

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
ON THE 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024  
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

<b>Present:</b>	Mr T. Blightman	Mr J. Morrison
	Mrs J. Slade	Mrs F. Fox
	Mr I. Germain	Mrs L. Tully
	Mr I. McGregor	

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Dr. J. Guy

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

The Minutes were agreed as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

TB Still to talk to Bruins regarding the Chairs.

**4. Treasurers Report**

October was a good month with a Total Profit/Surplus of £5,296 largely delivered by our highest monthly income of the year of £7,408. This was achieved by receiving the final quarter's Rents of £5,700 and strong Hirings of £1,708. Taken in context of low Hirings in August (£795) and September (£788) this restored our monthly average YTD to £1,167, when we are looking to achieve an average of £1,100-£1,200 per month.

Our October Expenses of £1,409 were lower than our monthly average of £1,577 and with Overhead & Exceptional Expenses being £309 against an average of £893 YTD meant a Net Profit before Depreciation (£395) of £5,691 against a monthly average of £1,783.

Comparing 2024 with 2023 the Surplus YTD are very much the same, with £14,021 (2024) against £14,577 (2023). Here the similarity ends with Expenses for 2024 of £28,513 being £4,435 more than the £23,998 for 2023. To see where the differences are, a look at the right-hand column showing the increases in Red, with Fire Protection (+£1,517), Repairs (+£1,268) and Cleaning (+£621) being the highest.

This compares with looking at the right-hand column for Income, where the Increases are in Green, with Rents (+£2,050) and Hirings (+£2,093) to deliver an Increase of £3,959 YTD. Projecting the Surplus of £14,021 forward for 2024, this delivers a Forecast of £16,824. There was a discussion that taking the last two year's Surplus of £14,000 (2023) and £16,000 (2024) means we could invest c. £30,000 on improvements with a Battery installation for the Solar Panels to make us 'self-sufficient' and a new kitchen etc would still maintain our Total Bank Balance of £100,000, which with an Annual Break-Even amount of c. £35,000 would provide more than two years 'survival' without any Income, although we would still hope to have the Library and Parish Council paying Rent.

## **5. Maintenance Report**

The slates on the roof have been replaced and the gullies cleaned. It would seem that the leak in the Library during the heavy rain was due to the flashing around the chimney. This has also been repaired. The Fire Panel has a new aerial which gives a better signal.

The 2 amber lights were illuminated on the panel, this has now been rectified and reset.

The Cleaning Company reported a leak in the Gents toilet. On investigation, no leak was found. The light in the ladies toilet has a new sensor and is now working but 2 new bulbs are required (they are on order). Another light in the Main hall has to be replaced **TB**. **IMcG** reported damp in the baby changing room which needs to be investigated also damp in the Annex near the old piano.

The kitchen shutter can now be left open – a notice to be attached **TB**.

**JG** has investigated the AV System. It would be beneficial to have new hand held and lapel microphone which could be placed in a docking station. This will enable them to be fully charged providing they are replaced after use. A price of £1000 plus £200 tuning was agreed. **JG** had suggested that a wider screen would be more beneficial to the hall for showing Movies with the potential of a Film Club. The downside would mean the projector would have to be moved and whether it would suffice (advice awaited).

A letter and a quote has been received from John Gower with regard to a battery for the PV Panels. A further in-depth conversation and meeting will need to be arranged to discuss all options.

With regard to the Car Park **TB** has met with one Car Park Management Company who will send a proposal and is trying to arrange a second one. The ordering of a barrier will wait until a decision on the car park has been made.

A meeting with a second kitchen company has been arranged for Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. **FF** to attend with **TB**.

## **6. Correspondence**

A reply finally received from our MP confirming that the Terrorism Bill does not apply to the Merry Bells as now it only applies to venues with the capacity of 200 or more.

## **7. Bookings Update**

The Bookings for the last 2 months of the year are good, currently a little down on last year but requests are still being made. A question as to whether the VPA would be continuing.

## **8. Monthly Calendar**

All complete for this year. PAT needs doing in January **TB**

## **9. Any Other Business**

The Christmas Tree is required for the Main Hall.

**TB** to arrange for it to be available to be decorated on the 25<sup>th</sup> November

## **10. Date of the Next Meeting Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024 in the Coffee Room.**