

## **Berrynarbor Shop and Post Office**

### **2024 report**

The shop faced many challenges last year not least with inflationary pressure on the cost of groceries and as a consequence tightening margins. It's a very fine balance between maintaining our profitability while keeping prices at affordable levels for our customers.

We are also reliant on our summer visitors. Their numbers were down significantly last year with the weather being a disappointment – summer just failed to arrive!

The shop's annual objective is to break even or make a modest profit which can be held to cover unforeseen expenses.

In 2024 the committee undertook a clinical line by line look at its expenditure and took action to reduce them by reviewing and finding more competitive alternatives for insurance, accountancy fees and energy suppliers. Some costs we had to absorb such as the rise in the minimum wage – the shop has always paid a competitive salary. The shop's treasurer worked tirelessly on our expense rationalisation, optimising costs while ensuring our operational efficiency.

Our staff and volunteers worked so hard to achieve a positive outcome for 2024. So it was a hugely disappointing end to the year when all that hard work was undone when a major fault with the sewage treatment plant once more raised its ugly head.

Our committee is always extremely grateful for the support and significant contribution towards these costs that the Parish Council makes. Nevertheless, with final figures yet to be confirmed, it looks as though we will be returning a small loss.