

**THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ON THE 6TH MARCH 2025
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Mrs J. Slade Mr I. Germain

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 monthly accounts now track the performance excluding exceptional items as well as in total.

Feb 2025 results: Excluding exceptionals, February recorded a loss of £522 compared to January's surplus of £1914 when many quarterly rents were collected. Income from hirings of £862 for the month was a little weak but partly from timing of invoicing as bookings remain good (see item 8 below). Including exceptional expenditure of £6,111 meant an overall loss of £6,633 for the month.

Cumulatively in 2025, income of £9,059 is just down on last year, while expenditure is up from £6,067 to £15,558 mainly because of the exceptional expenditure of £7,890 and also the valuation survey done for the new Library lease of £960.

5. Exceptional Projects

- AV improvements of rechargeable microphones and a new screen is complete and on budget. Some discussion about the potential to set up a film club
- Repairs to the back alley and window frame have been done, as well as repairs to a manhole.
- New fire doors have been delayed again, supplier being chased.
- Kitchen shutter expected mid-April
- Kitchen re-furbishment on order with preliminary installation date of late-April. Still need to source a dishwasher and fridge. The new induction hob will need to have warning signs for anyone with a pacemaker fitted.
- Car Park Management – still awaiting contract. Once signed, implementation is 4-6 weeks
- PV Battery – still awaiting final savings calculation
- Corridor flooring, redecoration, entrance barrier and printer all on hold.

6. Ongoing Maintenance Report

Gas meter housing needs a new door. Paint to redo steps has been promised but not delivered yet. The concrete window sill outside the Parish Office needs attention.

It was suggested the old piano in the annexe should be removed and a potential cost of £140 to have it removed was agreed.

7. Correspondence

None

8. Booking Update

Bookings in the first 2 months of the year were slightly higher than last year in terms of minutes booked. Bookings for March and April stand slightly lower than last year in the Main Hall but well down in the Coffee Room, partly because of the loss of an “after-class” coffee session last year and partly the Coffee Morning dates had not all been entered yet.

9. Monthly Calendar

A second draft lease including amendments from the Trustees to the first, has been sent to OCC solicitors.

The annual review of policies is on hold until the new Car Park Management is live.

Outdoor furniture to be inspected.

10. Any Other Business

It was noted the chairs have been put back outside on the forecourt but need to be kept away from the porch.

An article for the newsletter was discussed; it was felt it was still too early to talk about the Library renewal, but it would be worth writing about the new screen and the potential for film shows. Also to welcome people using the forecourt but ask them not to move the chairs into the porch.

11. Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 3rd April 2025 in the Coffee Room at 5 pm