

North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers

Annual General Meeting and Business Meeting

St Michael & St Wulfad, Stone, 6th December 2025

MINUTES

The meeting began at 18.18 with the President in the chair.

Present: The Venerable Dr Megan Smith (President)
Nigel Horritt (Chairman)
Greg Pearce (Secretary)
Andrew Aspland (Ringing Master and Bell Adviser)
Liz Fitzgibbon (Treasurer)
Nicky Green (Committee Member)

Approximately other 20 members including representatives of Alton, Biddulph, Checkley, Hoar Cross, Horton, Ipstones, Keele, Stafford, Stoke, Stone.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Alan Walters, Wendy Walters, Ray Daw, Wendy Daw, Trevor Lock, Tim Hine, Charlie Ernest, Eleanor Davenport.

2. Minutes of the last business meeting (Barlaston, 4th October 2025)

The minutes of the business meeting on 4th October December 2025 were accepted as a true record with no matters arising. Proposed by Phil Gay, seconded by Andrew Aspland.

3. Loss of members through death

The President said a short prayer and led a minute's silence in memory of Michael Broomfield, Ian Friend, Glenda Rowley, Syd Scott and Heather Eyre.

4. Officers' reports

- The committee report (Nigel Horritt/committee) was distributed. In summary from the report:
 - Restoration work has been completed at Barton-under-Needwood and Uttoxeter, and the committee thanked Andrew for his work as bell adviser having taken over from David Jack.
 - Chris Adams has stood down as 100 Club organiser and the committee thanked him for his work on the 100 Club. Judith Ward of Ipstones has taken over running the 100 Club.
 - This year has seen the establishment of a Young Ringers band and the committee thanked Sam and Josie Martin for their hard work running it.

The report was accepted without comment.

- Treasurer's annual report (Liz Fitzgibbon) – Liz explained that membership subscriptions had increased this year but there were fewer members. The BRF has paid out grants of £10,000 in total to Barton-under-Needwood and Cheadle RC.

At the end of the financial year, the balance of the General Fund was £1,644.81 and of the BRF £9,666.24. Grants of £5,500 to Uttoxeter and £600 to Keele have been approved in

principle by the Trustees. The accounts have been reviewed and approved by the independent examiner.

Liz mentioned that the receipts from Easy Fundraising were down and encouraged those present to use it.

- Bell adviser's report (Andrew Aspland) – maintenance visits have been paid to Fenton, Ingestre and Tunstall. Major work has been carried out at Uttoxeter, Cheadle RC and Barton-under-Needwood all with support of the BRF. Rangemore and Hanbury have had some ongoing maintenance. The report was accepted without comment.
- Peal secretary's report (Phil Gay) – Phil reported two peals for the Association during the last year and the report was accepted without comment.

Greg added that a peal had been rung today including two first peal ringers and congratulated them on their achievement. Phil explained that this would be reported in next year's peal report and added that there had also been a number of new quarter peal ringers.

- Education officer's and membership reports (Trevor Lock) – there has been teaching at Standon, Swynnerton, Haughton and Seighford in a joint effort, and Chebsey bells are now being rung again for services. Trevor thanked David Crump for recruiting in the area. A number of education quarter peals have been rung and Trevor encourages anyone who would like to ring a quarter peal to get in touch. Josie, Sam and Eden have started a Young Ringers practice and they entered the under-18 national youth striking competition for the first time, this year in Birmingham. There has been a regular 12-bell practice at Stafford.

We currently have 354 members but are awaiting subscriptions from 4 towers. 28 members have chosen not to renew.

The reports were accepted without comment.

5. Election of officers and committee members

		Proposer	Seconder
Chairman (committee)	Alan Walters	Greg Pearce	Nicky Green
Secretary (committee)	Greg Pearce	James Went	Paul Kingman
Treasurer (committee)	Liz Fitzgibbon	Robert Barcroft	Nigel Horritt
Ringling Master (committee)	Andrew Aspland	Lizanne Pettit	John G Burton
Deputy Ringling Master	Rob Barcroft	Lizanne Pettit	John G Burton
Bell Adviser	Andrew Aspland	Jenny Beech	Robert Barcroft
Peal Secretary	Phil Gay	Paul Kingman	Robert Barcroft
Education Officer	Charlie Ernest	Sue Boden	Phil Gay
Public Relations Officer	Nigel Horritt	James Went	Jenny Beech
Membership Secretary	Trevor Lock	Robert Barcroft	Liz Fitzgibbon
Safeguarding Coordinator	Ray Daw	Paul Kingman	Margaret Simpson
Central Council Representative (1)	Andrew Aspland	Liz Fitzgibbon	Nicky Green
Central Council Representative (2)	Greg Pearce	Paul Kingman	Nicky Green
Central Council Representative (3)	<i>position vacant</i>		
Committee Member (non-officer)	Nicky Green	Liz Fitzgibbon	Jenny Beech
Committee Member	Eleanor Davenport	Liz Fitzgibbon	Greg Pearce
Committee Member	Trevor Lock	James Went	Selwyn Jones
LDMB Trustee	Phil Gay	James Went	Greg Pearce
LDMB Trustee	Alan Walters	Nigel Horritt	Margaret Simpson
Independent Examiner	Heather Budd	Jenny Beech	Selwyn Jones

There were no other nominations and so the above officers were all elected unopposed.

Non-elected posts were reported as:

- Newsletter editor – position vacant
- Handbook editor – Sue Kingman
- Webmaster – Chris Adams
- Diocesan striking competition coordinator – Andrew Aspland

6. Election and elevation of members

First Name	Surname	Tower	Type	Comment	Proposer	Seconder
Alison	Maguire	Alton	AM		Alan Walters	Wendy Walters
Philip	Webb	Audley	AM		Deborah Verdiani	Brian Hanmore
Cerith	Davies	Checkley	AM		Calum Forsyth	Mike Flower
Beverley	Davies	Checkley	AM		Calum Forsyth	Mike Flower
Suzanne	Gilmore	Church Eaton	AM		Iain Waine	Michael Faarup
Ken	Hewitt	Church Eaton	AM		Iain Waine	Julie Howarth
Debbie	Baker	Gnosall	RM	Elevation from AM	Richard Harris	Trevor Lock
Graham	Baker	Gnosall	RM	Elevation from AM	Richard Harris	Trevor Lock
Patricia	Robinson	Horton	RM		Robert Barcroft	Philip Wood
Philip	Robinson	Horton	AM		Robert Barcroft	Philip Wood
Zoe	Gayes	Leek	AM		Phil Langford	Sue Langford
Abi	Bryan	Madeley	RM		Josie Martin	Phil Gay
Joseph	Bryan	Madeley	JRM		Josie Martin	Phil Gay
Emma	Machin	Madeley	RM		Josie Martin	Phil Gay
Lucy	Flint	Sandon	AM		Rose Pemberton	Ken Pemberton
Garry	Furber	Sandon	AM		Rose Pemberton	Ken Pemberton
Rosemary	Wildblood	Sandon	AM		Rose Pemberton	Ken Pemberton
Hugo	Wildblood	Sandon	AM		Rose Pemberton	Ken Pemberton
Louise	Higson	Stone	RM		Peter Burgess	Greg Pearce

All elected unopposed.

7. Financial report

The Treasurer reported current balances of:

- General fund: £5,193.89
- BRF: £10,132.91

8. Updates

- BRF projects

No further updates.

9. AOB

10. Meeting close

The meeting closed at 18.46.