

**Minutes of the Old North Berks Branch Extraordinary General Meeting  
Held by Zoom meeting on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

23 members attended the Extraordinary General Meeting.

**1) Apologies for absence**

Received from: Mark Cooke (Branch Webmaster), Nigel Findley and Jeanette Owen.

**2) Proposal to increase the annual subscription to the Branch from January 2024**

After discussions by the Branch Committee to increase the Old North Berks Branch annual subscriptions to £15 per year, it was proposed by Stuart Gibson and seconded by Richard Loyd that:

Following the decision by the Oxford Diocesan Guild to increase the annual subscription from £8 to £10 from **1st January 2024**, the additional subscription to the Old North Berks Branch will be increased to £5 from **1st January 2024**.

The need and reasons for this proposal:

1. The Guild annual subscription is being raised from £8 to £10. Currently £5 goes to the Guild and £3 is retained by the branch. This is changing to £7 to the Guild, with the branch still retaining £3.
2. The £5 will consist of £2.50 for branch restoration projects, and £2.50 for contributions towards the heating and lighting costs that are incurred by our churches at branch events other than those held on the regular practice night.
3. Church PCCs will be given £20 per event at the year end with the suggestion that it be put towards heating and lighting costs. It will be given directly to the PCC because legally any money donated in a church belongs to the PCC.

Following clarification that the £5 subscription to the Branch will be compulsory and is in line with subscriptions already charged by other branches in the Guild, it was unanimously decided in favour of the proposal.

**Therefore the annual subscription for Guild and Branch membership will be £15 per member from January 2024 until further notice.**

**3) Membermojo**

Stuart Gibson advised that the Guild had taken the decision to use the Membermojo online membership management software from January 2025. This should improve the record of members and provide the Guild with a simpler way to communicate with its members. This software is already being used by other Guilds and Associations and is GDPR compliant.

The Guild has set up a team of people to action this decision, which includes from our Branch Stuart Gibson (Guild and Branch Treasurer) and Jenny Bennett (Branch Vice Chairman), who was involved in the setting up of Membermojo in the Lincoln Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

A statement from the Guild will shortly be given to the Branch and more information will be forthcoming.

Following discussion, Stuart Gibson advised that:

- All Guild members will be asked to provide their email addresses. For young members and those without email addresses, it will be possible to nominate someone's email address or to use a tower email address.
- Members will receive all standard emails but will have the opportunity to opt into or out of other groups (e.g. Surprise Major / Advanced practices).
- Membermojo is a closed system and the Guild does not intend to monetize any data that is provided by its members.
- There are no plans to collect annual subscriptions through Membermojo in the short term, although this could be considered in the future.
- Branch treasurers will keep up to date the list of members for their own branch.

It was felt that to keep a live list of good data it must be well maintained. Stuart was asked to present information at the AGM in March and will write an article for the next newsletter.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed ..... Date .....