

## **TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 March 2022 ("the Period")**

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Westcott Village Association ("the WVA") is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, registered on 4 October 2019 (Charity Registration number 1185622). The WVA's governing document is its constitution. Trustees can be appointed either by the members or trustees of the WVA, but are elected by members at the annual general meeting to serve for the forthcoming year.

### **Charitable objects**

According to the Constitution, *"the objects of the WVA are for the public benefit to further such purposes as are exclusively charitable according to the laws of England and Wales in the village of Westcott and the surrounding area."* In furtherance of these objects, the Constitution grants the trustees powers relating to, in summary, such areas as:

- a) preserving, protecting and/or improving the charm and rural character of Westcott and the surrounding area;
- b) facilitating best practice regarding road safety and highways management issues;
- c) encouraging high standards in conservation, planning and development; and
- d) providing facilities for recreation and leisure time occupation.

Full details can be found in the Constitution which is available on the WVA website: ([www.westcottvillage.com](http://www.westcottvillage.com)).

### **Achievement of objects during the Period**

The above objects have been achieved during the Period by means of various activities including:

- hosting meetings open to all residents of Westcott, either physically or via Zoom. Contact with residents has also been maintained via email, via the village notice boards and via the village magazine;
- initiatives to reduce the problems caused by speeding and noise pollution in Westcott;
- reviewing and responding to planning applications;
- arranging an illuminated Christmas tree and carol singing event on the village green;

and helping villagers in need of assistance through the village Good Neighbour scheme;

Further details of the WVA's activities during the Period are contained in the Chairman's report.

### **Trustees during the Period**

The Trustees as at 31 March 2022 were:

- Chair – Timothy Way
- Vice Chair– Simon Bradley
- Secretary – Paul Goddard
- Treasurer & Gift Aid Co-ordinator – Edwin Harland
- Membership & Street Stewards – Sally Hewetson
- Highways – Nicholas Lund
- Planning – James Leaver

The following trustees resigned during the Period:

- Andrew Copeland (resigned 24 June 2021)
- Bert Broom (resigned 9 February 2022)
- Sandra Ede (resigned 9 February 2022)

### **Financial Review for the Period**

The WVA prepares its annual accounts in the form of a Receipts and Payments Account with a Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

During the Period, the WVA had total receipts of £6,743 (including a grant from Surrey County Council of £1,750) less total payments of £4,486, a net inflow of £2,257. After adjusting for fact that the previous accounting period lasted 18 months, subscriptions remained broadly unchanged compared to last year. However, they remain 12% lower than those received by the old WVA in the year to July 2019, showing the impact of the lack of door to door collections, resulting from COVID and other factors.

The largest expense was for a new village notice board (£2,318) offset by the £1,750 grant referred to above. Other expenses included the Christmas tree and decorations, carol singing booklets and a card reader for accepting cashless payments.

The WVA continues to operate a policy whereby cash reserves are normally maintained at a level of between approximately one and four years of annual receipts, taking account of the future needs of the village. The WVA has been compliant with this reserves policy since the point at which funds were transferred to it by the old WVA.

### **Public benefit statement**

The trustees are of the opinion that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.