

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ON THE 4TH APRIL 2024
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

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

1. Apologies for Absence

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 new Boiler for Identity Hair has now been fitted.

The three radiators in the Main Hall have now been fitted.

The defibrillator sign outside the Merry Bells is now ready.

IMcG is aware that the bolts on the chairs etc still need to be checked.

4. Treasurers Report

Looking at the result for March Management Accounts, we made an operating loss of £409, which increased to a loss of £757 once we added £348 pounds for Depreciation. Although the Income of £2,080 was encouraging mainly due to Hirings of £1,402 (being above the recent average of £1,250) and Rents of £650, this was offset by total Expenses of £2,486 mainly due to Repairs of £1,251.

This was expected as we had already discussed necessary work needed for Boiler Repairs in the Stable Block, plus work on a replacement valve and Gas heater by Taylors and work by Oxford AV on our Sound System.

Therefore, we looked at the First Quarter comparison for Year to Date (YTD) between 2023 and 2024. Our YTD Total Income has increased from £8,923 in 2023 to £11,444, while our YTD Total Expenditure has decreased from £9,945 in 2023 to £8,903 in 2024. This has resulted in a loss of £1,022 in 2023 to a surplus of £2,540 in 2024, which is an increase, YTD of £3,562.

As we have at the same time invested in two projects, such as new radiators in the Main Hall and a new boiler in the Stable Block costing £1,740 and £2,851 respectively at a total cost of £4,591 these items have been capitalised. Although this investment does not appear in the accounts for the First Quarter, it does mean our cash-flow for the year is negative - £4,591 less £3,562 by £1,029. But obviously with last year's contribution and our cash reserves, we can afford these investments.

5. Maintenance Report

TB awaiting further news about the re-painting of the steps

With regard to the slates, this will be started as soon as the weather improves.

The Library Smoke Detector is being fitted on the 15th April 2024

The Car Park barrier was discussed and it would seem that planning permission would be necessary. **TB** had no specific answer from the Parish Planning Committee. Maybe this will have to be pursued further.

The cost would be in the region of £4000 including V.A.T.

Contractor to be asked for help in preparing documents for planning permission
IMG has kindly researched a camera for the inside of the Merry Bells which seems quite comprehensive.

A camera placed outside the Merry Bells was discussed with different opinions arising. **TB** to speak to the Parish Council for their opinion and views. A camera could be beneficial to the Parish Office, Merry Bells and the Post Office. It was decided that this requires further discussions.

After the previous meeting a second quote for repairing the wall facing Church Road was obtained and at £575 was considerably lower so it had gone ahead.

The repair of the Car Park west wall, which was done at the same time, has upset the adjoining neighbour, who was not informed the work was going to be done. Further correspondence from the neighbour with regard to ownership of the wall is awaited.

TB received 2 quotes for a company to do a Fire Risk Assessment.

Churches were approached and quoted £785.

Another quote from Oxford Fire Assessments for £275 plus V.A.T. was agreed.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Bookings Update

Bookings are in a very good position and being occupied on most days.

The Coffee Room is now being used more frequently.

8. Monthly Calendar

With regard to the Library Lease **TB** has again contacted the person in question and awaiting dates for a meeting

Identity Hair have accepted the Rent increase and have already paid their first quarter.

The Parish office lease will be discussed at the next Parish Finance Committee meeting in April.

The Policy Review was discussed with one or two minor amendments. One particular is, for bookings that go beyond 9pm on a Friday or Saturday, a deposit of £200 will be requested, refundable if agreed that the hirer has fulfilled the terms and conditions.

Further discussion about presentation including on the website to take place with **TB** and **IG** ready for the May meeting.

9. Any Other Business

On Monday 8th April 2024 a meeting is being held in the Merry Bells regarding the new parking restrictions for the village.

A sensor Light in the Hallway and corridors is required.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 2nd May at 5.00pm in the Coffee Room