



Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers

Web Site: [http:// dcacbr.org.uk/](http://dcacbr.org.uk/)

Email: dcacbr@gmail.com

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

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 Commission¹. 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 made since are currently in the process of obtaining Charity Commission approval.

Bell Restoration Fund - Objects and rules

	Rules as defined in 1986	Changes accepted at AGM / EGM up to and including 6 th April 2024 (Version 5.0)	Requests / notes sent to the Charity Commission
1.	The fund shall be known as the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund.	The fund shall be known as the Dorset County Association of Church Bell Ringers Bell Restoration Fund and shall be registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.	Added AGM 6/4/2024
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.	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.	Technical term is Re-clapping not re-clapping. See Google AI: "Re-clapping bells" is the process of removing, overhauling, and reinstalling the clapper in a church bell, often as part of a larger restoration project.

¹ See CC36 on Charity Commission Web Site

	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 the bells. (c) Taking out existing bells, overhauling existing frame and fittings and recasting, or overhauling and reclapping 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.	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 re-clapping 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 re-clapping 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.	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	(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	Clause f added AGM 2/2/2019 to clarify the definition of the previous Special Fund which was being operated and to ensure it had the legal status of a Restricted Fund.

	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.	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. (f) The Committee shall have the power to set up a Restricted Sub Fund where all monies in the fund can only be used for the benefit of a single Bell Tower / Church / Parish.	
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	(a) The Chairman, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Association shall be ex-officio Trustees of the fund. In addition at least two other elected committee members of the Association shall be appointed annually to act as Trustees of the fund. (b) Such bank accounts as may be required shall be opened in the name of the fund. The definition of Banks shall include any UK financial institution authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Any three of the four nominated trustees shall have the power to sign cheques.	The Chairman added as ex-officio at the AGM 7/3/2020. The Secretary/Treasurer and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer roles were removed from the Association at the AGM 2/2/2019 to give 4 separate roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer. Number of additional trustees changed from 2 to at least 2 at the AGM 2/2/2019. At the AGM 6/4/2024 the Committee was restructured so that everyone had an active role (i.e. A trained Bell Ringing Teacher) which increased the Committee size up to a maximum of 14. Trustees were not considered an active role in the day to day running of the Association and so instead of Trustees being directly elected at the AGM it was considered simpler for the Committee to appoint the additional Trustees from those members of the committee who had been elected as officers at the AGM. Definition of Banks added 1/4/2023. This was done because previous Treasurers had invested monies in financial bodies which were technically not a Bank (i.e. Building Society).

	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.	(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 the 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) The Association can operate a Restricted Fund for the benefit of an individual Bell Tower/ Church / Parish. When that is the case the ringing members of that Bell Tower / Church / Parish will be asked to nominate at least one of the Association's elected committee members to represent their interests. Those Association committee members nominated by the Bell Tower / Church / Parish shall also be ex-officio Trustees of the fund. (g) All Trustees of the fund, whether ex-officio or appointed, must meet the eligibility and responsibility requirements as published by the Charity Commission and complete the required Charity Commission declaration before they can act as a Trustee of the fund..	Withdrawals added 2/2/2019 – “All withdrawals and payments made from bank accounts of the fund must be authorised by two Trustees of the Fund” and removed at AGM 1/4/23 to move the clause to a new Standing Orders document which defines how each account is operated and who the authorised committee members are for transactions. f) Written for AGM 6/4/2024 to define and protect a Restricted Fund for Bradford Peverell church tower which had been in operation for many years. The previous clause F was removed prior or on 17/1/1998. We can find no definition for the term ‘specified management committees’ and the only Special Fund that we understand has ever been in operation was for monies raised by / for Bradford Peverell church tower. Their ringers were raising money specifically for future works upon their tower and did not wish it to be allocated to the General Fund. g) Added AGM 6/4/2024 to match declaration required by Charity Commission
6.	In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be disposed of as follows:	In the event of the dissolution of the fund the assets of the fund shall be disposed of as follows:	Changed to Restricted Fund at AGM 2/2/2019

	(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.	(a) Any monies in Restricted 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.	Removal of allocation to churches was prior or on 17/1/1998. According to Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers there are 134 churches with Change Ringing Bells but an unknown number are in working order and have local ringers to ring them. Thus it would be almost impossible to distribute the money and with current funds it would be only about £30 each church.
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.	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 examined by an Independent Examiner 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.	Auditor changed to Independent Examiner at prior or on 17/1/1998 in line with Charity Commission guidance.
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.	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.	