

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ON THE 14TH JANUARY 2025
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

Present:	Mr T. Blightman	Mr I. McGregor
	Mrs J. Slade	Mr J. Morrison
	Mr I. Germain	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

There were no matters arising

4. Treasurers Report

The result for December was a disappointing Loss of £855, which meant our Surplus for 2024 is reduced to £11,753 from the forecast of c.£14,000, the same as the 2023 Surplus. The reduction in the Surplus in 2024 compared with 2023 is 16%

However, the result can be considered satisfactory, as the income from Hirings was £2,668 for December, as forecast, making a total of £15,139 for Hirings in 2024, which was our second highest on record after £15,700 in 2016. This is very encouraging, since whilst our Income from Rents can be considered as a Fixed Income (more or less), the Income from Hirings is more variable, so the trend is positive, with an increase of £2,360, which is an impressive 18.5%.

With the income from Rents increasing by 7%, this gave a Total Income increase of £4,641 from £44,283 in 2023 to £48,924 in 2024; an increase of 10.5%

So the reason for the fall in our annual Surplus year-on-year is due to the increase in Total Expenditure from £30,277 (2023) to £37,171 (2024) - an increase of £6,894, which represents an increase of 22.8%!

The majority of Expenditure items increased from 2023 to 2024, with the major increases being as follows:

Heat & Light - increase of £1,632, mainly due to a rebate received in 2023

Fire Protection - increase of £1,643, mainly due to the replacement of the Fire Panel

Repairs - increase of £2,320, although this was offset by a reduction in Exceptional Repairs of £752, the total cost of Repairs and Exceptional Repairs was still an increase of £1,568 (26.9%).

Finally, Depreciation costs increased by £1,022 due to more items being invested in during 2024 being capitalised

Therefore, returning to December Accounts, despite the increase in Total Income mainly due to Hirings, which increased our average monthly income for Hirings from £1,150 to £1,262 for the year, we had emergency repairs to the

Drains costing over £900 and likewise the cost of repairing the Library roof was the same and resulted in the loss for December.

5. Maintenance Report – Potential Exceptional Repairs

A lengthy and positive discussion took place with regard to immediate repairs and updating of the Merry Bells.

A new fire door has been ordered as have new rechargeable microphones for the AV system

A quote of £700 to level the back alley and repair a rotten windowframe was agreed.

The P.V. Battery – 3 batteries were agreed £10,570, possibly increasing to 5 which would increase the cost to £14,220

A refurbished Kitchen with a Dishwasher and a larger fridge (with freezer compartment?) at a cost of approximately £16,000

A new AV Equipment and Screen for the main hall £2,184

Corridor Flooring and redecoration agreed for a later date and the entrance barrier is on hold

A new design shutter for the kitchen (Oxford Shutters) £950

A new printer for the office £200

Car Park Management (UK CPM) £150 per month (an article to be placed in the Wheatley News before installing).

A total potential expenditure of approx. £35,000 which would still leave us over £80,000 in reserve (equivalent to over 2 years “normal” expenditure)

6. Correspondence

No correspondence

7. Booking Update

All looking good. January bookings similar to January 2024. 2 new classes for the coming months.

8. Monthly Calendar

P.A.T Testing to be done. Hiring Policies to be reviewed after decorating and work complete.

A Surveyor’s valuation report had been ordered as required by OCC for the new Library lease. Our solicitors to draw up a draft lease.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 6th February 2025 in the Coffee Room at 5 pm