

**THE MERRY BELLS COMMITTEE MEETING
ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2025
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM**

Present:	Mr T. Blightman	Mrs J. Slade
	Mr I. Germain	Mrs F. Fox
	Mr A. Coates	Mr J. Morrison

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr J. Guy Mr I. McGregor Mr R. Barrett

2. Agree the Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes

4. Treasurers Report

A disappointing month with our lowest monthly income of £527 for the Year to Date (YTD). This was due to no rentals being due, although a late payment of £1,050 for Office 3 is expected and an equal lowest Hirings Income of £527. Set against this monthly income were Expenses of £1,378, which although were the second lowest YTD meant a Gross Profit or Loss of -£851.

With Overheads of £75 this resulted in a Net Profit or Loss of -£926, which represents our worst result YTD. This represents our Operating Profit or Loss for the month and is the 'performance' that we need to monitor.

When we add Depreciation of £1,107 and Exceptional Expenses £2,350 the final result for August is a loss of -£4,383.

Allowing for the poor August result, it is better to look at the YTD results to put our performance for the year into context, as follows:

Total Income for 2025 YTD is £35,008 against 2024 YTD is £32,659 meaning an increase of £2,349 (+7.2%)

Total Expenditure for 2025 YTD is £23,528 against 2024 YTD is £17,625 meaning an increase of £5,904 (+33.5)

Total Surplus/Profit for 2025 YTD is 11,479 against 2024 YTD is £15,034 meaning a decrease of £3,555 (-23.7)

In summary, although we have capitalised quite a lot of the investment we agreed to make at the end of 2024 there are items of expenditure that although an investment cannot be capitalised, such as the Redecoration, Dishwasher, Fridge and work on our AV equipment there have also been Exceptional Expense costs, such as the Subsidence and Fire Safety that have increased our Expenditure.

As explained, our Bank Balance of £99,589 remains 'healthy' and the Budget we agreed for Exceptional Expenditure of £51,500 remains as planned at £46,700.

5. Exceptional Projects

The P.V.Battery, although installed is still not working correctly

The Steps have now been painted by the decorator, at no extra cost (the paint had already been bought) if we display a poster for them, which has been done.

Damp being treated and the skirting replaced; it will be re-decorated when completely dry. Possibly not until the New Year. Awaiting proposal from Taylors about possible heating solutions now there is no gas fire in the Coffee Room but short-term electric heaters will be needed.

The Dish Washer working with comprehensive instructions.

The Car Park Contract has been signed

The management company had proposed installing the cameras on 8th Sept and going live 2 days later with only warnings issued for the first week. It was decided to ask them to delay as notification of the parking needs to be circulated in the village via our website, Wheatley News letter and flyers.

The registration Nos of the Library and Identity Hair staff have to be put on the exemption list

6. Maintenance

Issue on a Call Point in the kitchen. A temporary repair means it must not be tested until replaced. Some of the points were found to be old and worn. It was decided to replace 8 new ones at a cost of £1,300 c VAT. This was agreed.

The Energy Company will be installing a new smart metre to upgrade to 4g.

Tim O'Connor has been contacted regarding the Trees on the forecourt.

CCTV : A Volunteer from the village has recommended 3 cameras. 2 either side of the porch and one in the front. He will install them free but the MB to purchase them at a cost of £420 plus wiring.

Posters have to be displayed notifying that CCTV cameras are in operation.

Identity Hair have asked for an Air conditioner for the salon although now not needed until next year. This requires Planning Permission which we will apply for in due course.

7. Correspondence

Lucy Collinson has asked for a Hand Towel Dispenser in the ladies toilet.

8. Bookings Update

Very similar to last year but the rest of the year looks as if it will be down. Hopefully more bookings in the future. MB quite competitive around the village also the amount of work that has taken place over the year may have deterred people from booking.

One new class in the Coffee Room.

Hallmaster booking page can now be downloaded using QR code.

9. Monthly Calendar

Previous years the Car Park is closed for one day, this is not a statutory requirement. Taylors to service the boiler 3rd October. Lucy Collinson office rent up for review but it was agreed to maintain it at £2,600 p.a. Another office (Room 1) will become available in the near future.

10. Succession Planning

To be reviewed at a later date. Recruitment of new Trustees still required.

11. Any Other Business

National Theatre screening – samples will be sent. A BluRay video is required. £30 from IG

12. Date of the next meeting

Thursday 2nd October 2025 in the Coffee Room