

Report for the Parish council village meeting 2024

I am Anita Shea, a trustee and the secretary for the Seend Community Bus CIO which stands for Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

When I reported to you last year people were surprised by our very healthy bank balance. This was money we had been saving for many years for a new bus. One year on our new bus finally arrived on March the 15th. Rounding the numbers down it cost £85,000 (£7,000 deposit, £64,000 on completion plus £14,000 VAT)

We needed a short-term private loan of £6,000. As we are able to reclaim the VAT this will be paid back very shortly.

The new bus is proving very popular and has already provided many trips for local groups, among others Cubs, Scouts, youth and mixed ability rugby teams and our village theatre club. The drivers find it very easy to drive once they have mastered all its new buttons and safety features.

Along with these private hires, county bus pass refunds, the term's fares for the morning school run and our annual bank interest our income so far this year is £1,990.71, which make a good start on rebuilding our funds.

We are very grateful to the Parish council who has promised another annual donation and we have also applied for our grant from Wiltshire Council.

We have a small team of regular drivers for our service runs. Our private hirers usually manage to find a driver but we are always happy to hear from anyone with a D1 on their licence who would like to drive the bus.

The old bus is still unsold. If no one comes forward locally who is interested in buying it I imagine it will be sent to auction.

Many thanks go to all who have kept this great village facility on the road and to those who hopefully will do so in the future.