

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ON THE 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2024  
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr. T. Blightman	Mr. I. Germain
	Mrs J. Slade	Mr. J. Morrison
	Dr J. Guy	Mrs F. Fox

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Mrs L. Tully  
Mr. I. McGregor

**2. Agree the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising

**4. Treasurer's Report**

The result for September was a loss of (£2,087) due to a low Hirings total of £788 producing a Total Income of £2,468 against Total Expenses of £1,560, which meant a Gross Profit of £908. However, with Overheads and Exceptional of £2,600 due to the new Noticeboard and Emergency Lighting meant a Net Profit/Loss of (£1,692) and with Depreciation Costs of £395 delivered the September Loss of (£2,087).

The low Hirings was due to a 'quiet' August for Bookings, although it has now picked up, so the October Result should improve.

The higher than usual Expenses were due to Car Park Potholes Repair and a Sink Repair in the Disabled Toilet.

The September Loss has meant a reduction of our Total Surplus Year-to-Date (YTD) to £8,725, which is now almost identical to the 2023 YTD Total of £8,793.

Although the Total Surplus for 2024 is almost identical to 2023 it has been achieved by an increase in Total Income from £31,029 (YTD 2023) to £35,126 (YTD 2024) and an increase in Total Expenditure of £26,402 (YTD 2024) from £22,236 (YTD 2023).

As we are 75% through the Year the forecast for 2024 has been revised to c.£12,000, which would mean a forecast of Cash-in-Hand at the Bank of £125,000. This is against a 2022 total at the Bank of £112,000, which increased to £121,000 in 2023. Therefore, the next discussion was to review potential Investments to set priorities and budgets, with an agreement of how much we should maintain in our Cash-in-Hand at the Bank at the end of 2024. It was proposed that we can invest c.£25,000

**Potential Exceptional Repairs**

A list of potential exceptional repairs was discussed. It was agreed that essential repairs should be prioritised – rotting window frames and some exploratory work to investigate the apparent subsidence in the back alley.

Planning permission has been granted to install a new barrier to the entrance to the car park; however, since the introduction of new parking restrictions in the village (new double yellow lines in many places) there has been a noticeable increase in the (ab)use of the car park and it may be necessary to introduce some sort of management. It was thought that an ANPR system with a terminal where legitimate users can input their registration number might be the most appropriate. **IG** to supply name of company operating the system at Asda and **TB** to make enquiries.

After these improvements it was agreed that installing a battery to store the electricity generated by the PV panels at a cost of around £7,500 (it would also save around £500 p.a. on energy costs) and refurbishing the kitchen at a cost of around £20,000 would be the next priorities leaving new flooring and redecoration until the other work had been done.

#### **5. Maintenance Report**

The Notice Board has now been fitted thanks to **IMcG** and **JG**. Taylors have mended the wash basin in the Ladies toilet. A new fire panel has been fitted but requires some adjustment to the aerial at a further cost of £250 as the signal is very weak in the village. The village hall escaped the flooding in the High Street except for a leak in the library coming from possibly the flashing around the chimney. A cost of £500 has been quoted to investigate. Whilst this work is being carried out some slates need some investigation also the gullies need clearing. At present the steps are still in need of painting **TB**.

The gas Safety Certificate has been renewed following the servicing of the appliances. With regard to the sound system **JG** has someone coming next week to talk it through. One of the solar panels is underperforming. Taylors to speak to the manufacturers. Hopefully this will still be under guarantee. The doors in the Ladies Toilets require some adjustment **IMcG**

#### **6. Correspondence**

**TB** received a call from Chris Clement from St. Marys. They are hoping to arrange for 6 mini buses for Dementia patients to visit the church in February. The request was to have 6 reserved places in the Merry Bells car park. **TB** to write informing Chris Clement that this was not an option.

#### **7. Booking Update**

September was a very good month and going forward to December is good.

#### **8. Monthly Calendar**

Car Park closure was discussed but a date was not decided as it would be dependent on the decision about a new barrier. Fire Extinguishers require servicing, this is being arranged.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

**FF** commented that the chairs were still being left out. **TB to speak to Bruins**

#### **10. The Date of the Next Meeting**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the Coffee Room at 5pm