

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ON THE 11TH JANUARY 2024
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

Present: Mrs J. Slade Dr J. Guy
 Mr I. Germain Mr I. McGregor
 Mr J. Morrison Mrs F. Fox

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr T. Blightman
Mrs L. Tully

2. Agree the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

The defibrillator sign is still required outside the Merry Bells.
The Temperance Ale is selling quite fast. Cornfields has asked for a further box.
The light in the main hall still requires attention (Taylors).

Unfortunately the heating in the main hall is of some concern. (IMcG) has very kindly spent a lot of time investigating the problem and a solution which will hopefully be found and will report on this at the next meeting.

ImcG dealing with the bench plaques.

The Fire Alarm has been tested.

4. Treasurers Report

As of 31st December 2023 our Management Accounts show a Profit/Surplus of £14,278 against a previous forecast of c.£11,000-£12,000. Therefore, it was explained and discussed as to the adjustments necessary and likely for a final Profit/Surplus of £12,000 in the year-end Financial Accounts for the AGM.

Taking the monthly December Accounts it was noted and discussed that Hirings had remained consistent with the totals for November and October, which is encouraging. It was also noted that the Rental Income of £650, two-thirds is in advance of 2024 and it may be that we recommend the total is moved to 2024. Finally, as regards December the Gross Profit of £915 is reduced to £77 after Overheads & Exceptional Expenses of £582 and Depreciation of £256.

Discussing Year-to-Date (YTD) it was noted that Total Income had increased from £39,185 in 2022 to £43,435 in 2023 and Total Expenditure reduced from £41,622 to £29,156 to turn a Loss of £2,437 in 2022 to a Profit/Surplus of £14,278. There was the point raised that the total Cleaning Expenses of £10,858 accounted for more than a third (37%) of the Total Expenditure of £29,156. It was agreed that any further discussions and any decisions would be deferred until the next meeting in February.

As mentioned at the beginning of this Report the final Profit/Surplus Forecast of c.£12,000 was calculated by a combination of late Invoices of £850 paid plus a Utilities estimate of £300 and moving Rent of £650 into 2024 provides a total of £1,800, which is reduced to £1,400 with outstanding Income of £400 to be received. In addition there is the outstanding work of painting the car-park steps and further Expenditure being

capitalised which increases Depreciation. There is also the consideration of how to treat the purchase of the 'Merry Bells' Beer, which is shown in the Accounts as Marketing Expenses plus the income we are receiving from sales to Cornfields and internally.

As stated this will deliver a forecast Profit/Surplus of c.£12.000 for 2023

5. Maintenance Report

The steps still require painting but now the weather is better hopefully they will be done before the next meeting. The Library door was found to be loose and required a locksmith to repair it. This is now fully operational. (IMcG).

Discussions were held at great length about the post in the Car Park. As this seems to be quite easily knocked down a more robust post of some kind needs to be in place. An overhead metal bar was suggested or maybe 2 Bells as seen in the village might suffice. No decision was made. Once again the cost of the cleaning bill was raised. It was pointed out that we have had no complaints and the Merry Bells always looks well cared for. No decision taken.

6. Correspondence

A letter to Tim Bearder has been sent regarding the parking for a Taxi car stating that this was not deemed as a viable proposition.

7. Bookings update

Bookings are still in a good position. The Monday class for Keep Fit is booked until the end of March.

8. Any Other Business

The Coffee Room has now been in existence for 50 years. It was felt that a celebration would be appropriate. It has been decided to hold a coffee morning on the 26th January 2024 in the main hall. This will be advertised around the village and it is hoped that some of the older members would be able to join them. The Merry Bells Committee have been invited. It is anticipated that Cornfields will make a celebration cake.

It was also agreed to charge Lockdales £15 for the setting up of the hall next week. ImcG has offered to do this.

9. Date of the Next Meeting

8th February 2024 at 5 pm in the coffee room