THE MERRY BELLS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
ON 1st MAY 2025
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM

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

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   There were no apologies

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**
   We began by looking at the monthly Management Accounts for April, which showed a Total Income of £5,910 mainly due to receiving the second quarter's Rents of £4,300 plus the highest Hiring's income to date of £1,610; £10 more than the previous month! This means our average Hiring's income is running at £1,130 per month, which is similar to 2024.
   With Expenses totalling £1,630 this meant a best YTD Gross Profit of £4,280 and best YTD Net Profit of £4,004 after Overheads, which was mainly Fire Safety work carried out on the Stable Block (Identity Hair).
   However, there followed a discussion about taking the Net Profit as an Operating Profit because after Depreciation of £433 and Exceptional Expenses of £10,905 this resulted in a Loss of £7,334. The reason for the discussion was that following our Final Audited Accounts showing a Surplus of £13,289 after most of the Exceptional Expenses for 2024 were 'capitalised'.
   We therefore felt that as the Exceptionals for April 2025 of £10,905 were for the Capital Projects already agreed, such as the Kitchen, Fire Doors and Kitchen Shutter they would be capitalised at year-end and therefore although detailed in the Management Accounts, we should use the Net Profit figure as a true reflection on our performance.
   So considering our Total YTD Income, Total Expenditure and Total Surplus/Deficit the results are as follows:
   Total Income £18,265 (2025) against £17,086 (2024) shows a small increase, while Total Expenditure £31,905 (2025) against £11,580 (2024) means a Deficit of £13,640 (2025) against a Surplus of £3,651 (2024).
   But, if we remove Exceptional Expenditure of £19,653 YTD for 2025 against £0 for 2024, then the Total Expenditure for 2025 becomes £12,252 against a Total Income of £18,265 meaning a Total Surplus of £6,013 for YTD 2025 against a Total Surplus of £3,651 for YTD 2024, which is a 65% increase YTD.
   This demonstrates the logic of comparing monthly Net Profit figures year on year.

5. **Exceptional Projects**
   The Fire Door in the Main Hall has been fitted. Also the shutters in the Kitchen have been replaced. The Kitchen is almost complete. The new Refrigerator, electric cooker and dishwasher are in place. One more door has to be fitted and then the kitchen has to be decorated at a later date.
   (IMcG) queried the refrigerator door as to whether the door should be hung the other way.
   The cupboard storage is in need of sorting and counting. This will be done in the near future.
   Samples were shown to the committee of the proposed flooring for all the corridors. This was agreed and it is anticipated to be fitted in May to be followed by redecoration, probably in August, when the hall is less used.
   PV Battery **(JG, IM and TB)** to meet and discuss.
   The Car Park Management seem to be unhelpful with regard to signage.
   (TB) to continue to press for a defined answer as to what can be put on the sign.
   The printer has still to be ordered.

6. **Maintenance Report inc Fire Safety**
   A loose step to the car park was reported, this has now been repaired. Arrangement have now been made for other brick work repair to the building and flower beds. No sign yet of replacement paint for the steps, which we may have to purchase ourselves.
   (IMcG) reported that the benches (which are owned by Bruins) are quite unsafe and should be replaced **(TB)** to speak to Bruins.
   SODC has now agreed that a Brown Bin will be available to the Merry Bells.
7. **Correspondence**
   A briefing had been received from Community First Oxfordshire about the Government's Simpler Recycling Policy. A paragraph was a little ambiguous with regard to waste from hirers as to whom was responsible for the removal of waste after each hirers usage. **(TB)** to clarify.

8. **Bookings Update**
   All good, although one Pilates class has been lost due to lack of numbers

9. **Monthly Calendar**
   The Library Lease signed and sealed.

10. **AGM 5th June 2025**
    This AGM is being well advertised **(IG and IM**) through all the necessary channels. The 2024 accounts were presented to the committee and approved.

11. **Any Other Business**
    (IG) suggested that a celebrational thank you to the Library would be appropriate. Maybe after the AGM and maybe one of the library staff could be welcomed onto the committee.
    IG to draft an article for the Newsletter mentioning the Library lease renewal and the AGM

12. **Date of the next meeting**
    Thursday the 5th June2025 to be held immediately after the AGM