage and insurance, provided that having taken suitable advice, they are satisfied that the items should be acquired by the Fund.
- (b) The Trustees and others approved by Rule 6 (b) iv, may organize fundraising activities to benefit the Fund.
9. (a) All decisions taken at any meeting of the Fund (excluding those on Rule changes as per Rule 10) shall be approved by a simple majority of the members present. The Chairman shall have a casting vote only.
- (b) The term "Diocese" shall be taken to mean the Diocese of Hereford as exists on 1st January 1976.
- (c) The term "churches" shall be taken to mean all structures in which a bell may be hung for full circle ringing.
- (d) No amendment(s) to the Fund Rules shall be made, except at an Annual General Meeting. Notice of any proposed changes must be made in writing to the Secretary at least one calendar month before the Annual Meeting.
- (e) The interpretation of these Rules, and decisions on any matters not specifically included in them shall be made by Members of the Fund at a meeting of the Fund.
10. No Rules changes can be made that will cause the Fund to cease to be a charity in law. Any proposed changes must be supported by not less than two thirds of those members voting in person or by proxy. No alteration may be made to Rules 2, 10 and 11 without the approval of the Charity Commissioners.
11. If upon formally winding up or dissolving the Fund there remains (after settling all liabilities) any property whatsoever, this shall not be paid or distributed among the Members of the Fund, but given or transferred to another registered charity (or charities) established for similar purposes, as the Fund so decides.