

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ON THE 6TH JUNE 2024
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

Present:	Mr T. Blightman	Mr. J. Morrison
	Mr. Ian Germain	Mrs. F. Fox
	Dr. J. Guy	Mrs. L. Tully
	Mrs. J. Slade	

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr. I. McGregor

2. Election of Officers

Chair: Tim Blightman

Treasurer: Ian Germain

Secretary: Vacant

3. Agree the Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Treasurer's Report

Our first disappointing result for 2024, with the May Accounts delivering a loss of £1,040.

There were two main reasons, firstly with two invoices being paid to Wheatley Cleaners in the month due to one Invoice being presented late. This is not an extra Invoice and will 'wash through' during the year, with twelve Invoices only for 2024. In addition the second Invoice was higher than usual, totalling £943 for May compared to £861 for April.

Secondly, Hirings were 'coincidentally' down at £943 compared with an average of £1,269 for each of the previous three months.

So the results for May were a Total Income of £2,067 against Total Expenses of £2,526 and when we include Overheads & Exceptional Expenses of £156 and Depreciation of £395, we have the loss of £1,040.

This compares unfavourably with the previous year 2023, when our Year-to-Date (YTD) surplus was £4,914 compared to the 2024 YTD surplus of £4,099.

The difference of £815 is almost the exact difference of the 'extra' Cleaning Invoice, which means 2024 YTD is running at the same rate as 2023 YTD.

6. Maintenance Report

We are still waiting for the steps and slates to be done.

A quote of £500 for installing sensor lights in all the corridors was approved.

The intention to install a barrier has been announced in the newsletter and a neighbour contacted by email; no objections as yet -if nothing heard in the next week or so it will be progressed.

JG has looked in to the sound system and believes it could be simplified by removing redundant cables, replacing the hand-held and lapel microphones with rechargeable versions to avoid the need for replacement batteries and replace the receiver. It was also suggested a larger screen would be much better for watching films. **JG** to firm up on costs and potential suppliers.

FF pointed out a cobweb in the coffee room that had been there a long time. **TB** to speak to cleaners.

7. Correspondence

Mr Heaton has donated the chairs on the forecourt to Bruins, who are now responsible for putting them away every evening.

8. Bookings Update

Bookings in May were down on last year. A second hirer cancelled a Saturday night booking because of the £200 deposit. On the next occasion a booking is requested we may ask for only a £100 deposit, unless the cost of the booking is greater than that.

9. Monthly Calendar – Including Lease Renewals

There had been a request from OCC to cap the rent increase on the Library lease to 4% each five years. This was discussed and it was agreed it was not acceptable; we should maintain our position that we will cap each 5-yearly increase at compound CPI during the previous 5 years. **TB** to respond.

The Parish Council lease has been agreed.

One quote for our insurance had been received, we await the renewal premium from our existing insurers (current cover expires on 8th July).

The BT contract also expires soon. **TB** to re-negotiate.

The 6-monthly service of the urinals will be on 13th June.

10. Any Other Business

OCC will be implementing the new parking restrictions in Wheatley later this year. It was agreed that we would carry out a car park survey beforehand to get a benchmark and repeat it after implementation to see the impact. To do the survey in term-time it was agreed we should do it during the week of 8th-14th July. **TB** to publish a rota for Trustees to volunteer for checks during that week.

JS gave a quote for some small tables which would be easier to assemble. It was agreed to buy 6 to keep in the annex.

TB asked if he could buy a new laptop for the office as the existing one is over 7 years old and has become very slow. It was agreed. He will also arrange to get a sim card for a mobile phone that can become the Merry Bells phone.

No further update on the website but we will be looking for a web designer in due course.

11. Date of the Next Meeting

The Next Meeting will be held on 25th July 2024 at 5pm in the Coffee Room.
There will not be a meeting in August and from September we will revert to the first Thursday in every month, starting at 5pm.