

**North Staffordshire Association of Change Ringers**  
**Minutes of Business Meeting on Saturday 07/03/2026 at St Mary, Stafford**

- 1) **Welcome** from the Chairman, Alan Walters at 1340.
- 2) **Minutes** of the Business Meeting and AGM held on Saturday 06/12/25 at Stone were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Nigel Horritt, seconded by Liz Fitzgibbon.
- 3) **Matters Arising:** None.
- 4) **Election of New Members/Elevation of Members**

First Name	Surname	Tower	type	Comment	Proposer	Seconder
Alison	Maguire	Alton	RM	Elevation from AM to RM	Alan Walters	Liz Fitzgibbon
Ben	Gunn	Gnosall	RM		Richard Harris	Trevor Lock
Shirley	Harris	Gnosall	RM		Richard Harris	Trevor Lock
Philip	Lowe	Ipstones	RM	Elevation from AM to RM	David Jack	Liz Fitzgibbon
Iona	Hague	Rolleston	AM		Lee Cooke	Trevor Lock
Eli	Hickey	Rolleston	JRM		Lee Cooke	Trevor Lock
Stephen	Hickey	Rolleston	RM		Lee Cooke	Trevor Lock
Lewis	Roberts	Stoke	AM		Ray Daw	Greg Pearce

All elected unopposed.

- 5) **Financial Report:** The current balances (as of 06/03/26) were reported by the Treasurer:
  - **GF balance:** £5,322.75
  - **BRF balance:** £10,395.73

Liz explained that subscriptions income had increased this year but that this was a result of the increase in the subscription, not an increase in membership.

- 6) **Updates:**

**BRF:** Andrew Aspland reported that he had been in contact with Uttoxeter and they still intend to claim their grant of £5,500 from the BRF and will be in touch shortly to do this. It was also reported that the problem with a bearing at Keele had been resolved with local labour and that Keele would not be claiming from the BRF for this work. This leaves just under £5,000 unallocated in the BRF.

**Intangible Cultural Heritage:** Alan Walters explained that the Central Council were in the process of preparing a submission to have change ringing listed in the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which the UK has recently joined. This could have some advantages when applying for grants, dealing with complaints etc. and there were no obvious disadvantages. Alan proposed that he sign the Central Council's petition on behalf of the Association. All were in favour.

**Forthcoming events:** Andrew explained that the April meeting was a week later than usual because of the need to avoid Holy Week. The April meeting will be on 11th April at Norton in Hales (2pm) and Madeley (3.30pm). We had originally intended to hold a meeting at Silverdale but the bells are not currently in a ringable state; Andrew is investigating what work will be needed to improve their condition, but they will not be ready by the time of the meeting.

Dates of the Surprise Major practice (10th March), Young Ringers meeting (15th March) and Tuesday daytime band (17th March) were also announced.

- 7) **AOB:** None.
- 8) **Meeting closed** at 1352. The Chairman thanked all for attending.