

THE MERRY BELLS COMMITTEE MEETING
ON 2ND OCTOBER 2025
HELD IN THE COFFEE ROOM

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr R. Barrett

2. Agree the Minutes of the Last Meeting

These were agreed as a true record

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

MB invested in a new BluRay video which is now reliably working

4. Treasurers Report.

The stand out result is that for September, we have a final loss of £11,901, which is explained by the Exceptional Repairs of damp-proofing by Damprot of £8,984 and the final instalment of the Redecorating bill of £2,350 plus the increased Depreciation costs, an increase of c.£350. However, the monthly Operating accounts show a Total Income of £2,343 less Total Expenses of £1,484 producing a Gross Profit of £859 and after Overheads a Net Profit of £540.

There was discussion about Hirings at £626 are a 50% reduction on months March-June, which means the monthly average for Hirings in 2025 YTD is £1,046 compared with the average for 2024 YTD was £1,107 a difference of £61 per month, whereby in the first-half of the year, the average for 2025 and 2024 was £1,282 and c.£1,250 respectively.

Comparing 2025 YTD with 2024 YTD, Total Income is an increase of £2,225 (+6%) but Total Expenses excluding Exceptional Expenses is an increase of £4,869 (+24%), which means a decline in our surplus of -£2,644 (-18%).

As discussed at several meetings in 2025, Exceptional Repairs and Renewals are excluded because we agreed at the end of 2024 to set aside £50,000 for investment in development plus we have had genuine Exceptional Expenses such as Damprot and Legal & Professional costs of £4,720 for the renewal of the Library Lease.

No gas bill has been received for the last 2 months. **IMc** to investigate

5. Exceptional Projects

The MB budgeted £50,000 for all exceptional projects and the damp proofing, added another £10,000. In the end £55,684 has been spent

The PV Battery still not working. John Gower to fit a completely new system.

The Car Park Management have not billed the MB as yet. Received a quote from Taylors regarding Radiator in the Coffee Room. This is now on hold as another possible solution was discussed.

6. Maintenance

CCTV Cameras have been purchased . Mark Watts has been informed to install them.

Problems with the call point in the Annexe as well as the one in the kitchen. All Call Point to be replaced.

Still awaiting a reply from Tim O'Connor regarding the trees. It was suggested that perhaps its time to replace the trees if the roots are causing a problem. This is on hold until a later date.

Lucy Collinson has requested that the lock in the planning office door adjacent to the MB should be changed to allow access from both sides. **TB and IMc** to investigate.

The Dishwasher plug has now been repaired and the Dishwasher is now fully functional.

7. Car Park

The emails from residents of Wheatley that have been received were discussed and it was unanimously decided that a final letter should be sent stating to all that a decision has been taken and the CPM will be in operation shortly.

8. Correspondence

There was no other correspondence

9. Bookings Update

Bookings have been varied , a little lower than last year, but on the whole hirings are still coming in.

10. Monthly Calendar

Servicing the Fire Extinguishers was completed 02/10. Gas appliances to be serviced 03/10. Outside furniture requires inspection

Policy update to be completed now that the car park system is known.

11. Succession Planning

It was pointed out in detail the amount of work that **TB** undertakes for the **MB**. It was agreed to discuss future ways of working at the next meeting.

12. Any Other Business

JG will have control of the **MB** phone whilst **TB** is on holiday.

JG and **TB** are available 24th October to meet a hirer regarding Sound System.

13. Date of the Next Meeting

Thursday 6th November 2025 in the coffee room.