Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers

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Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers
Bell Restoration Fund is a registered charity. Charity number 294239

Bell Restoration Fund – Governing Document

A charity's governing document is the legal rulebook for a charity, outlining its purpose, powers, structure, and how it should be run.

Any changes to this document require approval from the Charity Commission[1]. These changes can be Regulated or Administration. Regulated changes require full consultation with the Charity Commission such as changes to our purposes, changes to how trustees, members, and people or organisations connected to us benefit and what happens to the charity's money if we decide voluntarily to close it. All other changes are Administration and just need notifying to the Charity Commission who can prevent the change being enacted.

Currently the last DCA BRF Governing Document that was registered with the Charity Commission was in 1986 and all changes discussed at DCA General Meetings since then have been not been approved by the Charity Commission.

	Governing Document as defined in 1986
1.	The fund shall be known as the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund.
2.	The object of the Fund shall be to advance the Christian religion by providing financial assistance to churches in the county of Dorset (as defined by central government in 1983 or any future dates) for the purpose of maintaining or 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 reclappering existing bells, supplying and installing a new frame and fittings, and re-erecting the bells. (c) Taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings and recasting, or overhauling and reclappering said bells and re-erecting. (d) Augmentation and bringing existing bells, frame and fittings into an adequate state of repair. (e) Other major repairs to bells, frame, fittings and towers. (f) The provision of bells, frames and fittings and erection of same in churches which previously had none. (g) The acquisition of bells from churches within the County of Dorset declared redundant, for subsequent re-deployment and/or recasting.
3.	The membership of the fund shall be that of the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers as defined in the rules thereof.
4.	(a) The fund shall be administered by the committee of the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers, hereinafter referred to as 'The Committee'. (b) The Committee shall have the power, after considering an application submitted to it in writing, to approve a grant from the Fund. Should a grant not be taken up within two years then it shall lapse and a fresh application will be required. (c) The Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees which shall report back their actions fully and promptly to The Committee. (d) 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 one meeting of the Committee shall not exceed three. (e) The management of the Bell Restoration Fund shall be an item on the agenda of every meeting of The Committee.

[1] See CC36 on Charity Commission Web Site

5.	(a) The Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer of the Association shall be ex-officio Trustees of the fund. In addition two other members of the Association shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association to act as Trustees of the fund. (b) Such bank accounts as may be required shall be opened in the name of the fund. Any three of the four nominated trustees shall have the power to sign cheques. (c) Any outstanding monies in the hands of The Committee not required for immediate purposes of the fund shall be invested in any manner the Trustees may think fit in the best interests of the fund. (d) The Committee and its sub-committees shall have the power to raise funds by any means they see fit so long as permanent trading is not engaged in. (e) The fund shall be set up by the total transfer of the balance of those monies collected, made available or earmarked for Bell Restoration by the Association. (f) Special funds may be set up within the fund which will be allocated to bell restorations at specific churches with specified management committees. Monies may be collect for or transferred to these special funds. In the event of the specified management committee cancelling the specific project, the special fund may be incorporated into the fund.
6.	In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be disposed of as follows: (a) Any monies in special funds shall be transferred to the Parochial Church Council of the specified churches. (b) Any remaining monies shall be either transferred to any charitable body or bodies having similar objects covering all or part of the County of Dorset or distributed equally between those churches in the County of Dorset where Change Ringing may be practiced for the purpose of bell maintenance or restoration.
7.	The Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet as at 31st December in each year and an income and expenditure account for the year ended on that date which shall be audited by an Auditor elected by members of the Association at their Annual General Meeting, and presented to the members at the Annual General Meeting of the Association first held after 31st December in which the fund's accounts are prepared.
8.	No alteration or 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 the Annual General Meeting of the Association or an Extraordinary Meeting of the Association especially called for the purpose. Notice of any proposed alteration, addition or deletion shall be given to the Secretary of the Association at least one calendar month prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary Meeting.