

THE BEARSTED WOODLAND CHARITABLE TRUST

Registered Charity 1103585

Report of the Trustees for year ended 30 June 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Objectives of the Trust

To preserve and maintain land owned by the Trust off Church Landway, Bearsted and immediately adjacent areas in the interests of social welfare to provide a place of exercise and recreation for the benefits of the inhabitants of Bearsted and visitors. In the interests of conservation to develop, conserve, protect and restore the natural resources and animal and plant life of the land.

Organisation and decision making structure

The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust was founded by a Deed of Trust dated 5 January 2004 and is a Registered Charity no. 1103585. The Trustees govern the charity and delegate day to day operations to a Management Committee which is appointed by the Trustees. Members of the Management Committee contribute a large amount of time and expertise on a voluntary basis.

Review of the activities of the Trust

During the year the operations of the Trust continued in a similar pattern to previous years. Maintenance continues to be well managed and supported by a large team of weekly volunteers (24). Two new teams of litter pickers (16) started this year and have made a noticeable visible difference which combined with a newsletter delivery team bring the total to 78 volunteers (excluding trustees) making a contribution to our trust. Communication with supporters is assured by an excellent website, an annual newsletter, and a member's AGM. Funding is maintained via annual 'membership' donations, tree and bench 'sponsorship' and other donations. A revised planning application was required by the planning department to complete construction of the car park which was finally obtained on 13 June. This enabled construction to widen the entrance and track and to meet planning conditions with the electrics laid to automate the gates and provide an EV charger this autumn to enable the car park to go live on 9th October.

Policy on reserves

The Trustees policy is to maintain sufficient reserves to fund the Trust's activities and meet future commitments. This includes retaining sufficient reserves to fund future capital expenditure and to use paid for contractors if necessary.

The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust renamed to Bearsted Woodland Trust

At the 4th November 2023 Trustee meeting the Trustees approved a proposal to rename the Trust from The Bearsted Woodland Charitable Trust to Bearsted Woodland Trust, as it is locally known, and the Trustees signed the required supplementary deed.

Richard Ashness
Chairman of Trustees
4 November 2023

BEARSTED WOODLAND TRUST

Registered Charity no. 1103585

ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS TO 30 JUNE 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Membership donations	6,369	6,055
Life membership donations	3,225	2,300
Donations - various	1,444	3,567
Tree donations	5,210	712
Gift Aid tax recovery	2,679	2,304
Bank interest	7,247	2,035
Other Income	1,421	428
Total income	<u>27,595</u>	<u>17,451</u>

EXPENDITURE

Trees, wildflower seeds & benches	2,707	2,515
Site costs	4,754	3,340
Health and Safety	-	1,016
Insurance	1,582	1,530
Newsletter & Website	787	765
Secretarial & General	732	557
Merchandise	937	1,151
Car Park	5,656	15,442
Car Park Planting	-	1,292
Tree surgery	-	6,240
Total expenditure	<u>17,155</u>	<u>33,848</u>

Surplus / (Deficit) for year	10,440	(16,397)
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Reserves brought forward	278,932	295,329
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Reserves carried forward	<u>289,372</u>	<u>278,932</u>
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT :

	30 Jun 23	30 Jun 22
Bank balances	£	£
Natwest current	2,414	1,256
Natwest deposit	-	4,150
Epworth Cash Plus Fund for Charities	139,388	175,911
Redwood	87,399	85,311
United Trust Bank-Notice	49,991	-
United Trust Bank-Fixed Term	10,180	10,000
Cash at Bank	<u>289,372</u>	<u>276,628</u>
Sundry Debtor	-	2,304
Total Assets	<u>289,372</u>	<u>278,932</u>

Martin Gray
Honorary Treasurer

Anil Mathur
Independent Examiner

Richard Ashness
Trustee

Approved at Trustees meeting held on 4 November 2023



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

The Bearsted Woodland Trust

On accounts for the year
ended

30 June 2023

Charity no
(if any)

1103585

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30 / 06 / 2023.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent
examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. *Delete [] if not applicable.*

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting 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.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

12th September 2023

Name:

Anil Mathur

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

FCA Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Address:

14 Windmill Heights, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4QE

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.