

Report to the Annual Meeting 180423

Centre Management

1. The Centre is managed by a committee. This committee is a sub-committee of the North Wingfield Team Parish Parochial Church Council (PCC), who underwrite the centre. The North Wingfield team Parish comprises five Church of England churches, at Clay Cross, North Wingfield, Pilsley, Tupton and Danesmoor. The North Wingfield PCC are our bigger creditor and paid out over £5000 to the accountants to get our accounts and financial procedures straight, for which we are extremely thankful.
2. An updated constitution for the management committee has been drafted. This needs to be agreed by the North Wingfield Team Parish annual meeting in May. It improves community representation through the institution of a users' group to which all regular user groups will be invited.
3. The Management Committee usually meets once a quarter in addition to after the Annual Meeting. Reports go to the PCC, who are represented on the committee. The annual accounts of the centre form part of the team accounts, are included in the team annual accounts, and are subject to auditing as part of those accounts.

Finance

4. Reading the figures, the depreciation figure should be subtracted to get a more accurate summary of the profit/loss account. The trading loss is therefore £16005.

Some reasons for the loss can be summarised as follows:

- a) We wrote off £3125 of bar stock that went out of date during covid. This should have been in the 2021 accounts.
- b) We did not have a preschool operating in the building for five months, and then a new group started up that took time to get going; this cost us at least £6000 in lost income.
- c) The bar takings have never been as high as they should. A mark up on bar sales of 60% of wholesale price is expected and we have not been even getting close to that. We do not expect this to reoccur, so bar takings are expected to rise.
- d) We had a very good month in December but also a high wage bill as we were still paying the former centre manager's wages while Amanda and Marlene were doing additional work. This was a one-off and will not happen again.
- e) Bookings were very light over the late Spring-Summer period. We are very well booked up to the end of May already in 2023 and demand has risen throughout the year so far compared to 2022.
- f) We only recorded £700 in grant funding. This is far too low, and we will be proactive in improving grant funding this year.
- g) Our financial procedures have been improved since November and are far more robust.
- h) Some charges had not responded to inflation and were too low. This has been rectified.

5. Our cash position, which was very poor in December 2022, is already much improved on the position at the end of 2022 but there is some way to go for us to be comfortable. While the balance sheet is sound and there is an adequate cash balance there are no reserves.

6. Wages are our biggest cost centre. The new administrator post is part-time and is a lower grade post than that of the centre manager so the gross pay will be less. Jonathan Griggs does not start until 17th April so there is an additional saving in the first quarter, although Marlene and especially Amanda have done more hours than we might normally expect because there has been no administrator in post. Marlene and Amanda have had pay rises and as zero hours contract workers will receive holiday pay in proportion to the number of hours worked. Marlene, and especially Amanda, are expected to work more hours as we have been generating a higher level of bookings, with Amanda leading on this. Overall, there should be no rise in the wage bill in 2023 but it will rise in 2024.

7. Our new Treasurer, John Elton, has been looking to find the best energy deal possible as our present deal ran out on 31st March. We have an interim deal until October. Energy prices may fall later in the year, but it is still highly likely that energy costs will be up by 75-100 per cent in the last three quarters of 2023.

8. We are running our own events at Easter, in August and before Christmas which are already generating additional income.

9. We have a backlog of maintenance, renewals, and Insurance claims. We will work through these during the year. I am especially grateful for the volunteer assistance that has already made a significant difference.

My very grateful thanks are due to all those who have supported the centre, but especially Lloyd Whitworth, Amanda & Ryan Large, Marlene Vickers, Louise Cooper, Richard Crofts, Yvonne Haywood, Rod Leighton and Trevor Frost who have all had important roles to play in different ways that are giving us a hope and a future.

Richard Clark 6th April 2023