

TRUSTEES' REPORT for the year ended 31 March 2023 ("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).

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. Contact with residents has also been maintained via email, via the village notice board, via the village magazine and through various social media channels;
- financially supporting the local village school's open day;
- supporting the Green Westcott initiative;
- reviewing and responding to planning applications;
- arranging an illuminated Christmas tree and carol singing event on the village green;
- maintaining two village defibrillators;

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

Trustees during the Period

The Trustees as at 31 March 2023 were:

- Secretary – Paul Goddard
- Treasurer & Gift Aid Co-ordinator – Edwin Harland
- Membership – Sally Hewetson
- Highways – Nicholas Lund
- Planning – James Leaver
- Social Media & Communications – Jo Astor (appointed 28 November 2022)
- General – Jon Mears (appointed 28 November 2022)

The following trustees resigned during the Period:

- Tim Way (resigned 28 November 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 £4,439 less total payments of £4,662, a net outflow of £223. Donations received were 22% less than in the previous year, in which they were themselves 12% lower than those received in the year to July 2019 – this shows the impact of the lack of door to door collections, resulting from COVID and other factors. Nevertheless, some of the shortfall was made up through a successful Christmas fair table and increased gift aid.

The largest expense was for a lockable cabinet for the defibrillator in The Burrell (£1,398) which had previously suffered some vandalism. Other expenses included supporting the local school's open day (£774), the Community Fridge (£100), and the Christmas tree and decorations etc (£337 offset by donations of £250).

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 in 2019 by the old WVA (the predecessor organisation).

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.