HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD OF BELLRINGERS
BELL RESTORATION FUND

Registered Charity No. 508531

c/o **Mrs Ginette Pardoe, Hon. Secretary**
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Minutes of meeting of the Trustees of the Hereford Diocesan Guild Bell Restoration Fund (the BRF) held at Leominster Community Centre on Wednesday 15th October 2025.

Present: Frederick Shallcross (Chairman), Ginette Pardoe (Hon. Secretary), Richard Clements (Treasurer), Mark Pugh, Jane Mason, Neil Bennett, Sue Hack, Ann Bennett, Phil Buggins, Nick Cooper-Tomkins, Stuart Edinburgh (8.10pm), Barbara Fox, John Hill, Roger Moss, Anne Newman, Andrew Watkins, Fran Watkins.

Apologies: Penny Salisbury, Neil Bragg, Ashley Fortley, Kris Peruzza, Valerie Roberts, Sue Robinson, Jason Walker.

1. **Welcome by FS and one minute silence for Cherry Hughes**
   Rick welcomed everyone to the meeting. A one-minute silence was held for our Previous Hon. Secretary who had sadly passed away since the last meeting.

2. **Minutes of the last AGM**
   Copies of the minutes were distributed. It was commented that these had not been distributed prior to the meeting. It was thought that they had been distributed by the Guild Secretary in the past - Action GP
   The minutes were approved by Richard Clements and seconded by Sue Hack.

3. **Matters arising**
   None

4. **Treasurer's report**
   Richard Clements distributed the accounts.
   The BRF's previous Independent Examiner is retiring, and it is thought it unlikely he will conduct this role again.
   A thank you note is to be sent to Keith – Action RC
   A new Independent Examiner is to be sought – Action RC

5. **Approval of investments**
   The accounts were distributed. There have not been any substantial changes in investments since 2022. Richard has internet access to two HSBC accounts. There has been no movement apart from accumulation of interest on CofE and Virgin money accounts. The bank charge a fee of 50p per cheque, so the BRF ask for bank transfers rather than cheques where possible.

6. **600+ lottery**
   Mark Pugh has taken on the organisation of the 600+ lottery. He gave a big thank you to the District Representatives for all the work they do to support it.
   There are four draws per year, and the next one will take place in early December. Mark will get the 600+ application forms sent out before District AGMs. Anyone over the age of

18 can buy a ticket and they don't need to be a member of the Guild. Prizes must be paid by cheque as it's not feasible to get everyone's bank account details and there are also issues with data protection.
Barbara queried if it would be possible to publicise the 600 club more and advertise the winners. It isn't possible to publicise names or ticket numbers of winners due to GDPR, but we could advertise when the draws are taking place, and which District the winners are from – Action RC / MP
Richard thanked Barbara for her suggestions.

Conflicts of Interest
Rick asked the room if anyone has any declarations of interest to share. Ginette declared that she is now Hon. Secretary of the BRF and has an ongoing project at Broseley. Rick asked if anyone else had any conflicts of interest to share but no one else came forward.

7. **Election of Officers**
Sue explained the significant responsibilities and obligations of the BRF Trustees. The Trustees must be constantly aware of conflicts of interest and ensure they treat everyone in the same fashion. The Trustees must make reasonable decisions that any body of Trustees would make, whilst being answerable to both the Charity Commission and Guild members.
Rick then spoke about his fellow Trustees. The BRF have gone to some effort not to concentrate all officers in one particular place and are spread quite evenly across the area covered by the Guild. Richard has financial expertise and has taken over the role of Treasurer from Neil last year, who did an exemplary job over the years. Sue has knowledge of the law. Mark is our bell expert and is also now looking
after the 600+ club. Jane has expertise of working with charities. Penny has moved away but is a good asset to have in the North Shropshire area.
All Trustees were willing to stand again.
Nick Cooper-Tomkins proposed that all Trustees were elected, and this was seconded by Anne Newman. Nick thanked the committee for their efforts during the year.

8. **Projects completed and ongoing projects**

Much Wenlock
Much Wenlock have received a grant and are happy with the work they have had carried out.

Broseley
Broseley have raised just over half of the funds required for their project. There is an issue with the church pipe organ, which is on the first floor of the tower. It was planned that three groups would work towards relocating and restoring the organ, leaving space for a Heritage Centre on the first floor of the tower. Two of these groups have lost interest in the project, leaving the bell ringers to either raise £190,000 for the organ or find an alternative means of completing their project.
Andrew Nicholson from Nicholson Engineering was due to visit Broseley on the day of the BRF AGM to look at the feasibility of removing the bells through the louvres but had to cancel due to Covid. Fundraising is continuing while the issue is resolved.
Fran asked if the grant for Broseley was still valid as, according to the BRF rules, grants are valid for two years. Ginette advised that she was not aware of the status of the grant, though she believed the offer must be around two years old, and felt that a new application could be made if necessary.
Fran enquired if Ginette had had any discussions with the BRF regarding the Broseley grant since taking office. Ginette replied that due to the issue with the organ she had not

seen any point in raising the subject of the grant since taking on the role. She stated she had kept the BRF up to date on the status of the project, but the grant application had not been discussed. Rick confirmed this was the case.
Rick said that most projects took more than two years to come to fruition, and the BRF ought to look at either extending the validity period of a grant, or reviewing grant offers every two years – Action BRF Trustees.
Nick suggested that churches could put in a grant application later in the project process. Ginette mentioned that she had received some useful advice from the BRF in the early stages of the project. Rick pointed out that earlier applications help the BRF to plan their finances.

9. **New grant applications**
   There have been no formal applications since the last meeting, but there has been an informal application from Mordiford.

   Mordiford
   Rick said that this project had been a difficult one for the BRF to consider. Mordiford has been told repeatedly that they need to be affiliated to the BRF to receive a grant before Barbara took over the clerical work for the project. Another church joined the BRF, obtained a grant and then cancelled their payments, which is why the BRF like to see a payment history before awarding a grant.
   The BRF had concerns that only one quote has been received and that quote was from Taylors, who Nick undertakes some work for. Nick clarified that he works for someone who sometimes contracts for Taylors. Sue stressed that conflict of interest is specifically mentioned by the Charity Commission and obtaining at least two quotes is normal practice.
   A completed form has still not been received from Mordiford, despite hearing that the project was completed, and the BRF do not have a breakdown of eligible costs.
   Nick stated the Matthew Higby wanted to rip the bells out, Nicholson wasn't interested in the project and Blyth & Co said they were too busy. Nick said that Taylor's came back with a very good quote and that around £12,000 was saved with local labour.
   The bells are now rung regularly including once per month for Sunday service.
   Despite their concerns, the BRF are supportive of this project. Rick will work with Barbara to work out which parts of the project are eligible for a grant and all being well the BRF will be able to offer a grant.

10. **George Cousins Cup**
    There have been no nominations for the cup this year. Rick said that we probably ought to advertise the cup on the Guild website and will consider doing this for next year. – Action GP
    George gave the cup so that it could be awarded to people who had put a lot of effort into doing up their ringing room. The cup in currently at Dorstone.
    The BRF welcome nominations at any time.

    Closing comments
    Rick thanked Nicky and the Guild fundraising team for the very successful open day. The BRF are very grateful to any money the Guild donates to the BRF as it goes back into the bells.
    The BRF representatives do a fantastic job and the BRF do not want to put undue pressure on them by expecting them to undertake fundraising activities.
    Rick thanked everyone for attending the meeting.