

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1071096

Details

Other names BRAMBLES

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1998-08-18

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Mr Jonathan Wright
C/o Thorns School
Blackthorn Road
Kenilworth
Warwickshire
CV8 2DS

Phone 01926854486

Email jonathan.wright@brambles-kenilworth.com

Website <http://www.brambles-kenilworth.com>

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BELOW COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE IN PARTICULAR BY PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION OF A HIGH STANDARD THE PROVISION OF CARE, RECREATIONAL AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES OUTSIDE NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN ATTENDING THORNS INFANT SCHOOL

Activities: To provide high quality childcare to young children between the ages of 2 years 9 months and eleven years through the provision of a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Warwickshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-08-31	£180,272	£171,990	-	-
2023-08-31	£175,465	£167,663	-	-
2022-08-31	£171,555	£156,866	-	-
2021-08-31	£146,305	£146,925	-	-
2020-08-31	£133,327	£153,888	-	-

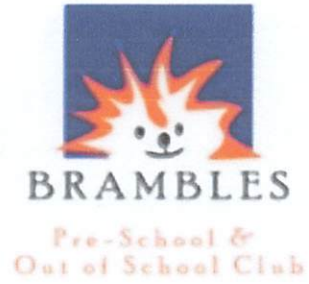
Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
MR J WRIGHT	Chair	
Michelle Andrews		2020-03-19
Victoria Lancaster		2020-03-19

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1071096

Accounts



THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

CHARITY NUMBER 1071096

www.brambles-kenilworth.com

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**THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024**

Reference and administrative information

Thorns Community Trust (TCT) is a registered charity, no. 1071096. TCT trades under the name Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club (Brambles). Brambles is located on the site of Thorns Community Infant School (Thorns), and continues to maintain close links with the school. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

TCT is overseen by a committee of Trustees. There are three types of trustee:

- Ex-officio - the head teacher of Thorns Community Infant School
- Nominated - Trustees who are appointed by the governing body of Thorns Community Infant School, and
- Co-opted – Trustees who have been appointed by the TCT committee of Trustees as a consequence of their particular professional skills.

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED DURING THE YEAR		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
TRUSTEES MANAGING TCT AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SIGNED		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated

Structure, Governance and Management

TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in January 1998 and supplemented by a further deed of the same year. An amendment to the constitution was made by way of Deed of Variation dated 23rd March 2011.

In 2023-24, the Trustees met as a formal Board on four occasions- on 26 September 2023, 6 December 2023, 6 March 2024 and 2 July 2024. During trust meetings all Trustees had the right to speak and to be heard. Decisions were made by consensus.

The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business manager (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 2 years and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefits to the local community. The Trustees always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that the aims and resulting benefits of TCT are clear and that the benefits obtained from TCT's activities are derived from its aims. In addition, the benefits are focused on a section of the public, namely pre-school and primary age children and their parents/carers, and within this range, no section of the public is unreasonably restricted.

Due to its location the children who attend Brambles tend to live within the Thorns' catchment area. The admissions policy does not however exclude children from attending who live outside of this area. The Trustees still consider that the prices are competitive and would not regard the inability to pay fees as a bar to entry.

Pre-school

During the financial year, the Brambles Pre-School was open for five morning and lunchtime sessions as well as a number of afternoon sessions per week during term time.

Brambles Ofsted registration allows 30 children to attend per session. It is TCT policy to not fill each session so that the educational experience for each child is optimised.

The vast majority of the Pre-School children moved from Brambles Pre-School up to Thorns at the end of their pre-school year.

Out of School Club

During the financial year, the Out of School Club was also only open during term time, with a good number of children registered, split across the three year groups at Thorns. The Out of School Club opened both before school, from 8am, and then again after school, from 3pm to 6pm.

Holiday Club

During the financial year, the Holiday Club was open during a good number of school holidays and offered a variety of sessions, within the timeframe of 8am to 6pm.

The number of children attending Holiday Club varied between holidays. In common with previous years, a good proportion of the children who attended holiday club were pupils at Thorns or Park Hill. These were supplemented by children that attended other schools in Kenilworth.

Risk Review

The Trustees regularly consider the risks to which TCT is exposed at the Trustees' meetings and, where appropriate, measures are taken to ensure existing systems and procedures are strengthened to mitigate these risks as far as possible. During the year, some new policies were approved and other improvements were made. This is necessary to ensure good governance and manage risk so as to maintain the high standards for the setting.

The Trustees are mindful that changes in Government Policy as far as the free provision of childcare for nursery age children could alter the risk profile for the setting.

In order to further mitigate risk, the Trustees have established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and transferred the undertaking of the Charity to that CIO on 31 August 2024.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2023, TCT made a surplus of £8,282. This increased the overall level of reserves to £148,663 at the end of the financial year.

The continued challenge faced by TCT is in ensuring that the PreSchool is kept full and that numbers at the Out of School Club are sustained (as the latter largely cross-subsidises the first). The disparity has become even more acute during the financial year in question, albeit the Trustees are aware of this and are working hard to make the PreSchool more sustainable without the subsidy. The financial performance depends to a large extent on these factors being maintained.

There are no restricted or designated funds held by the Trust. From time to time the Trustees may budget to spend certain monies on certain projects, but these funds remain at all times part of the general accumulated fund of the Trust. However, the Trustees believe that an adequate level of reserves of four to six months' running costs should be maintained at all times to enable TCT to continue operating for a term should all external funding cease.

The Trustees observe that the present cash balance held is materially in excess of the stipulated four to six months' running costs. Given the age of the temporary building and the maintenance liabilities that accrue annually, it remains the stated intention of the Trustees to look to those surplus funds (with the addition of grant monies) to either refurbish or replace the current temporary building.

Future Events

Fees continue to be reviewed annually. The Trustees will continue to keep both fees and expenditure under close review so as to ensure that the Trust continues to generate a surplus and therefore maintain adequate levels of reserves to remain viable into the future.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the TCT's Trustees:

Jonathan William Emlyn Wright
Chair

19 June 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

I report on the accounts of Thorns Community Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michelle Larkin
Chartered Accountant

FILAN Accountants
57 Ely Street
Warwickshire
CV37 6LN

19 June 2025

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

	Notes	2024			2023		
		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donation	3	-	-	-	1,000	-	1,000
Charitable activities	4	177,295	-	177,295	173,374	-	173,374
Other trading activities	5	196	-	196	11	-	11
Investments	6	2,110	-	2,110	790	-	790
Other	7	-	671	671	290	-	290
Total		179,601	671	180,272	175,465	-	175,465
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	171,319	671	171,990	167,663	-	167,663
Total		171,319	671	171,990	167,663	-	167,663
Net (expenditure)/income		8,282	-	8,282	7,802	-	7,802
Reconciliation of funds:							
Funds brought forward		140,381	-	140,381	132,579	-	132,579
Funds carried forward		148,663	-	148,663	140,381	-	140,381

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2024

		2024		2023	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		6,598		8,253
Current assets					
Debtors	12	4,669		5,146	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>144,025</u>		<u>129,423</u>	
		148,694		134,569	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(6,629)</u>		<u>(2,441)</u>	
Net current assets			142,065		132,128
Net assets			<u>148,663</u>		<u>140,381</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>148,663</u>		<u>140,381</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 19 June 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:

JWE Wright
Chair

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

1. Status

Thorns Community Trust is an unincorporated association; it is also a registered charity (registration number 1071096) whose activities are intended to be for the public benefit. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised as incoming resources to the extent that the charity has provided the services in question.

Expenditure

Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects comprise those costs incurred by the charity as a result of the delivery of its service. Governance costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in meeting its constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is generally calculated so that the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value are written off over their estimated useful lives. The following depreciation rates apply:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (continued)****3. Donations**

	2024		2023
	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	1,000

The donation received in 2023 was an Unreserved Grant from Waitrose.

4. Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Out of school club fees	93,070	88,754
Holiday club fees	22,501	22,936
Preschool grant	56,732	48,798
Preschool fees	4,992	12,886
	<u>177,295</u>	<u>173,374</u>

5. Other trading activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contributions from Public	196	-
Contribution from Trustee Simon Morris	-	11

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted	2024	2023
	funds	£	£
	£		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,110	2,110	790

7. Other income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Best Practice Network	671	-
Grant Received from WCC County Fund for Breakfast Club	-	290

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (continued)**

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
Staff costs	142,601	-	142,601	140,242
Insurance	2,500	-	2,500	2,160
Materials	4,278	-	4,278	5,068
Electricity	3,120	-	3,120	1,393
Training	936	-	936	918
Printing postage and telephone	1,068	-	1,068	934
Depreciation	2,199	-	2,199	2,751
Rent	4,000	-	4,000	4,333
Rates	155	-	155	244
Repairs	483	-	483	291
Cleaning	1,760	-	1,760	2,138
Professional fees	1,091	-	1,091	922
Nursery IT and software	-	-	-	188
Bank charges	61	-	61	71
Storage & Archiving	1,854	-	1,854	952
Sundry	4,157	-	4,157	4,098
Grant Expenditure - Restricted	-	671	671	-
	<u>170,263</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>170,934</u>	<u>166,703</u>
Governance costs:				
Trustees' remuneration and expenses	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees	1,056	-	1,056	960
	<u>171,319</u>	<u>671</u>	<u>171,990</u>	<u>167,663</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Ms Michelle Andrews, a trustee, received £0 (2023: £40) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

10. Staff remuneration and numbers

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	138,116	137,149
Employers National Insurance	2,177	1,069
Pension contributions	2,308	2,024
	<u>142,601</u>	<u>140,242</u>

The average monthly number of employees paid during the year was 2 full time (2023:3) and 10 part-time (2023: 12) who worked between 3 and 25 hours per week.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (continued)**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Equipment £	Property Improvements £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 September 2023	26,537	11,070	7,003	44,610
Additions	-	544	-	544
As at 31 August 2024	<u>26,537</u>	<u>11,614</u>	<u>7,003</u>	<u>45,154</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 September 2023	24,142	9,645	2,570	36,357
Provided in year	599	492	1,108	2,199
As at 31 August 2024	<u>24,741</u>	<u>10,137</u>	<u>3,678</u>	<u>38,556</u>
Net book value				
As at 31 August 2024	<u>1,796</u>	<u>1,477</u>	<u>3,325</u>	<u>6,598</u>
As at 31 August 2023	<u>2,395</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>4,433</u>	<u>8,253</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
12. Debtors		
Trade debtors	3,267	4,231
Prepayments	1,402	915
Other debtors	-	-
	<u>4,669</u>	<u>5,146</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	69	-
Taxation and social security	850	901
Other creditors and accruals	5,710	1,540
	<u>6,629</u>	<u>2,441</u>

Included within Other Creditors is £5,162 (2023: nil) which is a Grant received from Best Practice Network. £5,833 was received in the year and £671 was used to cover costs of a staff member on placement.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024 (continued)****14. Movement in funds**

Name of fund	Opening £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Closing £
Restricted fund: Best Practice Network	-	671	(671)	-
Unrestricted fund: General fund	140,381	179,601	(171,319)	148,663
Total of all funds	140,381	180,272	(171,990)	148,663

15. Fees for examination of the accounts

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examiner's fees	1,056	960
Fees paid to the independent examiner - payroll costs	871	922
Fees paid to the independent examiner - bookkeeping costs	180	-
	<u>2,107</u>	<u>1,882</u>

FILAN Accountants carried out payroll duties at a cost of £871 (2023 :£922) in the year. Filan Accountants also provided bookkeeping training of £180 (2023: nil) which is included within Training. Separate departments carried out this work to ensure independence was maintained.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1071096

Accounts



THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Sarah Taubman	Trustee	Nominated
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TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in January 1998 and supplemented by a further deed of the same year. An amendment to the constitution was made by way of Deed of Variation dated 23rd March 2011.

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The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business manager (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 3 years and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club. The Trustees have now agreed that childcare can be most effectively provided from age 3 years.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefits to the local community. The Trustees always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that the aims and resulting benefits of TCT are clear and that the benefits obtained from TCT's activities are derived from its aims. In addition, the benefits are focused on a section of the public, namely pre-school and primary age children and their parents/carers, and within this range, no section of the public is unreasonably restricted.

Due to its location the children who attend Brambles tend to live within the Thorns' catchment area. The admissions policy does not however exclude children from attending who live outside of this area. The Trustees still consider that the prices are competitive and would not regard the inability to pay fees as a bar to entry.

The setting was improved during the year with a major investment in the outside space to improve the garden area.

Pre-school

During the financial year, the Brambles Pre-School was open for five morning and lunchtime sessions as well as a number of afternoon sessions per week during term time.

Brambles Ofsted registration allows 30 children to attend per session. It is TCT policy to not fill each session so that the educational experience for each child is optimised.

The vast majority of the Pre-School children moved from Brambles Pre-School up to Thorns at the end of their pre-school year.

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During the financial year, the Out of School Club was also only open during term time, with a good number of children registered, split across the three year groups at Thorns. The Out of School Club opened both before school, from 8am, and then again after school, from 3pm to 6pm.

Holiday Club

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The number of children attending Holiday Club varied between holidays. In common with previous years, a good proportion of the children who attended holiday club were pupils at Thorns or Park Hill. These were supplemented by children that attended other schools in Kenilworth.

Risk Review

The Trustees regularly consider the risks to which TCT is exposed at the Trustees' meetings and, where appropriate, measures are taken to ensure existing systems and procedures are strengthened to mitigate these risks as far as possible. During the year, some new policies were approved and other improvements were made. This is necessary to ensure good governance and manage risk so as to maintain the high standards for the setting.

The Trustees are mindful that changes in Government Policy as far as the free provision of childcare for nursery age children could alter the risk profile for the setting.

In order to further mitigate risk, the Trustees have established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and intend to transfer the undertaking of the Charity to that CIO. The factor that had historically prevented this from happening was an OFSTED reinspection which took place subsequent to this period of financial reporting. A good OFSTED rating was restored, clearing the way for the CIO to be inceptioned.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2023, TCT made a surplus of £7,802. This increased the overall level of reserves to £140,381 at the end of the financial year.

The continued challenge faced by TCT is in ensuring that the PreSchool is kept full and that numbers at the Out of School Club are sustained (as the latter largely cross-subsidises the first). The financial performance depends to a large extent on these factors being maintained.

There are no restricted or designated funds held by the Trust. From time to time the Trustees may budget to spend certain monies on certain projects, but these funds remain at all times part of the general accumulated fund of the Trust. However, the Trustees believe that an adequate level of reserves of four to six months' running costs should be maintained at all times to enable TCT to continue operating for a term should all external funding cease.

The Trustees observe that the present cash balance held is materially in excess of the stipulated four to six months' running costs. Given the age of the temporary building and the maintenance liabilities that accrue annually, it remains the stated intention of the Trustees to look to those surplus funds (with the addition of grant monies) to either refurbish or replace the current temporary building.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		8,253		5,680
Current assets					
Debtors	12	5,146		5,010	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>129,423</u>		<u>124,183</u>	
		134,569		129,193	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(2,441)</u>		<u>(2,294)</u>	
Net current assets			132,128		126,899
Net assets			<u>140,381</u>		<u>132,579</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>140,381</u>		<u>132,579</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 6 March 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:



JWE Wright
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

I report on the accounts of Thorns Community Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michelle Larkin
Chartered Accountant

FILAN Accountants
57 Ely Street
Warwickshire
CV37 6LN

13 May 2024

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023			2022		
		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donation	3	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-
Charitable activities	4	173,374	-	173,374	171,530	-	171,530
Other trading activities	5	10	-	10	-	-	-
Investments	6	790	-	790	25	-	25
Other	7	290	-	290	-	-	-
Total		175,465	-	175,465	171,555	-	171,555
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	167,663	-	167,663	156,866	-	156,866
Total		167,663	-	167,663	156,866	-	156,866
Net (expenditure)/income		7,802	-	7,802	14,689	-	14,689
Reconciliation of funds:							
Funds brought forward		132,579	-	132,579	117,890	-	117,890
Funds carried forward		140,381	-	140,381	132,579	-	132,579

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

		2023		2022	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		8,253		5,680
Current assets					
Debtors	12	5,146		5,010	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>129,423</u>		<u>124,183</u>	
		134,569		129,193	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year					
	13	<u>(2,441)</u>		<u>(2,294)</u>	
Net current assets			132,128		126,899
Net assets			<u>140,381</u>		<u>132,579</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>140,381</u>		<u>132,579</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 6 March 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

JWE Wright
Chair

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1. Status

Thorns Community Trust is an unincorporated association; it is also a registered charity (registration number 1071096) whose activities are intended to be for the public benefit. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised as incoming resources to the extent that the charity has provided the services in question.

Expenditure

Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects comprise those costs incurred by the charity as a result of the delivery of its service. Governance costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in meeting its constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is generally calculated so that the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value are written off over their estimated useful lives. The following depreciation rates apply:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (continued)****3. Donations**

	2023		2022
	Unrestricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Donations	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>

Donation of £1,000 received from Waitrose (2022: £nil)

4. Income from charitable activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Out of school club fees	88,754	72,512
Holiday club fees	22,936	17,413
Preschool grant	48,798	69,259
Preschool fees	12,886	12,346
	<u>173,374</u>	<u>171,530</u>

5. Other trading activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Contribution from Trustee Simon Morris	<u>10</u>	<u>-</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted	2023	2022
	funds	£	£
	£		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>790</u>	<u>790</u>	<u>25</u>

7. Other income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grant Received from WCC County Fund for Breakfast Club	<u>290</u>	<u>-</u>

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (continued)**

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2023			2022
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
Staff costs	140,242	-	140,242	119,792
Insurance	2,160	-	2,160	1,846
Materials	5,068	-	5,068	5,012
Electricity	1,393	-	1,393	1,912
Training	918	-	918	541
Printing postage and telephone	934	-	934	977
Depreciation	2,751	-	2,751	1,893
Rent	4,333	-	4,333	4,000
Rates	244	-	244	278
Repairs	293	-	293	12,189
Cleaning	2,138	-	2,138	2,593
Professional fees	922	-	922	629
Uniform	-	-	-	91
Nursery IT and software	188	-	188	386
Bank charges	71	-	71	31
Storage & Archiving	952	-	952	-
Sundry	4,098	-	4,098	3,735
	<u>166,703</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,703</u>	<u>155,906</u>
Governance costs:				
Trustees' remuneration and expenses	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees	960	-	960	960
	<u>167,663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>167,663</u>	<u>156,866</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Ms Michelle Andrews, a trustee, received £40 (2022: £90) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

10. Staff remuneration and numbers

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	137,149	118,085
Employers National Insurance	1,069	261
Pension contributions	2,024	1,446
	<u>140,242</u>	<u>119,792</u>

The average monthly number of employees paid during the year was 2 full time (2022: 3) and 12 part-time (2022: 10) who worked between 3 and 25 hours per week.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (continued)**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Equipment £	Property Improvements £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 September 2022	26,537	9,996	2,753	39,286
Additions	-	1,074	4,250	5,324
As at 31 August 2023	<u>26,537</u>	<u>11,070</u>	<u>7,003</u>	<u>44,610</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 September 2022	23,343	9,171	1,092	33,606
Provided in year	798	475	1,478	2,751
As at 31 August 2023	<u>24,140</u>	<u>9,645</u>	<u>2,570</u>	<u>36,357</u>
Net book value				
As at 31 August 2023	<u>2,396</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>4,433</u>	<u>8,253</u>
As at 31 August 2022	<u>3,194</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>1,661</u>	<u>5,680</u>

12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	4,231	3,682
Prepayments	915	682
Other debtors	-	646
	<u>5,146</u>	<u>5,010</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	-	1,819
Taxation and social security	901	-
Other creditors and accruals	1,161	475
	<u>2,061</u>	<u>2,294</u>

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023 (continued)****14. Movement in funds**

Name of fund	Opening	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Closing
	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund: Staff Uniform	-	-	-	-
Restricted fund: JRS Claimed	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted fund:				
General fund	132,579	175,465	(167,663)	140,381
Total of all funds	132,579	175,465	(167,663)	140,381

15. Fees for examination of the accounts

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	960	960
Other fees paid to the independent examiner - payroll costs	922	862
	<u>1,882</u>	<u>1,822</u>

FILAN Accountants carried out payroll duties at a cost of £922 (2022:£862) in the year. A separate department carried out this work to ensure independence was maintained.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1071096

Accounts



THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

CHARITY NUMBER 1071096

www.brambles-kenilworth.com

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**THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

Reference and administrative information

Thorns Community Trust (TCT) is a registered charity, no. 1071096. TCT trades under the name Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club (Brambles). Brambles is located on the site of Thorns Community Infant School (Thorns), and continues to maintain close links with the school. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

TCT is overseen by a committee of Trustees. There are three types of trustee:

- Ex-officio - the head teacher of Thorns Community Infant School
- Nominated - Trustees who are appointed by the governing body of Thorns Community Infant School, and
- Co-opted – Trustees who have been appointed by the TCT committee of Trustees as a consequence of their particular professional skills.

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED DURING THE YEAR		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Sarah Taubman	Trustee	Nominated
TRUSTEES MANAGING TCT AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SIGNED		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Sarah Taubman	Trustee	Nominated

Structure, Governance and Management

TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in January 1998 and supplemented by a further deed of the same year. An amendment to the constitution was made by way of Deed of Variation dated 23rd March 2011.

In 2021-22, the Trustees met as a formal Board on four occasions- on 23 September 2021, 1 December 2021, 17 March 2022 and 14 July 2022. During trust meetings all Trustees had the right to speak and to be heard. Decisions were made by consensus.

The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business manager (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 3 years and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club. The Trustees have now agreed that childcare can be most effectively provided from age 3 years.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefits to the local community. The Trustees always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that the aims and resulting benefits of TCT are clear and that the benefits obtained from TCT's activities are derived from its aims. In addition, the benefits are focused on a section of the public, namely pre-school and primary age children and their parents/carers, and within this range, no section of the public is unreasonably restricted.

Due to its location the children who attend Brambles tend to live within the Thorns' catchment area. The admissions policy does not however exclude children from attending who live outside of this area. The Trustees still consider that the prices are competitive and would not regard the inability to pay fees as a bar to entry.

The setting was improved during the year with a major investment in the outside space to improve the garden area.

Pre-school

During the financial year, the Brambles Pre-School was open for five morning and lunchtime sessions as well as a number of afternoon sessions per week during term time.

Brambles Ofsted registration allows 30 children to attend per session. It is TCT policy to not fill each session so that the educational experience for each child is optimised.

The vast majority of the Pre-School children moved from Brambles Pre-School up to Thorns at the end of their pre-school year.

Out of School Club

During the financial year, the Out of School Club was also only open during term time, with a good number of children registered, split across the three year groups at Thorns. The Out of School Club opened both before school, from 8am, and then again after school, from 3pm to 6pm.

Holiday Club

During the financial year, the Holiday Club was open during a good number of school holidays and offered a variety of sessions, within the timeframe of 8am to 6pm.

The number of children attending Holiday Club varied between holidays. In common with previous years, a good proportion of the children who attended holiday club were pupils at Thorns or Park Hill. These were supplemented by children that attended other schools in Kenilworth.

Risk Review

The Trustees regularly consider the risks to which TCT is exposed at the Trustees' meetings and, where appropriate, measures are taken to ensure existing systems and procedures are strengthened to mitigate these risks as far as possible. During the year, some new policies were approved and other improvements were made. This is necessary to ensure good governance and manage risk so as to maintain the high standards for the setting.

The Trustees are mindful that changes in Government Policy as far as the free provision of childcare for nursery age children could alter the risk profile for the setting.

In order to further mitigate risk, the Trustees have established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and intend to transfer the undertaking of the Charity to that CIO. The factor that had historically prevented this from happening was an OFSTED reinspection which took place subsequent to this period of financial reporting. A good OFSTED rating was restored, clearing the way for the CIO to be incepted.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2022, TCT made a surplus of £14,689. This increased the overall level of reserves to £132,579 at the end of the financial year.

The continued challenge faced by TCT is in ensuring that the PreSchool is kept full and that numbers at the Out of School Club are sustained (as the latter largely cross-subsidises the first). The financial performance depends to a large extent on these factors being maintained.

There are no restricted or designated funds held by the Trust. From time to time the Trustees may budget to spend certain monies on certain projects, but these funds remain at all times part of the general accumulated fund of the Trust. However, the Trustees believe that an adequate level of reserves of four to six months' running costs should be maintained at all times to enable TCT to continue operating for a term should all external funding cease.

The Trustees observe that the present cash balance held is materially in excess of the stipulated four to six months' running costs. Given the age of the temporary building and the maintenance liabilities that accrue annually, it remains the stated intention of the Trustees to look to those surplus funds (with the addition of grant monies) to either refurbish or replace the current temporary building.

Future Events

Fees continue to be reviewed annually. The Trustees will continue to keep both fees and expenditure under close review so as to ensure that the Trust continues to generate a surplus and therefore maintain adequate levels of reserves to remain viable into the future.

With the impending transfer to a CIO, this will provide the platform to look at a longer term upgrade to the Building in which the setting is housed. A working group amongst trustees is already looking at this.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the TCT's Trustees:



Jonathan William Emlyn Wright
Chair

28 June 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

I report on the accounts of Thorns Community Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
and the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form
and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michelle Larkin
Chartered Accountant

FILAN Accountants
57 Ely Street
Warwickshire
CV37 6LN

28 June 2023

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022**

	Notes	2022			2021		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Fund	Funds	Funds	Fund	Funds	Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donation	3	-	-	-	-	310	310
Charitable activities	4	171,530	-	171,530	140,251	-	140,251
Other trading activities	5	-	-	-	36	-	36
Investments	6	25	-	25	9	-	9
Other	7	-	-	-	-	5,699	5,699
Total		171,555	-	171,555	140,296	6,009	146,305
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	156,866	-	156,866	140,916	6,009	146,925
Total		156,866	-	156,866	140,916	6,009	146,925
Net (expenditure)/income		14,689	-	14,689	(620)	-	(620)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Funds brought forward		117,890	-	117,890	118,510	-	118,510
Funds carried forward		132,579	-	132,579	117,890	-	117,890

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		5,680		6,534
Current assets					
Debtors	12	5,010		1,989	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>124,183</u>		<u>112,477</u>	
		129,193		114,466	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(2,294)</u>		<u>(3,110)</u>	
Net current assets			126,899		111,356
Net assets			<u>132,579</u>		<u>117,890</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>132,579</u>		<u>117,890</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 28 June 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



JWE Wright
Chair

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

1. Status

Thorns Community Trust is an unincorporated association; it is also a registered charity (registration number 1071096) whose activities are intended to be for the public benefit. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised as incoming resources to the extent that the charity has provided the services in question.

Expenditure

Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects comprise those costs incurred by the charity as a result of the delivery of its service. Governance costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in meeting its constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is generally calculated so that the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value are written off over their estimated useful lives. The following depreciation rates apply:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)**

3. Donations

	2022		2021
	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	310

A donation of £nil (2021: £310) was received in the year (2021: which was to be used to provide uniform for the staff).

4. Income from charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Out of school club fees	72,512	57,699
Holiday club fees	17,413	14,145
Preschool grant	69,259	49,472
Preschool fees	12,346	18,935
	<u>171,530</u>	<u>140,251</u>

5. Other trading activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fundraising activities	-	36

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted	2022	2021
	funds	£	£
	£		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	25	25	9

7. Other income

Included in Other income of £nil (2021:£5,699) are the following grants: £nil (2021: £5,699) CJRS grant.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)**

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2022			2021
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
Staff costs	119,792	-	119,792	120,266
Insurance	1,846	-	1,846	1,921
Materials	4,528	484	5,012	3,465
Electricity	1,912	-	1,912	1,620
Training	541	-	541	794
Printing postage and telephone	977	-	977	1,178
Depreciation	1,893	-	1,893	2,178
Rent	4,000	-	4,000	4,358
Rates	278	-	278	46
Repairs	12,189	-	12,189	403
Cleaning	2,593	-	2,593	2,282
Professional fees	629	-	629	3,580
Uniform	91	-	91	359
Nursery IT and software	386	-	386	25
Bank charges	31	-	31	5
Sundry	3,735	-	3,735	3,486
	<u>155,422</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>155,906</u>	<u>145,965</u>
Governance costs:				
Trustees' remuneration and expenses	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees	960	-	960	960
	<u>156,382</u>	<u>484</u>	<u>156,866</u>	<u>146,925</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Mr Jonathan Wright, a trustee, received £nil (2021: £8) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

Ms Michelle Andrews, a trustee, received £90 (2021: £117) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

10. Staff remuneration and numbers

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	118,085	119,235
Employers National Insurance	261	-
Pension contributions	1,446	1,031
	<u>119,792</u>	<u>120,266</u>

The average monthly number of employees paid during the year was 3 full time (2021: 2) and 10 part-time (2020: 12) who worked between 5 and 20 hours per week.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings £	Equipment £	Property Improvements £	Total £
Cost				
As at 1 September 2021	26,537	9,557	2,153	38,247
Additions	-	439	600	1,039
As at 31 August 2022	<u>26,537</u>	<u>9,996</u>	<u>2,753</u>	<u>39,286</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 September 2021	22,279	8,896	538	31,713
Provided in year	1,064	275	554	1,893
As at 31 August 2022	<u>23,343</u>	<u>9,171</u>	<u>1,092</u>	<u>33,606</u>
Net book value				
As at 31 August 2022	<u>3,194</u>	<u>825</u>	<u>1,661</u>	<u>5,680</u>
As at 31 August 2021	<u>4,258</u>	<u>661</u>	<u>1,615</u>	<u>6,534</u>

12. Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	3,682	1,333
Prepayments	682	656
Other debtors	646	
	<u>5,010</u>	<u>1,989</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,819	532
Taxation and social security	-	1,040
Other creditors and accruals	475	1,538
	<u>2,294</u>	<u>3,110</u>

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022 (continued)****14. Movement in funds**

Name of fund	Opening £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Closing £
Restricted fund: Staff Uniform	-	-	-	-
Restricted fund: JRS Claimed	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted fund:				
General fund	117,890	171,555	(156,866)	132,579
Total of all funds	<u>117,890</u>	<u>171,555</u>	<u>(156,866)</u>	<u>132,579</u>

15. Fees for examination of the accounts

	2022 £	2021 £
Independent examiner's fees	960	960
Other fees paid to the independent examiner - payroll costs	862	1,040
	<u>1,822</u>	<u>2,000</u>

FILAN Accountants carried out payroll duties at a cost of £862 (2021:£620) and processed furlough claims at a cost of £nil (2021: £420) in the year. A separate department carried out this work to ensure independence was maintained.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1071096

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THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

CHARITY NUMBER 1071096

www.brambles-kenilworth.com

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**THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021**

Reference and administrative information

Thorns Community Trust (TCT) is a registered charity, no. 1071096. TCT trades under the name Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club (Brambles). Brambles is located on the site of Thorns Community Infant School (Thorns), and continues to maintain close links with the school. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CVS 2DS.

TCT is overseen by a committee of Trustees. There are three types of trustee:

- Ex-officio - the head teacher of Thorns Community Infant School
- Nominated - Trustees who are appointed by the governing body of Thorns Community Infant School, and
- Co-opted - Trustees who have been appointed by the TCT committee of Trustees as a consequence of their particular professional skills.

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED DURING THE YEAR		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Eloise Ottewell	Trustee	Nominated
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Katie Tattersall	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
TRUSTEES MANAGING TCT AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SIGNED		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
Sarah Taubman	Trustee	Co-opted

Structure, Governance and Management

TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in January 1998 and supplemented by a further deed of the same year. An amendment to the constitution was made by way of Deed of Variation dated 23rd March 2011.

In 2020-21, the Trustees met as a formal Board on four occasions- on 24 September 2020, 19th November 2020, 11 March 2021 and 24 June 2021. During trust meetings all Trustees had the right to speak and to be heard. Decisions were made by consensus.

The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business administrator (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 2 years 9 months and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefits to the local community. The Trustees always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that the aims and resulting benefits of TCT are clear and that the benefits obtained from TCT's activities are derived from its aims. In addition, the benefits are focused on a section of the public, namely pre-school and primary age children and their parents/carers, and within this range, no section of the public is unreasonably restricted.

Due to its location the children who attend Brambles tend to live within the Thorns' catchment area. The admissions policy does not however exclude children from attending who live outside of this area. The Trustees still consider that the prices are competitive and would not regard the inability to pay fees as a bar to entry.

Pre-school

During the financial year, the Brambles Pre-School was open for five morning and lunchtime sessions as well as a number of afternoon sessions per week during term time.

Brambles Ofsted registration allows 30 children to attend per session. It is TCT policy to not fill each session so that the educational experience for each child is optimised.

The vast majority of the Pre-School children moved from Brambles Pre-School up to Thorns at the end of their pre-school year.

Out of School Club

During the financial year, the Out of School Club was also only open during term time, with a good number of children registered, split across the three year groups at Thorns. The Out of School Club opened both before school, from 8am, and then again after school, from 3pm to 6pm. Numbers were impacted due to the November 2020 and January-March 2021 Lockdowns as demand subsided.

Holiday Club

During the financial year, the Holiday Club was open during a good number of school holidays and offered a variety of sessions, within the timeframe of 8am to 6pm.

The number of children attending Holiday Club varied between holidays. In common with previous years, a good proportion of the children who attended holiday club were pupils at Thorns or Park Hill. These were supplemented by children that attend Clinton and St Augustine's.

Risk Review

The Trustees regularly consider the risks to which TCT is exposed at the Trustees' meetings and, where appropriate, measures are taken to ensure existing systems and procedures are strengthened to mitigate these risks as far as possible. During the year, some new policies were approved and other improvements were made. This is necessary to ensure good governance and manage risk so as to maintain the high standards for the setting.

In order to further mitigate risk, the Trustees have established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and intend to transfer the undertaking of the Charity to that CIO. The factor that was preventing this happened was an OFSTED reinspection which took place subsequent to this period of financial reporting.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2021, TCT made a loss of £ 620. This decreased the overall level of reserves to £117,890 at the end of the financial year.

The Trustees are aware that the COVID-19 Pandemic continued to have a material impact on finances following the losses sustained in the previous financial year. The Trustees continued to maintain steps to both support all income generation activities (including maintenance of the job retention scheme). Immediately prior to the start of the financial year, the Trust was successful in reinstating the Nursery Grant that had been lost due to the "Inadequate Rating" at the 2019 OFSTED following an appeal to the Local Authority via the local Member of Parliament. The Trustees continued to monitor all expenditure in order to avoid falling into a loss making position.

There are no restricted or designated funds held by the Trust. From time to time the Trustees may budget to spend certain monies on certain projects, but these funds remain at all times part of the general accumulated fund of the Trust. However, the Trustees believe that an adequate level of reserves of four to six months' running costs should be maintained at all times to enable TCT to continue operating for a term should all external funding cease.

The Trustees observe that the present cash balance held is materially in excess of the stipulated four to six months' running costs. Given the age of the temporary building and the maintenance liabilities that accrue annually, it remains the stated intention of the trustees to look to those surplus funds (with the addition of grant monies) to either refurbish or replace the current temporary building.

Future Events

Fees continue to be reviewed annually. The spare capacity in preschool continues to focus the minds of trustees as this has had a material effect on the income of the Trust. The implementation of the National Living Wage coupled with the rising inflation have all provided headwinds to expenditure as wages form a large part of this. The OFSTED rating in November 2019 has subsisted due to an inability of OFSTED to reinspect as a consequence of the COVID-19 Pandemic and this has limited the ability to attract new children. The Building in which Brambles is housed is now almost 50 years old and requires increasing maintenance. The Trustees will continue to keep both fees and expenditure under close review so as to ensure that the Trust continues to generate a surplus and therefore maintain adequate levels of reserves to remain viable into the future.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the TCT's Trustees:

Jonathan William Emlyn Wright
Chair

27 June 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

I report on the accounts of Thorns Community Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.


I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
and the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form
and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Michelle Larkin
Chartered Accountant

FILAN Accountants
57 Ely Street
Warwickshire
CV37 6LN

27 June 2022

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

	Notes	2021			2020		
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
		Fund	Funds	Funds	Fund	Funds	Funds
		£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from:							
Donation	3	-	310	310	-	500	500
Charitable activities	4	140,251	-	140,251	114,178	-	114,178
Other trading activities	5	36	-	36	92	-	92
Investments	6	9	-	9	188	-	188
Other	7	0	5,699	5,699	7,000	11,369	18,369
Total		140,296	6,009	146,305	121,458	11,869	133,327
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	140,916	6,009	146,925	142,019	11,869	153,888
Total		140,916	6,009	146,925	142,019	11,869	153,888
Net (expenditure)/income		(620)	-	(620)	(20,561)	-	(20,561)
Reconciliation of funds:							
Funds brought forward		118,510	-	118,510	139,071	-	139,071
Funds carried forward		117,890	-	117,890	118,510	-	118,510

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2021

		2021		2020	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		6,534		5,734
Current assets					
Debtors	12	1,989		7,645	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>112,477</u>		<u>110,725</u>	
		114,466		118,371	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(3,110)</u>		<u>(5,595)</u>	
Net current assets			111,356		112,776
Net assets			<u>117,890</u>		<u>118,510</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>117,890</u>		<u>118,510</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 27 June 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

JWE Wright
Chair

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

1. Status

Thorns Community Trust is an unincorporated association; it is also a registered charity (registration number 1071096) whose activities are intended to be for the public benefit. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV5 2DS.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised as incoming resources to the extent that the charity has provided the services in question.

Expenditure

Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects comprise those costs incurred by the charity as a result of the delivery of its service. Governance costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in meeting its constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is generally calculated so that the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value are written off over their estimated useful lives. The following depreciation rates apply:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 (continued)**

3. Donations

	2021		2020
	Restricted £	Total £	£
Donations	310	310	500

A donation of £310 (2020: £500) was received in the year which was to be used to provide uniform for the staff (2020: to overhaul the outside area).

4. Income from charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Out of school club fees	57,699	51,358
Holiday club fees	14,145	11,095
Preschool grant	49,472	40,669
Preschool fees	18,935	11,056
	<u>140,251</u>	<u>114,178</u>

5. Other trading activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fundraising activities	<u>36</u>	<u>92</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	2021	2020
	£	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	9	9	188

7. Other income

Included in Other income of £5,699 (2020:£18,369) are the following grants: £5,699 (2020: £11,369) CJRS grant and £nil (2020: £7,000) of COVID 19 grant.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 (continued)**

8. Expenditure on charitable activities

	2021			2020
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
Staff costs	114,567	5,699	120,266	112,287
Insurance	1,921	-	1,921	3,148
Materials	3,465	-	3,465	2,847
Electricity	1,620	-	1,620	1,620
Training	794	-	794	601
Printing postage and telephone	1,178	-	1,178	2,362
Depreciation	2,178	-	2,178	1,961
Rent	4,358	-	4,358	5,459
Rates	46	-	46	276
Repairs	403	-	403	214
Cleaning	2,282	-	2,282	1,782
Equipment	-	-	-	-
Professional fees	3,580	-	3,580	14,143
Uniform	49	310	359	-
Garden project	-	-	-	1,858
Nursery IT and software	25	-	25	406
Bank charges	5	-	5	-
Sundry	3,486	-	3,486	3,964
	<u>139,956</u>	<u>6,009</u>	<u>145,965</u>	<u>152,928</u>
Governance costs:				
Trustees' remuneration and expenses	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees	960	-	960	960
	<u>140,916</u>	<u>6,009</u>	<u>146,925</u>	<u>153,888</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Mr Jonathan Wright, a trustee, received £8 (2020: £233) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

Ms Michelle Andrews, a trustee, received £117 (2020: nil) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

10. Staff remuneration and numbers

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	119,235	108,774
Employers National Insurance	-	2,275
Pension contributions	1,031	1,238
	<u>120,266</u>	<u>112,287</u>

The average monthly number of employees paid during the year was 2 full time (2020: 2) and 12 part-time (2020: 11) who worked between 5 and 20 hours per week.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 (continued)

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings	Equipment	Property Improvements	Total
	£	£	£	£
Cost				
As at 1 September 2020	25,712	9,557	-	35,269
Additions	825	-	2,153	2,978
As at 31 August 2021	<u>26,537</u>	<u>9,557</u>	<u>2,153</u>	<u>38,247</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 September 2020	20,860	8,675	-	29,535
Provided in year	1,419	221	538	2,178
As at 31 August 2021	<u>22,279</u>	<u>8,896</u>	<u>538</u>	<u>31,713</u>
Net book value				
As at 31 August 2021	<u>4,258</u>	<u>662</u>	<u>1,615</u>	<u>6,534</u>
As at 31 August 2020	<u>4,852</u>	<u>882</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,734</u>

12. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	1,333	6,812
Prepayments	656	833
	<u>1,989</u>	<u>7,645</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	532	3,402
Taxation and social security	1,040	771
Accruals	1,538	1,422
	<u>3,110</u>	<u>5,595</u>

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021 (continued)

14. Movement in funds

Name of fund	Opening £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Closing £
Restricted fund: Staff Uniform	-	310	(310)	-
Restricted fund: JRS Claimed	-	5,699	(5,699)	-
Unrestricted fund: General fund	118,510	140,296	(140,916)	117,890
Total of all funds	118,510	146,305	(146,925)	117,890

15. Fees for examination of the accounts

	2021 £	2020 £
Independent examiner's fees	960	960
Other fees paid to the independent examiner - payroll costs	1,040	599
	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,559</u>

FILAN Accountants carried out payroll duties at a cost of £620 (2020:£299) and processed furlough claims at a cost of £420 (2020: £300) in the year. A separate department carried out this work to ensure independence was maintained.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1071096

Accounts



THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

CHARITY NUMBER 1071096

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**THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Reference and administrative information

Thorns Community Trust (TCT) is a registered charity, no. 1071096. TCT trades under the name Brambles Pre-School and Out of School Club (Brambles). Brambles is located on the site of Thorns Community Infant School (Thorns), and continues to maintain close links with the school. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

TCT is overseen by a committee of Trustees. There are three types of trustee:

- Ex-officio - the head teacher of Thorns Community Infant School
- Nominated - Trustees who are appointed by the governing body of Thorns Community Infant School, and
- Co-opted – Trustees who have been appointed by the TCT committee of Trustees as a consequence of their particular professional skills.

TRUSTEES WHO SERVED DURING THE YEAR		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Mandy Rawlings	School Link	Nominated
Eloise Ottewell	Trustee	Nominated
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Katie Tattersall	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated
TRUSTEES MANAGING TCT AT THE TIME THIS REPORT IS SIGNED		
Name	Position	Type of Trustee
Jonathan Wright	Chair	Co-opted
Liz Bradbury	Ex-officio	Ex-officio
Eloise Ottewell	Trustee	Nominated
Simon Morris	Trustee	Nominated
Michelle Andrews	Trustee	Nominated
Katie Tattersall	Trustee	Nominated
Victoria Lancaster	Trustee	Nominated

Structure, Governance and Management

TCT is governed by a constitution, which was written in January 1998 and supplemented by a further deed of the same year. An amendment to the constitution was made by way of Deed of Variation dated 23rd March 2011.

In 2019-20, the Trustees met on eight occasions. This was the highest number of meetings in a decade and was in no small part due to the immediate crisis caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic. During trust meetings all Trustees had the right to speak and to be heard. Decisions were made by consensus.

The day-to-day management of Brambles is delegated to the manager of Brambles, who is supported by a deputy manager. TCT also contracts a direct employee who is responsible for day to day administration and business management. Operational reports are made by the Brambles manager and the business administrator (who is responsible for finance) at most Trustee meetings.

Objectives, activities and performance

The main aim of TCT is to provide high quality child care to young children between the ages of 2 years 9 months and eleven years through the provision of a Pre-School, Out of School Club and Holiday Club.

In effect, Brambles fulfils the obligation of Thorns Community Infant School by way of its extended hours provision.

Public benefit

Brambles is a pre-school, out of school club and holiday club setting that provides reasonably priced childcare and educational benefit to the local community. The Trustees, always seek to bear in mind that TCT is a charity and that they have a responsibility to act in the public interest. At the time of signing this report all serving Trustees had read the guidance published by the Charities Commission on public benefit.

The Trustees believe that the aims and resulting benefits of TCT are clear and that the benefits obtained from TCT's activities are derived from its aims. In addition, the benefits are focused on a section of the public, namely pre-school and primary age children and their parents/carers, and within this range, no section of the public is unreasonably restricted.

Due to its location the children who attend Brambles tend to live within the Thorns' catchment area. The admissions policy does not however exclude children from attending who live outside of this area. The Trustees still consider that the prices are competitive and would not regard the inability to pay fees as a bar to entry.

Pre-school

During the first half of the financial year, the Brambles Pre-School was open for five morning and lunchtime sessions as well as a number of afternoon sessions per week during term time. This abated during the second half of the financial year due to a huge drop in demand as a result of the COVID-19 Lockdown. For some months we provided emergency Pre-School and Out of School Cover for children of key workers, helping out other nurseries that were closed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Brambles Ofsted registration allows 30 children to attend per session. It is TCT policy to not fill each session so that the educational experience for each child is optimised.

The vast majority of the Pre-School children moved from Brambles Pre-School up to Thorns at the end of their pre-school year.

Out of School Club

During the first half of the financial year, the Out of School Club was also only open during term time, and had over fifty children registered, split across the three year groups at Thorns. The Out of School Club opened both before school, from 7:45am, and then again after school, from 3pm to 6pm. A variety of sessions were available and there was a good level of attendance across all of the sessions. This changed materially in the second half of the year owing to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Holiday Club

During the first half of the financial year, the Holiday Club was open during the majority of each school holiday and offered a variety of sessions, within the timeframe of 8am to 6pm. This was much more limited in the second half of the financial year.

The number of children attending Holiday Club varied between holidays. In common with previous years, a good proportion of the children who attended holiday club were pupils at Thorns or Park Hill. These were supplemented by children that attend Clinton and St Augustine's.

Risk Review

The Trustees regularly consider the risks to which TCT is exposed at the Trustees' meetings and, where appropriate, measures are taken to ensure existing systems and procedures are strengthened to mitigate these risks as far as possible. During the year, some new policies were approved and other improvements were made. This is necessary to ensure good governance and manage risk so as to maintain the high standards for the setting.

In order to further mitigate risk, the Trustees have established a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and intend to transfer the undertaking of the Charity to that CIO as soon as a further OFSTED inspection has taken place.

During the financial year an OFSTED inspection took place which rated the setting as "inadequate". The Trustees have invested considerable time and financial resource in addressing the issues raised by the OFSTED Report and are confident that the previous "good" rating will be restored at the next inspection.

Staffing

During the financial year a new manager was appointed to replace the previous manager.

Financial Review

For the year ending 31 August 2020, TCT made a loss of £ 20,561. This decreased the overall level of reserves to £118,510 at the end of the financial year.

The Trustees are aware that the COVID-19 Pandemic had a material impact on finances and took urgent steps to both support all income generation activities (including applications for a grant and the job retention scheme as well as the restoration of the Nursery Grant that had been suspended due to the adverse OFSTED rating in 2019). The Trustees have also taken a close look at all expenditure in order to avoid falling into a loss making position.

There are no restricted or designated funds held by the Trust. From time to time the Trustees may budget to spend certain monies on certain projects, but these funds remain at all times part of the general accumulated fund of the Trust. However, the Trustees believe that an adequate level of reserves of four to six months' running costs should be maintained at all times to enable TCT to continue operating for a term should all external funding cease.

The Trustees observe that the present cash balance held is materially in excess of the stipulated four to six months' running costs. Given the age of the temporary building and the maintenance liabilities that accrue annually, it remains the stated intention of the trustees to look to those surplus funds (with the addition of grant monies) to either refurbish or replace the current temporary building.

Future Events

Fees continue to be reviewed annually. As in previous years, the spare capacity in preschool continues to provide concern as this has had a material effect on the income of the Trust. The Trust continues to face challenges with the implementation of the National Living Wage and the need to offer free at point of access child-care at Government-set rates in the Pre-School. The OFSTED rating in November 2019 has subsisted due to an inability of OFSTED to reinspect as a consequence of the COVID-19 Pandemic and this has limited the ability to attract new children. The Building in which Brambles is housed is now almost 50 years old and requires increasing maintenance. The Trustees will continue to keep both fees and expenditure under close review so as to ensure that the Trust will generate a surplus in future years and therefore maintain adequate levels of reserves to remain viable into the future.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above

Signed on behalf of the TCT's Trustees:

Jonathan William Emlyn Wright
Chair

24 June 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

I report on the accounts of Thorns Community Trust ('the Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of the report

As the Trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). You are satisfied that the accounts of the Trust are not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for England and Wales under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with my examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with those records; or
and the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form
and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Michelle Larkin
Chartered Accountant

FILAN Accountants
57 Ely Street
Warwickshire
CV37 6LN

24 June 2021

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Notes	2020			2019		
		Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Income from:							
Donation	3	-	500	500	-	2,160	2,160
Charitable activities	4	114,178	-	114,178	170,937	-	170,937
Other trading activities	5	92	-	92	1,713	-	1,713
Investments	6	188	-	188	164	-	164
Other	7	7,000	11,369	18,369			
Total		121,458	11,869	133,327	172,814	2,160	174,974
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	8	142,019	11,869	153,888	172,248	2,160	174,408
Total		142,019	11,869	153,888	172,248	2,160	174,408
Net (expenditure)/income		(20,561)	-	(20,561)	566	-	566
Reconciliation of funds:							
Funds brought forward		139,071	-	139,071	138,505	-	138,505
Funds carried forward		118,510	-	118,510	139,071	-	139,071

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	11		5,734		6,050
Current assets					
Debtors	12	7,645		7,829	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>110,725</u>		<u>132,737</u>	
		118,371		140,566	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(5,595)</u>		<u>(7,545)</u>	
Net current assets			112,776		133,021
Net assets			<u>118,510</u>		<u>139,071</u>
Represented by:					
Accumulated funds:					
General fund	14		<u>118,510</u>		<u>139,071</u>

These accounts were approved by the Trustees on 24 June 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

JWE Wright
Chair

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020

1. Status

Thorns Community Trust is an unincorporated association; it is also a registered charity (registration number 1071096) whose activities are intended to be for the public benefit. Its principal location is c/o Thorns Community Infant School, Blackthorn Road, Kenilworth, CV8 2DS.

2. Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view'. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Going concern

After making enquiries, the trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast doubt on going concern and have a reasonable expectation that the Charity will be able to continue its activities for the foreseeable future, and at least twelve months from the date of approval of these accounts. Accordingly, they have continued to adopt the going concern basis in the financial statements.

Income

Income is recognised as incoming resources to the extent that the charity has provided the services in question.

Expenditure

Costs of activities in furtherance of the charity's objects comprise those costs incurred by the charity as a result of the delivery of its service. Governance costs comprise those costs incurred by the charity in meeting its constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are included in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is generally calculated so that the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value are written off over their estimated useful lives. The following depreciation rates apply:

- Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% reducing balance.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020 (continued)

3. Donations

	2020		2019
	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£
Donations	500	500	2,160

A donation of £500 (2019: £2,160) was received in the year which was to be used to overhaul the outside area.

4. Income from charitable activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Out of school club fees	51,358	77,777
Holiday club fees	11,095	12,491
Preschool grant	40,669	64,899
Preschool fees	11,056	15,770
	<u>114,178</u>	<u>170,937</u>

5. Other trading activities

	2020	2019
	£	£
Fundraising activities	<u>92</u>	<u>1,713</u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted	2020	2019
	funds	£	£
	£	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	188	<u>188</u>	<u>164</u>

7. Other income

Included in Other income of £18,369 are the following grants: £11,369 CJRS grant and £7,000 of COVID 19 grant.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020 (continued)****8. Expenditure on charitable activities**

	2020			2019
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
Staff costs	100,918	11,369	112,287	133,097
Insurance	3,148	-	3,148	3,609
Materials	2,847	-	2,847	2,166
Electricity	1,620	-	1,620	2,805
Training	601	-	601	965
Printing postage and telephone	2,362	-	2,362	2,320
Depreciation	1,961	-	1,961	859
Rent	5,459	-	5,459	5,490
Rates	276	-	276	418
Repairs	214	-	214	1,128
Cleaning	1,782	-	1,782	1,481
Equipment	-	-	-	1,063
Professional fees	14,143	-	14,143	7,564
Garden project	1,358	500	1,858	2,470
Nursery IT and software	406	-	406	2,582
Sundry	3,964	-	3,964	5,891
	<u>141,059</u>	<u>11,869</u>	<u>152,928</u>	<u>173,908</u>
Governance costs:				
Trustees' remuneration and expenses	-	-	-	-
Independent Examiner's fees	960	-	960	500
	<u>142,019</u>	<u>11,869</u>	<u>153,888</u>	<u>174,408</u>

9. Trustees remuneration and expenses

Mr Jonathan Wright, a trustee, received £233 (2019: nil) for reimbursed expenses during the year.

10. Staff remuneration and numbers

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	108,549	128,247
Employers National Insurance	2,275	3,067
Pension contributions	1,238	1,783
	<u>112,062</u>	<u>133,097</u>

The average monthly number of employees paid during the year was 2 full time (2019: 2) and 11 part-time (2019: 15) who worked between 5 and 20 hours per week. The drop in staff numbers was due to COVID 19.

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020 (continued)**

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures & fittings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
As at 2 September 2019	24,217	9,407	33,624
Additions	1,495	150	1,645
As at 31 August 2020	<u>25,712</u>	<u>9,557</u>	<u>35,269</u>
Depreciation			
As at 2 September 2019	19,243	8,331	27,574
Provided in year	1,617	344	1,961
As at 31 August 2020	<u>20,860</u>	<u>8,675</u>	<u>29,535</u>
Net book value			
As at 31 August 2020	<u>4,852</u>	<u>882</u>	<u>5,734</u>
As at 01 September 2019	<u>4,974</u>	<u>1,076</u>	<u>6,050</u>

12. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade debtors	6,812	6,373
Prepayments	833	1,456
	<u>7,645</u>	<u>7,829</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	3,402	3,567
Taxation and social security	771	2,464
Accruals	1,422	1,514
	<u>5,595</u>	<u>7,545</u>

THORNS COMMUNITY TRUST

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020 (continued)**

14. Movement in funds

Name of fund	Opening	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Closing
	£	£	£	£
Restricted fund: garden project	-	500	(500)	-
Restricted fund: JRS Claimed	-	11,369	(11,369)	-
Unrestricted fund:				
General fund	139,071	121,458	(142,019)	118,510
Total of all funds	<u>139,071</u>	<u>133,327</u>	<u>(153,888)</u>	<u>118,510</u>

15. Fees for examination of the accounts

	2020	2019
	£	£
Independent examiner's fees	960	500
Other fees paid to the independent examiner - payroll costs	599	-
	<u>1,559</u>	<u>500</u>

FILAN Accountants carried out payroll duties at a cost of £299 and processed furlough claims at a cost of £300 in the year. A separate department carried out this work to ensure independence was maintained.