

The Bedfordshire Association of Church Bell Ringers

BEDFORD DISTRICT BELL RESTORATION FUND RULES

Version 1 - 2001

Registered Charity Number 284250

1. The Fund shall be known as the "The Bedford District Bell Restoration Fund".
2. The object of the Fund shall be to advance the Christian Religion by providing financial assistance to Churches in the area of the Bedfordshire Association's Bedford District for the purpose of maintaining and improving their bell installations by making grants to them. Maintenance and improvement of a bell installation shall be deemed to include the following:-
 - a) taking out an existing ring of bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, recasting the bells and erecting the same.
 - b) taking out, overhauling and reclapping existing bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings and re-erecting bells.
 - c) taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings, recasting, or overhauling and reclapping same and re-erecting.
 - d) augmenting and bringing existing bells, frame and fittings into an adequate state of repair.
 - e) other major repairs to bells, frame, fittings and tower.
 - f) the provision of bells, frames and fittings and erection of the same in Churches which previously had none.
 - g) the acquisition of bells from Churches declared redundant, for subsequent redeployment and/or recasting.
 - h) the provision and/or repair of bell ropes.
 - i) the provision and/or repair of sound control.
 - j) granting short term loans to P.C.C.'s within the Bedford District to assist in achieving any of a) to i) above.
3. The Fund shall be administered by the Bedford District Committee comprising the District Chairman, the District Secretary, the Treasurer of the District Bell Restoration Fund and such number of committee members elected by the Annual District Meeting from time to time. The Committee shall consider applications for financial assistance and refer any recommendations for decision by a simple majority of Bedford District members present and qualified to vote at the next business meeting of the District.
4.
 - a) Applications for financial assistance shall be made in writing to the District Secretary and shall contain a specification of the proposed work, estimated cost, and details of how the work is to be financed.
 - b) Applications shall be considered by the District Committee within three calendar months from the date received by the District Secretary and any recommendations shall be an item on the agenda of the next business meeting of the District. The Secretary shall notify the applicant in writing of the decision regarding the application.
 - c) If an application is made before the work is commenced, the applicant must advise the Secretary as soon as the work is commenced and the grant will lapse if the work is not commenced within 1 year.

- d) Application for payment of the grant shall be made in writing to the Secretary after completion of the work and this application shall be accompanied by a copy of the final account and details of any variation from the original specification. The grant may be amended after consideration of the work carried out and its final cost. Only one grant will be paid in respect of each completed proposal.
- 5.
- a) The District Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees which will report back as soon as possible their actions fully and promptly to the Committee.
 - b) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt such persons as it considers necessary to assist in its deliberations. The number of co-opted persons at any meeting of the Committee shall not exceed three.
 - c) The management of the Bell Restoration Fund shall be an item on the agenda of every meeting of the Committee.
- 6.
- a) The District Chairman, the District Secretary and the Treasurer of the District Bell Restoration Fund for the time being shall be ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
 - b) Such bank accounts as may be required shall be opened in the name of the Fund. Withdrawals must be signed by two Trustees.
 - c) Any outstanding monies in the hands of the Committee not required for the immediate purpose of the Fund shall be invested in any manner authorized by law.
 - d) The Committee and its sub-committee shall have the power to raise funds by any means they see fit as long as permanent trading is not engaged in.
 - e) The Treasurer of the District Bell Restoration Fund and the Auditor of the Fund shall be appointed yearly at either an Annual District Meeting or a Special General Meeting.
7. No alteration, addition, or deletion of these rules shall be made so as to cause the Fund at any time to cease to be a charity in law. No alteration, addition or deletion shall be made except at an Annual District Meeting; and no alteration shall be made to the objects clause, this clause, or the dissolution clause without the prior approval of the Charity Commission. Notice of any proposed alteration, addition, or deletion of these rules shall be given in writing to the District Secretary at least one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual District Meeting. Alteration or addition to or deletion from these rules shall require a two-thirds majority of those District members present and entitled to vote.
8. In the event of dissolution of the Fund, the net assets of the Fund shall then be disposed of to any or between any of the following:-
- a) any charitable body or bodies with similar objectives, covering all or part of the same geographical area;
 - b) such charitable Bell Funds as the District may select;
 - c) equally among the Churches within the Bedford District having District members at the time of the dissolution for the purpose of bell maintenance and restoration.
- A decision to dissolve the Fund may only be taken at the Annual District Meeting under the same conditions for notice and voting as those prescribed in Rule 7 above.
9. The Treasurer of the District Bell Restoration Fund shall prepare accounts for each year ending 31st December and submit them to the Auditor of the Fund. The audited accounts, together with a report by the Trustees shall be submitted to the next Annual District Meeting.