

CIVIC VOICE

England & Wales · Charity number 1134476

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07142946
Registered	2010-02-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	70 Cowcross Street London EC1M 6EJ
Phone	07738305212
Email	info@civicvoice.org.uk
Website	www.civicvoice.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3.1.1 TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IN PARTICULAR THE PUBLIC REALM AND THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT; 3.1.2 TO ENCOURAGE HIGH STANDARDS IN THE MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILT AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT; 3.1.3 TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BY THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THE PROMOTION OF THE PRUDENT USE OF RESOURCES (SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BEING DEVELOPMENT THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS); 3.1.4 TO FOSTER CIVIC PRIDE AND STIMULATE AND EDUCATE THE PUBLIC, IN PARTICULAR BY PROMOTING UNDERSTANDING OF THE BEAUTY, HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND CHARACTER OF DIFFERENT LOCALITIES; 3.1.5 TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND AND TAKE ACTION TO CONSERVE, PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY, BEAUTY AND CHARACTER OF THEIR LOCALITY; 3.1.6 TO PROMOTE SUCH OTHER CHARITABLE PURPOSES AS MAY FROM TIME TO TIME BE DETERMINED BY THE TRUSTEES, INCLUDING THE ASSISTANCE OF OTHER CHARITIES.

Activities: Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England. We work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and promote civic pride. We campaign nationally and support civic societies and other community and voluntary groups to be more successful locally.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-04-30	£55,842	£73,392	-	-
2024-04-30	£52,109	£61,304	-	-
2023-04-30	£111,801	£105,474	-	-
2022-04-30	£89,403	£116,369	-	-
2021-04-30	£106,738	£138,486	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Robert Osborne	Chair	2021-03-17
Barry Goodchild Prof		2024-12-07
Jane Maggs		2021-03-17
John Richard Glendy Bland		2026-02-20
MARTIN HAMILTON		2020-01-21
Malcolm Douglas Gardner		2026-02-20

CIVIC VOICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1134476

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07142946 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134476

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 April 2024
for
Civic Voice
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Civic Voice

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Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England. Our members work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and promote civic pride. We campaign nationally and support civic societies and other community and voluntary groups to be more successful locally. We believe everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of.

Our charitable objects are to:

- Promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular the public realm and the historic environment
- Encourage high standards in the management and development of the built and natural environment
- Promote sustainable development by the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and the promotion of the prudent use of resources (sustainable development being development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs)
- Foster civic pride and stimulate and educate the public, in particular by promoting understanding of the beauty, history, geography and character of different localities
- Develop the capacity and skills of individuals and communities to understand and take action to conserve, protect and improve the quality, beauty and character of their locality
- Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Trustees, including the assistance of other charities

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

As we reflect on 2024, Civic Voice continues to strengthen its position as the national charity for civic and community societies, supporting over 70,000 members across England. This year has been marked by our dedication to enabling local voices to influence change, advocating for better planning policies, and empowering communities to create thriving places to live, work, and visit.

After a challenging period in recent years, we are pleased to report a more positive and productive year. The introduction of a new Expert Panel has brought valuable insights to our work, and the relaunch of our Regional Forums has reinvigorated collaboration across the civic movement, enabling members to engage in discussions that shape local and national policy.

Civic Voice has been at the forefront of major national discussions, providing input into the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). As part of the NPPF consultation, Civic Voice launched a campaign encouraging civic societies to provide input into the reforms.

Throughout our engagement, we received over 700 submissions from surveys and email contributions. Whether discussing the delivery of truly affordable homes, exploring the grey belt, or considering the impact of the return to regional planning, civic societies across the country—including Aylesbury, Bristol, Kings Lynn, Highgate, and Wakefield—actively shared their perspectives on how these reforms would affect their local areas. It was inspiring to see civic societies engaging so enthusiastically with the consultation process.

Notably, we highlighted the need for greater community involvement, welcomed a return to sub-regional planning, and championed calls for truly affordable housing. These efforts have been informed by robust feedback from our members, the Expert Forum, and the Regional Forums, ensuring Civic Voice remains the trusted voice for communities in shaping planning and housing policy.

Additionally, Civic Voice provided input into the House of Lords Inquiry on the Grey Belt and looks forward to contributing further to the Government's Planning and Infrastructure agenda. These efforts reflect our commitment to ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard at the highest levels of policy-making.

We are delighted to celebrate the successes of our members this year. Pontefract Civic Society received the prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service, recognising their outstanding contribution to the community. Meanwhile, Weymouth Civic Society won Best Small Visitor Attraction at the Visit England Awards for their dedication to creating a unique and welcoming visitor experience.

Additionally, Poole's Cavern & Buxton Country Park, managed by the dedicated team at Buxton Civic Association, proudly announced its accolade in Tripadvisor's Travellers' Choice Awards for 2024, reflecting its popularity and the exceptional experience offered to visitors. These achievements are a testament to the dedication and passion of our civic societies in enhancing their communities.

Through our Civic Voice Regional Forums, we facilitated collaboration among civic societies, providing opportunities to engage directly with policymakers and share best practices. Key themes included the importance of strategic planning, cross-boundary cooperation, and the role of communities in delivering public benefit.

Our efforts have supported civic societies' work on local issues, from transforming town centres to protecting heritage assets. Success stories include fostering greater involvement in Town Boards, enhancing community engagement, and supporting initiatives like Civic Day, which continues to celebrate the importance of pride in place.

Groups, including the Potteries Heritage Society, celebrated National Civic Day on 15 June with the event 'The Death and Life of Stoke Town Centre', highlighting the challenges and opportunities in regenerating this historic area. This event exemplified how local communities can shine a spotlight on their town centres and inspire positive action.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

This year, we hosted a series of In Conversation events to facilitate meaningful dialogue between civic society members and key policymakers. Notably, we welcomed Clive Betts MP, former Chair of the MHCLG Select Committee, who provided invaluable insights into the challenges and opportunities facing planning and infrastructure reform. These events have been instrumental in connecting grassroots advocates with decision-makers, ensuring civic voices are heard in shaping the future of communities.

In April, Civic Voice hosted a national conference in Wakefield, supported by Yorkshire and Humber Association of Civic Societies and Wakefield Civic Society. The conference brought together civic societies, local authorities, and partners to look at communities can share where they live. The event highlighted best practices in community engagement, showcased local projects from across Yorkshire, and provided attendees with practical tools to influence planning and regeneration in their areas. Delegates praised the conference for meaningful discussions and inspiring new collaborations across the civic movement. Thank you to YHACS and Wakefield Civic Society for supporting.

This year, Civic Voice has continued its work as a key partner on the High Street Task Force, a programme aimed at supporting high streets and town centres across England. As the Task Force concludes in 2024, we are proud to have contributed to its success by bringing the voice of civic and community groups into national conversations about regeneration.

Groups in Kendal, Stoke, Liverpool, and Southend all benefited directly from High Street Task Force support, receiving tailored guidance and resources to address local challenges. This partnership has been instrumental in influencing government policy and we look forward to what will come next from Government policy for high streets.

In partnership with Historic England, we coordinated a national survey to understand local civic society involvement in celebrating local blue plaque schemes. Civic Voice supported Historic England's national call in encouraging civic societies in nominating individuals to receive a national blue plaque, including contributions from Ilkley Civic Society and The Wavertree Society, who championed national plaques being installed in their areas.

While we are aware that some Civic Voice members have expressed concerns about the national Blue Plaques scheme, we continue to work closely with Historic England to address these issues and ensure the programme supports local heritage in meaningful and inclusive ways.

The Board was pleased to report the recovery of funds which had been misappropriated from the organisation's bank account. This sum of £92,646 returns Civic Voice to a degree of financial stability, but as we look ahead, the civic movement recognises the need to secure further funding to sustain and expand our efforts. One of our key priorities will be exploring opportunities through the National Lottery Fund to support our ambitions. With government policy decisions increasingly being made at the sub-regional level, we believe it is vital that civic societies are equipped to engage effectively at this scale.

We also face the challenge of being an aging movement, and we continue to see groups close because they cannot recruit officers to fulfill important positions. To address this, we will collaborate with regional associations to attract new members, build leadership capacity, and ensure civic societies are prepared for informed discussions with policymakers.

As we prepare for 2025, Civic Voice is committed to addressing the challenges facing the movement and building on this year's successes. Our manifesto for 2024-2028 outlines a vision of creating places where the historic environment is cherished, housing is accessible to all, and high streets thrive as community hubs.

Key priorities for the coming year include:

- Defining how civic societies can engage effectively at the sub-regional level to ensure local voices remain integral to decision-making processes.
- Expanding opportunities for capacity building and leadership development, particularly through collaboration with regional associations.
- Pursuing funding opportunities, including the National Lottery Fund, to sustain our work and deliver new initiatives.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening engagement with policymakers through Regional Forums, In Conversation events, and partnerships with organisations such as Historic England.

Public benefit

The civic movement is based on a network of hundreds of local voluntary civic and amenity societies in the warp and weft of communities across England. It is one of the largest social movements in the country. The first civic society was set up in the 1840s.

Civic societies provide a focus for voluntary and community action to improve the places where people live, work and relax. They champion the importance of these places to decision makers and opinion formers in business, politics, government, the media, the voluntary sector and elsewhere.

They play an essential and voluntary role in helping individuals and communities to understand and take action to improve the quality of their life through the place where they live. Civic societies promote and celebrate the best of what is inherited from the past and what is developed for the future.

They are a fundamental source of civic pride. This work brings benefits to the whole community and not just to those who are members of civic societies. Civic societies are the country's most numerous participants in the land use planning system and civic society volunteers frequently act as trusted intermediaries between local government and local people in planning, transport and other decision making. Many civic societies campaign for better management of local assets (buildings and open space) and find solutions to their long term management. Civic societies are fiercely independent and grassroots organisations.

They will celebrate and encourage positive action and be forthright in resisting damaging change. They are also a store of knowledge and expertise about local places which is an essential starting point in recognising and strengthening their identity. This is often reflected in blue plaque schemes run by civic societies or the development of town trails or management of local archives.

The civic movement is also central to supporting and developing the sense of identity and belonging that comes from positive feelings about the place where people live.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

As reported previously, in April 2022 the Trustees discovered that a significant sum of money had been misappropriated from one of the organisation's bank accounts. Since then, strenuous efforts were made to recover the stolen funds. These included the engagement of lawyers to deal directly with the perpetrator. In the end, the sale of assets enabled recovery of the full sum taken plus interest. The money was returned to Civic Voice on 30th April 2024 (£92,646.19).

Civic Voice has incurred significant but unavoidable legal costs in the process, and whilst we have continued to make enquiries of Action Fraud to understand what if any action was being taken by them, we have not had any indication that they intend to take legal action.

The recovery of these funds reinstates a financial buffer and provides Civic Voice with a degree of financial stability and also provides the organisation with a degree of financial credibility which is essential as further grants and consultancy work are sought to supplement membership fee income.

The trustees have reviewed the probable incoming and out-going resources over the next 2 years and are confident that the going concern basis is appropriate.

Civic Voice recorded total income in the year of £52k (2023: £112k) with the decrease attributable to reduced donations and grants.

Total charitable expenditure before taking into account the misappropriation of funds referred to above was £31k (2023: £105k), giving rise to net income in the year of £113k (2023: £6k) after accounting for the recovery of the £93k of misappropriated funds.

Civic Voice had net assets of £74k at 30 April 2024 (2023: £38k net liabilities).

Reserves policy

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended, At present the free reserves are below the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended. At present the free reserves are above the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

General Fund

These funds are unrestricted and are used for all charitable purposes without restriction in accordance with the governing documents. Amounts held in these funds as at 30 April 2024 were £74,483 (2023: £38,930 (deficit)).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Civic Voice is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2nd February 2010 and registered as a charity on 23rd February 2010. There is a range of formal and informal routes to shape the priorities of Civic Voice. Members participate in our work, get involved at a national convention and engage in the key issues through meetings of local clusters of societies and by providing information, examples and experience for Civic Voice to use in our lobbying and influence.

Charity constitution

Civic Voice is run by a Board of seven trustees, who are elected by member civic societies. Up to three others can be co-opted. The Board is responsible for the overall strategy and sustainability of the organisation and ensuring effective compliance and risk management. It delegates executive responsibilities to the Executive Director.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board is recruited openly and all its members are also members of local civic societies.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07142946 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1134476

Registered office

Bank House
9 Dicconson Terrace
Lytham
Lytham St Anne's
FY8 5JY

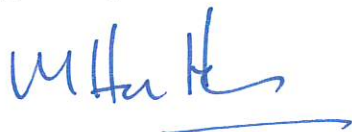
Trustees

David Evans
Martin Gunson
Kathleen Hollins
Peter Karpinski (resigned 2/12/2023)
Martin Hamilton
Jane Maggs
Robert Osborne
Andrew Evans (appointed 2/12/2023)
Andrew Jackson (appointed 2/12/2023)

Independent Examiner

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13 January 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Martin Hamilton - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Civic Voice

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Civic Voice ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission 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 the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Neil McMillan FCA

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

13 January 2025

Civic Voice

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations		-	-	-	38,351
Charitable activities					
Membership		51,847	-	51,847	56,768
Grants / Fees		-	-	-	16,667
Other trading activities	3	262	-	262	15
Total		52,109	-	52,109	111,801
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities		23,511	-	23,511	97,890
Charitable activities					
Membership		2,683	-	2,683	1,364
Other	4	(87,498)	-	(87,498)	6,220
Total		(61,304)	-	(61,304)	105,474
NET INCOME		113,413	-	113,413	6,327
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		(38,930)	-	(38,930)	(45,257)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		74,483	-	74,483	(38,930)

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice

Balance Sheet 30 April 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Cash at bank and in hand		109,293	-	109,293	21,231
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	(34,810)	-	(34,810)	(60,161)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>74,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,483</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>74,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,483</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>74,483</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>74,483</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>
FUNDS	9				
Unrestricted funds				<u>74,483</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>74,483</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 April 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- (a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 13 January 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Martin Hamilton - Trustee

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2024

1. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee. Each member of the charity undertakes that if the charity is wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, he/she will contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity for:

- payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity contracted before he/she ceases to be a member,
- payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentational currency of the charity is pound sterling (£) and the amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity has, as noted in the Report of the Trustees, reviewed reserves policies, ongoing projects and income and expenditure. It is heavily reliant on national and local government funding and other charitable foundations. A new fundraising strategy and new fundraising committee has been implemented. The trustees have reviewed the probable incoming and out-going resources over the period to April 2025 and are confident that the going concern basis is appropriate and consequently the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably,
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established,
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers,

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the Statement of Financial Activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods,
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities,
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justified and consistent basis.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Government grants

Government grants are accounted for under the accruals model. Where the grant is classed as revenue, it is recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the company recognises the related costs.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2024

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Events	<u>262</u>	<u>15</u>

4. OTHER

	2024	2023
	£	£
Exceptional item - misappropriation of funds	(92,646)	-
Support costs	<u>5,148</u>	<u>6,220</u>
	<u>(87,498)</u>	<u>6,220</u>

In April 2022, the trustees identified a misappropriation of the charity's funds. This was treated as an exceptional expense in 2022, and further detail is provided in the Report of the Trustees and note 1 to these financial statements. The amount of £92,646 was recovered on 30 April 2024 and has been recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Legal costs of £4,245 have been incurred in the year in relation to the recovery.

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 April 2024 nor for the year ended 30 April 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 April 2024 nor for the year ended 30 April 2023.

6. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
Number of staff - Admin	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the current or previous year.

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations	38,351	-	38,351
Charitable activities			
Membership	56,768	-	56,768
Grants / Fees	-	16,667	16,667
Other trading activities	<u>15</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	<u>95,134</u>	<u>16,667</u>	<u>111,801</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	97,890	-	97,890

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2024

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Charitable activities			
Membership	1,364	-	1,364
Other	6,220	-	6,220
Total	<u>105,474</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>105,474</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(10,340)	16,667	6,327
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	(28,590)	(16,667)	(45,257)
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>

8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	4,436	-
Social security and other taxes	6,923	22,157
Other creditors	6,343	1,229
Deferred income	14,738	30,761
Accrued expenses	2,370	6,014
	<u>34,810</u>	<u>60,161</u>

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/5/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/4/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(38,930)	113,413	74,483
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>113,413</u>	<u>74,483</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	52,109	61,304	113,413
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>52,109</u>	<u>61,304</u>	<u>113,413</u>

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2024

9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/5/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/4/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(28,590)	(10,340)	(38,930)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	(16,667)	16,667	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>6,327</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	95,134	(105,474)	(10,340)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	16,667	-	16,667
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>111,801</u>	<u>(105,474)</u>	<u>6,327</u>

10. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £2,405 (2023: £7,551).

11. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 April 2024 or 30 April 2023.

Civic Voice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations		
Donations	-	38,351
Other trading activities		
Events	262	15
Charitable activities		
Membership	39,434	43,338
Projects	12,413	13,430
Grants / Fees	-	16,667
	<u>51,847</u>	<u>73,435</u>
Total incoming resources	52,109	111,801
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	22,525	70,232
Social security	(7,656)	8,011
Pensions	2,405	7,551
Telephone	948	839
Other establishment costs	3,981	11,257
Interest payable	1,308	-
	<u>23,511</u>	<u>97,890</u>
Other		
Exceptional item - misappropriation of funds	(92,646)	-
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	-	471
Other		
Governance costs inc AGM	2,683	893
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	792	-
Legal fees	4,356	6,220
	<u>5,148</u>	<u>6,220</u>
Total resources expended	(61,304)	105,474
Net Income	113,413	6,327

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements



CIVIC VOICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1134476

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023
for
Civic Voice
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Civic Voice

Contents of the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2023

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Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England. Our members work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and promote civic pride. We campaign nationally and support civic societies and other community and voluntary groups to be more successful locally. We believe everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of.

Our charitable objects are to:

- Promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular the public realm and the historic environment
- Encourage high standards in the management and development of the built and natural environment
- Promote sustainable development by the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and the promotion of the prudent use of resources (sustainable development being development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs)
- Foster civic pride and stimulate and educate the public, in particular by promoting understanding of the beauty, history, geography and character of different localities
- Develop the capacity and skills of individuals and communities to understand and take action to conserve, protect and improve the quality, beauty and character of their locality
- Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Trustees, including the assistance of other charities

Significant activities

This report highlights the accomplishments of Civic Voice, an organisation devoted to promoting a sense of pride in place' and demonstrates how we are working towards achieving our vision of a society in which each person can say, "I am proud of where I live."

During the course of this financial year, we experienced considerable turbulence as an organisation as we had to deal with the fall out from the theft of funds from our bank account in 2022 and earlier. We were heartened by the response of the Civic Voice whose donations, and forward payments of membership fees ensured that the organisation was able to continue to operate.

We are also grateful for the support of our Executive Director Ian Harvey throughout the period covered by this report. During the course of this period, our Policy and Membership Development Officer Sarah James left the organisation for a new role with Warwickshire County Council. Sarah's contribution to the organisation was considerable and we wished her the best in her new role.

Civic Voice continued to offer a mix of events including APPG meeting (one attended by Civic Voice President Griff Rhys Jones) and webinars. We held an in-person AGM in Birmingham.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2023

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

The civic movement is based on a network of hundreds of local voluntary civic and amenity societies in the warp and weft of communities across England. It is one of the largest social movements in the country. The first civic society was set up in the 1840s.

Civic societies provide a focus for voluntary and community action to improve the places where people live, work and relax. They champion the importance of these places to decision makers and opinion formers in business, politics, government, the media, the voluntary sector and elsewhere.

They play an essential and voluntary role in helping individuals and communities to understand and take action to improve the quality of their life through the place where they live. Civic societies promote and celebrate the best of what is inherited from the past and what is developed for the future.

They are a fundamental source of civic pride. This work brings benefits to the whole community and not just to those who are members of civic societies. Civic societies are the country's most numerous participants in the land use planning system and civic society volunteers frequently act as trusted intermediaries between local government and local people in planning, transport and other decision making. Many civic societies campaign for better management of local assets (buildings and open space) and find solutions to their long term management. Civic societies are fiercely independent and grassroots organisations.

They will celebrate and encourage positive action and be forthright in resisting damaging change. They are also a store of knowledge and expertise about local places which is an essential starting point in recognising and strengthening their identity. This is often reflected in blue plaque schemes run by civic societies or the development of town trails or management of local archives.

The civic movement is also central to supporting and developing the sense of identity and belonging that comes from positive feelings about the place where people live.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

In April 2022, the trustees discovered that a significant sum of money had been misappropriated from one of the organisation's bank accounts, which was the culmination of a series of thefts which began in June 2020. This misappropriation of funds of just under £92k was reported to the police and the Charity Commission, and immediate steps were taken to safeguard the organisation's banking accounts against further misappropriation. A rapid review of financial procedures was undertaken by the trustees. The trustees met and discussed what action should be taken to ensure that Civic Voice could continue as a viable organisation. This included the potential for a membership appeal, approaches to funding bodies for emergency funding (including an approach to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities).

Initial discussions were also held about the potential to recover the money through civil channels given that any criminal investigation may take time and may not result in its recovery but it became obvious that the misappropriation of such a large sum of money from a small charity presented an existential threat. The misappropriated funds were effectively a buffer which Civic Voice intended to use as bridging funding; although Civic Voice is a subscription organisation, it can only function in its current form (with paid staff) by attracting further income from grants and consultancy.

The reserve fund provided a bridge to smooth out the financial profile of Civic Voice when grants were coming to an end and new grants were yet to begin. This money is no longer available for that purpose, and a significant "part two" lottery bid that Trustees were planning to submit on the back of the successful £50k grant received in September 2021, had to be put on hold. Obtaining significant grant funding in the circumstances where a theft is under active investigation, is evidently also problematic.

We are pleased to report that we are now very hopeful that the stolen funds will be recovered and other consultancy and grant funding is also assumed.

The trustees have reviewed the probable incoming and out-going resources over the next 2 years. Having taken legal advice on the recovery of the stolen funds, and reducing the charities outgoings until this recovery is achieved, the trustees are confident that going concern is an appropriate basis.

Civic Voice recorded total income in the year of £112k (2022: £89k) with increases in donations and membership fees offset by a reduction in grants, as the last of the National Lottery funding was released.

Total charitable expenditure before taking account of the misappropriation of funds referred to above was £105k (2022: £116k), giving rise to net income in the year of £6k (2022: net expenditure of £30k before misappropriation of funds, and £104k after).

Civic Voice had net liabilities of £39k at 30 April 2023 (2022: £45k).

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended, At present the free reserves are below the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended. At present the free reserves are below the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

General Fund

These funds are unrestricted and are used for all charitable purposes without restriction in accordance with the governing documents. Amounts held in these funds as at 30 April 2023 were (deficit) £39,930 (2022: £28,590).

Restricted Fund - Lottery Funding

Civic Voice was awarded a grant in September 2021 to the value of £50,000 by the Community Fund. This grant is for a 12 monthly period starting in September 2021 and is specifically designated for staff funds/time to develop the engagement exercise with Civic Voice membership to inform a new Civic Voice strategy.

Of the total of £50,000 received, £16,667 has been recognised in the year (2022: £33,333), utilising the full grant.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Civic Voice is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2nd February 2010 and registered as a charity on 23rd February 2010. There is a range of formal and informal routes to shape the priorities of Civic Voice. Members participate in our work, get involved at a national convention and engage in the key issues through meetings of local clusters of societies and by providing information, examples and experience for Civic Voice to use in our lobbying and influence.

Charity constitution

Civic Voice is run by a Board of seven trustees, who are elected by member civic societies. Up to three others can be co-opted. The Board is responsible for the overall strategy and sustainability of the organisation and ensuring effective compliance and risk management. It delegates executive responsibilities to the Executive Director.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board is recruited openly and all its members are also members of local civic societies.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07142946 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1134476

Registered office

Bank House
9 Dicconson Terrace
Lytham
Lytham St Anne's
FY8 5JY

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2023

Trustees

DJ Evans

ME Gunson

JJ Humble (resigned 12/7/2022)

KM Hollins

H Kidman (resigned 11/7/2022)

PS Karpinski

M Hamilton

G Battarbee (resigned 13/6/2022)

J Maggs

R Osborne

L Brown (resigned 11/7/2022)

Independent Examiner

McMillan & Co LLP

Chartered Accountants

28 Eaton Avenue

Matrix Office Park

Buckshaw Village

Chorley

Lancashire

PR7 7NA

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 February 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

M Hamilton - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Civic Voice

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Civic Voice ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission 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 the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Neil McMillan FCA

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

28 February 2024

Civic Voice

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations		38,351	-	38,351	12,680
Charitable activities					
Membership		56,768	-	56,768	35,598
Projects		-	-	-	6,206
Grants / Fees		-	16,667	16,667	33,333
Other trading activities	3	15	-	15	1,586
Total		95,134	16,667	111,801	89,403
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities		97,890	-	97,890	116,369
Charitable activities					
Membership		1,364	-	1,364	-
Other	4	6,220	-	6,220	77,365
Total		105,474	-	105,474	193,734
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(10,340)	16,667	6,327	(104,331)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		(28,590)	(16,667)	(45,257)	59,074
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(38,930)	-	(38,930)	(45,257)

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice

Balance Sheet 30 April 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	-	-	-	1,457
Cash at bank and in hand		21,231	-	21,231	12,130
		<u>21,231</u>	-	<u>21,231</u>	<u>13,587</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(60,161)	-	(60,161)	(58,844)
		<u>(60,161)</u>	-	<u>(60,161)</u>	<u>(58,844)</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		(38,930)	-	(38,930)	(45,257)
		<u>(38,930)</u>	-	<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		(38,930)	-	(38,930)	(45,257)
		<u>(38,930)</u>	-	<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)					
		(38,930)	-	(38,930)	(45,257)
		<u>(38,930)</u>	-	<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>
FUNDS					
	10				
Unrestricted funds				(38,930)	(28,590)
Restricted funds				-	(16,667)
				<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				(38,930)	(45,257)
				<u>(38,930)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 April 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 February 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

M Hamilton - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2023

1. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee. Each member of the charity undertakes that if the charity is wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, he/she will contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity for:

- payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity contracted before he/she ceases to be a member,
- payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentational currency of the charity is pound sterling (£) and the amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity has, as noted in the Report of the Trustees, reviewed reserves policies, ongoing projects and income and expenditure. It is heavily reliant on national and local government funding and other charitable foundations. A new fundraising strategy and new fundraising committee has been implemented. The trustees have reviewed the probable incoming and out-going resources over the period to April 2025. Having taken legal advice on the recovery of the stolen funds, and reducing the charities outgoings until this recovery is achieved, the trustees are confident that going concern is an appropriate basis and consequently the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably,
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established,

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers,
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the Statement of Financial Activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods,
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities,
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justified and consistent basis.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Government grants

Government grants are accounted for under the accruals model. Where the grant is classed as revenue, it is recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the company recognises the related costs.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Events	15	1,586

4. OTHER

	2023	2022
	£	£
Exceptional item - misappropriation of funds	-	74,750
Support costs	6,220	2,615
	<u>6,220</u>	<u>77,365</u>

In April 2022, the trustees identified a misappropriation of the charity's funds. This was treated as an exceptional expense in 2022, and further detail is provided in the Report of the Trustees and note 1 to these financial statements. All efforts are being made by the trustees to recover the sums involved. It is hopeful that the funds will be recovered but no debtor has been recognised in these accounts at 30 April 2023 for this due to an element of uncertainty. Legal costs of £6,220 have been incurred in the year in relation to the recovery.

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 April 2023 nor for the year ended 30 April 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 April 2023 nor for the year ended 30 April 2022.

6. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Number of staff - Admin	1	3

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the current or previous year.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2023

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations	12,680	-	12,680
Charitable activities			
Membership	35,598	-	35,598
Projects	6,206	-	6,206
Grants / Fees	-	33,333	33,333
Other trading activities	1,586	-	1,586
Total	<u>56,070</u>	<u>33,333</u>	<u>89,403</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	83,036	33,333	116,369
Other	77,365	-	77,365
Total	<u>160,401</u>	<u>33,333</u>	<u>193,734</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(104,331)	-	(104,331)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	75,741	(16,667)	59,074
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>(28,590)</u>	<u>(16,667)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued income	-	1,457
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2023

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	-	3,521
Social security and other taxes	22,157	7,189
Other creditors	1,229	1,230
Deferred income	30,761	40,890
Accrued expenses	6,014	6,014
	<u>60,161</u>	<u>58,844</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/5/22	Net movement in funds	At 30/4/23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(28,590)	(10,340)	(38,930)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	(16,667)	16,667	-
	<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>6,327</u>	<u>(38,930)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	95,134	(105,474)	(10,340)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	16,667	-	16,667
	<u>111,801</u>	<u>(105,474)</u>	<u>6,327</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/5/21	Net movement in funds	At 30/4/22
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,741	(104,331)	(28,590)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	(16,667)	-	(16,667)
	<u>59,074</u>	<u>(104,331)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2023

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	56,070	(160,401)	(104,331)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	33,333	(33,333)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>89,403</u>	<u>(193,734)</u>	<u>(104,331)</u>

11. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £7,551 (2022: £1,031).

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 April 2023 or 30 April 2022.

Civic Voice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations		
Donations	38,351	12,680
Other trading activities		
Events	15	1,586
Charitable activities		
Membership	43,338	35,598
Projects	13,430	6,206
Grants / Fees	16,667	33,333
	<u>73,435</u>	<u>75,137</u>
Total incoming resources	111,801	89,403
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	70,232	94,232
Social security	8,011	5,775
Pensions	7,551	1,031
Telephone	839	738
Other establishment costs	11,257	14,593
	<u>97,890</u>	<u>116,369</u>
Other		
Exceptional item - misappropriation of funds	-	74,750
Support costs		
Finance		
Bank charges	471	-
Other		
Governance costs inc AGM	893	615
Governance costs		
Accountancy fees	-	2,000
Legal fees	6,220	-
	<u>6,220</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total resources expended	105,474	193,734
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>6,327</u>	<u>(104,331)</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

CIVIC VOICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1134476

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 07142946 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1134476

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 April 2022
for
Civic Voice
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Civic Voice

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Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2022

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England. Our members work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and promote civic pride. We campaign nationally and support civic societies and other community and voluntary groups to be more successful locally. We believe everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of.

Our charitable objects are to:

- Promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular the public realm and the historic environment
- Encourage high standards in the management and development of the built and natural environment
- Promote sustainable development by the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment and the promotion of the prudent use of resources (sustainable development being development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs)
- Foster civic pride and stimulate and educate the public, in particular by promoting understanding of the beauty, history, geography and character of different localities
- Develop the capacity and skills of individuals and communities to understand and take action to conserve, protect and improve the quality, beauty and character of their locality
- Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Trustees, including the assistance of other charities

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Significant activities

This report highlights the accomplishments of Civic Voice, an organisation devoted to promoting a sense of 'pride in place' and demonstrates how we are working towards achieving our vision of a society in which each person can say, "I am proud of where I live."

The charity has achieved numerous successes since its inception and they continued during this year, with a particular emphasis on online workshops to support the civic movement.

The charity's workshops covered a wide range of topics, including the historic and built environment, responding to the Government's Planning White Paper, and focusing on educating communities about the changes to Permitted Development Rights regulation and the impact on high streets. Through these workshops, the charity was able to raise awareness of the importance of respecting and protecting the built environment, and equipping individuals with the knowledge and skills to consider how their area would be changing.

Through our extensive consultation on the Planning White Paper, we held 17 online events and engaged with 1,519 people in total. 768 individuals responded to at least one of our online surveys and in addition, 82 civic societies also submitted detailed written comments to Civic Voice, shaping our final response. Overall, 83% of Civic Voice member societies participated in our consultation.

In drafting our response, we were supported by a working group consisting of 2 former MPs, a former Chair of a local authority Planning Committee, a former Senior Planning Inspector, 2 former senior managers in the Civil Service, a former lecturer in planning law, and a national expert on neighbourhood planning - all of whom are active members of local civic societies. A second working group, consisting of regional volunteers, also supported/challenged our thinking on various issues. We also shared draft answers with the civic movement, throughout the consultation period, to allow members to further shape our response.

We discussed our response with the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies and we also took part in discussions about the White Paper with representatives from MHCLG, Number 10, and other organisations in the field. These discussions and the preliminary member feedback influenced the design of our initial briefings, surveys, and regional workshops.

The charity has also delivered 25 online webinars and 15 workshops to further educate communities on topics like membership growth, conservation areas, the environment, and information sharing in general.

The charity has been able to have a long-lasting effect on the communities, and particularly the membership, that we serve, through these initiatives. Together, they enable us to get closer to fulfilling our charitable mission.

In conclusion this report serves to outline the impressive accomplishments of a charity dedicated to championing a sense of pride of place. Civic Voice's mission and achievements during the year continued to be recognised by central Government. Although we were offered a place on the founding Board of the Office for Place, we had to decline for capacity reasons.

We were a crucial partner for the High Street Task Force, as evidenced by the invitation extended to our director to join the Sector Leaders group, a new committee that regularly meets with government representatives.

We have continued to strengthen Civic Voice and to be the national leader for the civic society movement.

Civic Voice is a small light footed organisation. As a national voice with a strong local presence we make a difference where it matters and spend time in campaigning in Whitehall and Westminster, campaigning with local volunteers, speaking out in the media, undertaking research, building partnerships and promoting civic pride. We support local groups and help them work together. We organise a national convention for the civic movement and give local groups a national voice. We combine community action with sense of place for the benefit of everyone.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2022

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The ambition to re-establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies has been successful and we look forward to face-to-face meetings with Ministers and Shadow Ministers. We will continue to use the APPG as an opportunity to bring Ministers to discuss and debate key issues with Civic Society members.

We believe, despite the challenge we have faced, we can continue to act as the national voice for the civic society movement.

Public benefit

The civic movement is based on a network of hundreds of local voluntary civic and amenity societies in the warp and weft of communities across England. It is one of the largest social movements in the country. The first civic society was set up in the 1840s.

Civic societies provide a focus for voluntary and community action to improve the places where people live, work and relax. They champion the importance of these places to decision makers and opinion formers in business, politics, government, the media, the voluntary sector and elsewhere. They play an essential and voluntary role in helping individuals and communities to understand and take action to improve the quality of their life through the place where they live. Civic societies promote and celebrate the best of what is inherited from the past and what is developed for the future. They are a fundamental source of civic pride. This work brings benefits to the whole community and not just to those who are members of civic societies.

Civic societies are the country's most numerous participants in the land use planning system and civic society volunteers frequently act as trusted intermediaries between local government and local people in planning, transport and other decision making. Many civic societies campaign for better management of local assets (buildings and open space) and find solutions to their long term management. Civic societies are fiercely independent and grassroots organisations. They will celebrate and encourage positive action and be forthright in resisting damaging change. They are also a store of knowledge and expertise about local places which is an essential starting point in recognising and strengthening their identity. This is often reflected in blue plaque schemes run by civic societies or the development of town trails or management of local archives.

The civic movement is also central to supporting and developing the sense of identity and belonging that comes from positive feelings about the place where people live.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives.

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

In April 2022, the trustees discovered that a significant sum of money had been misappropriated from one of the organisation's bank accounts, which was the culmination of a series of thefts which began in June 2020. This misappropriation of funds of just under £92k (see note 4) was reported to the police and the Charity Commission, and immediate steps were taken to safeguard the organisation's banking accounts against further misappropriation. A rapid review of financial procedures was undertaken by the trustees.

The trustees met and discussed what action should be taken to ensure that Civic Voice could continue as a viable organisation. This included the potential for a membership appeal, approaches to funding bodies for emergency funding (including an approach to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). Initial discussions were also held about the potential to recover the money through civil channels given that any criminal investigation may take time and may not result in its recovery.

Next year's report will cover in more detail the impact of the misappropriation and the steps taken to secure the long term future of Civic Voice, but it is obvious that the misappropriation of such a large sum of money from a small charity presents an existential threat. The misappropriated funds were effectively a buffer which Civic Voice intended to use as bridging funding; although Civic Voice is a subscription organisation, it can only function in its current form (with paid staff) by attracting further income from grants and consultancy. The reserve fund provided a bridge to smooth out the financial profile of Civic Voice when grants were coming to an end and new grants were yet to begin. This money is no longer available for that purpose, and a significant "part two" lottery bid that Trustees were planning to submit on the back of the successful £50k grant received in September 2021, had to be put on hold. Obtaining significant grant funding in the circumstances where a theft is under active investigation, is evidently also problematic.

The trustees are hopeful that Civic Voice will be able to overcome this significant threat to the organisation's viability, but they are clear that this is by no means a certainty. Given the uncertainty, the trustees have prepared sensitised cash flow forecasts for a [period of 12 months past the date of approving these financial statements] and are satisfied that the financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis.

We wish to put on record our thanks to all Trustees who served during the period covered by this report and in particular the Civic Voice staff Ian Harvey and Sarah James. The misappropriation of funds came at a time when the future of the organisation was bright, and the impact on our staff was considerable.

Civic Voice recorded total income in the year of £89k (2021: £107k) with an increase in donations offset by small reductions in membership income and project/grant income.

Total charitable expenditure before taking account of the misappropriation of funds referred to above was £116k (2021: £136k), giving rise to net expenditure in the year of £30k (2021: net expenditure of £32k). The misappropriation of funds in the year was some £75k and the prior year financial statements have been restated to record the prior year misappropriation of £17k. This has been treated as an exceptional expense in the Statement of Financial Activities but the trustees are taking legal advice and exploring all available alternatives in order to try and recover the funds, but the outcome of this is uncertain as at the time of this report.

The net expenditure for the year after the exceptional item referred to above was £104k (2021: net expenditure £49k).

The above has the effect that Civic Voice had net liabilities of £45k at April 2022 (2021: net assets £59k).

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended. At present the free reserves are below the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended. At present the free reserves are below the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

General Fund

These funds are unrestricted and are used for all charitable purposes without restriction in accordance with the governing documents. Amounts held in these funds as at 30 April 2022 were (deficit) £79,782 (2021: surplus) £24,549 - as restated).

Restricted Fund - Lottery Funding

Civic Voice was awarded a grant in September 2021 to the value of £50,000 by the Community Fund. This grant is for a 12 monthly period starting in September 2021 and is specifically designated for staff funds/time to develop the engagement exercise with Civic Voice membership to inform a new Civic Voice strategy.

Of the total of £50,000 received, £33,333 has been recognised as income in the year and the balance of £16,667 will be recognised as income next year and the balance on this fund at 30 April 2022 was £nil.

FUTURE PLANS

Civic Voice hopes to resume in-person meetings and to relaunch the APPG programme and to launch a new strategy accompanied by a major lottery bid which is intended to increase the resilience of the organisation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Civic Voice is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2nd February 2010 and registered as a charity on 23rd February 2010. There is a range of formal and informal routes to shape the priorities of Civic Voice. Members participate in our work, get involved at a national convention and engage in the key issues through meetings of local clusters of societies and by providing information, examples and experience for Civic Voice to use in our lobbying and influence.

Charity constitution

Civic Voice is run by a Board of eleven trustees, seven of whom are elected by member civic societies. Up to three others are co-opted. The Board was chaired by Joan Humble up to July 2022 when she resigned as a trustee and is responsible for the overall strategy and sustainability of the organisation and ensuring effective compliance and risk management. It delegates executive responsibilities to the Executive Director.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board is recruited openly and all its members are also members of local civic societies.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07142946 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1134476

Civic Voice

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2022

Registered office

Bank House
9 Dicconson Terrace
Lytham
Lytham St Anne's
FY8 5JY

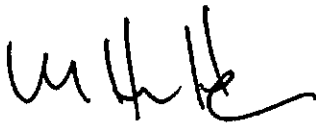
Trustees

DJ Evans
ME Gunson
JJ Humble (resigned 12/7/2022)
KM Hollins
H Kidman (resigned 11/7/2022)
PS Karpinski
M Hamilton
G Battarbee (resigned 13/6/2022)
J Maggs
R Osborne
L Brown (resigned 11/7/2022)
PJ Riden (appointed 14/10/2021) (resigned 15/2/2022)

Independent Examiner

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 26 May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



M Hamilton - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Civic Voice

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Civic Voice ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission 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 the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Neil McMillan FCA

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

26 May 2023

Civic Voice

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds as restated £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations		12,680	-	12,680	3,590
Charitable activities					
Membership		35,598	-	35,598	44,667
Projects		6,206	-	6,206	53,534
Grants / Fees		-	33,333	33,333	4,100
Other trading activities	3	1,586	-	1,586	847
Total		56,070	33,333	89,403	106,738
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities		83,036	33,333	116,369	135,871
Other	4	77,365	-	77,365	19,675
Total		160,401	33,333	193,734	155,546
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(104,331)	-	(104,331)	(48,808)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		59,074	-	59,074	107,882
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		(45,257)	-	(45,257)	59,074

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice

Balance Sheet 30 April 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds as restated £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	1,457	-	1,457	1,457
Cash at bank and in hand		61	16,667	16,728	100,494
		<u>1,518</u>	<u>16,667</u>	<u>18,185</u>	<u>101,951</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	(46,775)	(16,667)	(63,442)	(42,877)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>59,074</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>59,074</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>59,074</u>
FUNDS	12				
Unrestricted funds				<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>59,074</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>(45,257)</u>	<u>59,074</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 April 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 26 May 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

M Hamilton - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2022

1. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee. Each member of the charity undertakes that if the charity is wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, he/she will contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity for:

- payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity contracted before he/she ceases to be a member,
- payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentational currency of the charity is pound sterling (£) and the amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1.

The charity has, as noted in the Report of the Trustees, reviewed reserves policies, ongoing projects and income and expenditure. It is heavily reliant on national and local government funding and other charitable foundations. A new fundraising strategy and new fundraising committee has been implemented. With reference to the misappropriation of funds referred to in the Report of the Trustees and in note 4 and the resultant net liabilities of Civic Voice, the trustees have prepared sensitised cash flow forecasts for a [period of 12 months past the date of approving these financial statements] and are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern and consequently the financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably,
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established,

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Income

- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers,
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the Statement of Financial Activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods,
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities,
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justified and consistent basis.

Financial Instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2022

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds as restated
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations	3,590	-	3,590
Charitable activities			
Membership	44,667	-	44,667
Projects	53,534	-	53,534
Grants / Fees	4,100	-	4,100
Other trading activities	847	-	847
Total	<u>106,738</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,738</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	135,871	-	135,871
Other	19,675	-	19,675
Total	<u>155,546</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>155,546</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(48,808)	-	(48,808)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	107,882	-	107,882
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>59,074</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,074</u>

8. PRIOR YEAR ADJUSTMENT

The prior year Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet has been restated following the identification of a misappropriation of funds in March 2022 relating to the prior year, 2021. An exceptional charge of £17,060 has been recorded in relation to this in 2021 with a corresponding reduction in cash balance of the same amount.

Due to a misallocation of salary costs, the prior year financial statements included a restricted reserve of £34,525. This reserve was fully expended in 2019 and the prior year Balance Sheet has been restated, with a corresponding transfer to Unrestricted funds.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2022

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>1,457</u>	<u>1,457</u>

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 11)	4,598	-
Trade creditors	41,456	42,156
Other creditors	721	721
Accruals and deferred income	<u>16,667</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>63,442</u>	<u>42,877</u>

11. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	2022	2021 as restated
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank overdrafts	<u>4,598</u>	<u>-</u>

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/5/21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/4/22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	59,074	(104,331)	(45,257)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>59,074</u>	<u>(104,331)</u>	<u>(45,257)</u>

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2022

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	56,070	(160,401)	(104,331)
Restricted funds			
The National Lottery Community Fund	33,333	(33,333)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>89,403</u>	<u>(193,734)</u>	<u>(104,331)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/5/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/4/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	107,882	(48,808)	59,074
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>107,882</u>	<u>(48,808)</u>	<u>59,074</u>

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	106,738	(155,546)	(48,808)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>106,738</u>	<u>(155,546)</u>	<u>(48,808)</u>

13. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £1,031 (2021: £1,186).

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2022

14. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 April 2022 or 30 April 2021.

Civic Voice

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2022

	2022	2021
	£	as restated £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations		
Donations	12,680	341
CJRS Grants	-	3,249
	<u>12,680</u>	<u>3,590</u>
Other trading activities		
Events	1,586	847
Charitable activities		
Membership	35,598	44,667
Projects	6,206	14,904
Grants / Fees	33,333	42,730
	<u>75,137</u>	<u>102,301</u>
Total Incoming resources	89,403	106,738
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	94,232	99,837
Social security	5,775	10,267
Pensions	1,031	1,186
Telephone	738	7,777
Other establishment costs	3,686	5,863
Other office costs	10,907	9,794
Events costs	-	547
Events	-	600
	<u>116,369</u>	<u>135,871</u>
Other		
Exceptional Item - misappropriation of funds	74,750	17,060
Support costs		
Other		
Governance costs inc AGM	615	2,615
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	2,000	-
Total resources expended	193,734	155,546
Net expenditure	(104,331)	(48,808)

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

CIVIC VOICE

England & Wales - Charity number 1134476

Accounts

**Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 April 2021
for
Civic Voice
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Civic Voice

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Civic Voice (Registered number: 07142946)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2021

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and activities

Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England. We have 228 members who work to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive and promote civic pride. We campaign nationally and support civic societies and other community and voluntary groups to be more successful locally. We believe everyone has the right to live somewhere they can be proud of.

Our charitable objects are to:

- Promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, in particular the public realm and the historic environment
- Encourage high standards in the management and development of the built and natural environment
- Promote sustainable development by the conservation, protection and improvement of the environment, and the promotion of the prudent use of resources (sustainable development being development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs)
- Foster civic pride and stimulate and educate the public, in particular by promoting understanding of the beauty, history, geography and character of different localities
- Develop the capacity and skills of individuals and communities to understand and take action to conserve, protect and improve the quality, beauty and character of their locality
- Promote such other charitable purposes as may from time to time be determined by the Trustees, including the assistance of other charities.

Public benefit

The civic movement is based on a network of hundreds of local voluntary civic and amenity societies in the warp and weft of communities across England. It is one of the largest social movements in the country. The first civic society was set up in the 1840s.

Civic societies provide a focus for voluntary and community action to improve the places where people live, work and relax. They champion the importance of these places to decision makers and opinion formers in business, politics, government, the media, the voluntary sector and elsewhere. They play an essential and voluntary role in helping individuals and communities to understand and take action to improve the quality of their life through the place where they live. Civic societies promote and celebrate the best of what is inherited from the past and what is developed for the future. They are a fundamental source of civic pride. This work brings benefits to the whole community and not just to those who are members of civic societies.

Civic societies are the country's most numerous participants in the land use planning system and civic society volunteers frequently act as trusted intermediaries between local government and local people in planning, transport and other decision making. Many civic societies campaign for better management of local assets (buildings and open space) and find solutions to their long term management. Civic societies are fiercely independent and grassroots organisations. They will celebrate and encourage positive action and be forthright in resisting damaging change. They are also a store of knowledge and expertise about local places which is an essential starting point in recognising and strengthening their identity. This is often reflected in blue plaque schemes run by civic societies or the development of town trails or management of local archives.

The civic movement is also central to supporting and developing the sense of identity and belonging that comes from positive feelings about the place where people live.

Civic Voice (Registered number: 07142946)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Achievements

For 11 years Civic Voice has supported Civic Societies to act as the national voice for the Civic Society movement. But in the past 18 months we have been dealing with the most unprecedented and challenging pressures most of us have ever faced. Civic Voice has worked hard to support Civic Societies through COVID 19, and we have developed the use of on-line opportunities to help societies to respond to the Planning White Paper and changes in the current legislation. We are very aware of the personal pressures on the members of local Civic Societies, their concerns for their own health and that of their families at a time when they are also campaigning to protect the built environment of their own towns, villages, and cities.

But what of the future? We know that some civic societies have really struggled during the pandemic, whilst others managed to have remarkable success with online activities.

The impact of COVID on Civic Voice and Civic Societies will be long-lasting, and we still don't know what that impact will be. We have suffered through COVID 19, and like 83% of charities have lost income during this period. The income is something we believe we can recover and so the questions are; is the movement still needed and is it still relevant?

We think the Government's proposed planning reforms demonstrate the importance of every town having a vibrant and active civic society. There are many threats to the historic environment, and we need Civic Societies with their local knowledge to continue to safeguard their history and heritage. This is also a time to engage in place making, looking at new developments that will enhance every community.

At the time of writing, we still don't know what Government intends to do with the Planning Reform Bill. We are clear that we will continue to campaign against the Planning White Proposals to remove the rights for communities to make representations on individual planning applications. Without Civic Voice this year, how would civic societies have engaged in the debate? How would the movement's voice be heard by Ministers and central Government?

As a movement, connected and working together, we can be effective.

Performance

We have continued to strengthen Civic Voice and to be the national leader for the civic society movement.

Influencing Government policy/being heard at a national level:

Civic Voice is a small light footed organisation. As a national voice with a strong local presence we make a difference where it matters and spend time in campaigning in Whitehall and Westminster, campaigning with local volunteers, speaking out in the media, undertaking research, building partnerships and promoting civic pride. We support local groups and help them work together. We organise a national convention for the civic movement and give local groups a national voice. We combine community action with sense of place for the benefit of everyone.

The ambition to re-establish the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Civic Societies has been successful and we look forward to face-to-face meetings with Ministers and Shadow Ministers. We will continue to use the APPG as an opportunity to bring Ministers to discuss and debate key issues with Civic Society members.

We believe, with your support, despite the challenge we have faced, we can continue to act as the national voice for the civic society movement.

Civic Voice (Registered number: 07142946)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30 April 2021

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Reserves policy

The trustees have established a policy whereby it is desirable that the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in the fixed assets ("the free reserves") the charity holds should be approximately nine months of the resources expended, At present the free reserves are below the target level.

The funds in the financial statements are defined as:-

General Fund

These funds are unrestricted and are used for all charitable purposes without restriction in accordance with the governing documents. Amounts held in these funds as at 30 April 2021 were £41,609 (2020: £73,357).

Restricted Fund - Local Heritage Lists

Local Heritage Listing is a means for community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment. A Local Heritage List identifies those heritage assets that are not protected by statutory national designations but are of local heritage interest, contributing to the sense of place and history of the local area.

A toolkit was developed by Civic Voice in 2017 to support community groups who want to take forward the development of a Local Heritage List, but don't know where to start! The toolkit was funded by Historic England's Heritage Protection Commissions programme, through a grant awarded to Civic Voice. The amount held in this fund as at 30 April 2021 was £34,525 (2020: £34,525).

Risk Review

The trustees continue to address their responsibilities for managing risk by conducting a review of the risks that Civic Voice is exposed to.

The Trustees identified continued threats to Civic Voice and introduced a policy that now states that 'high level risks' exposed to the organisations are discussed at all Civic Voice Trustee meeting. The key risks facing Civic Voice relate to long-term absence to our staff team. Diversifying our income and securing funding on an unrestricted basis, whilst delivering initiatives supported by our membership is a challenge. We will continue to look for funding that helps to strengthen our role as the voice of the civic movement.

For transparency purposes, minutes of meetings are published on the Civic Voice website. Each board meeting includes a discussion on the organisations' risk register.

Future plans

During the year we had intended on celebrating Civic Voice's 10th anniversary with a number of key celebrations, but unfortunately, the COVID 19 crises emerged at the start of the year. This meant that Civic Voice had to cancel a series of events and has been in the situation of not holding a face to face event for over 12 months.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Civic Voice is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2nd February 2010 and registered as a charity on 23rd February 2010. There is a range of formal and informal routes to shape the priorities of Civic Voice. Members participate in our work, get involved at a national convention and engage in the key issues through meetings of local clusters of societies and by providing information, examples and experience for Civic Voice to use in our lobbying and influence.

Charity constitution

Civic Voice is run by a Board of eleven trustees, seven of whom are elected by member civic societies. Up to three others are co-opted. The Board is chaired by Joan Humble and is responsible for the overall strategy and sustainability of the organisation and ensuring effective compliance and risk management. It delegates executive responsibilities to the Executive Director.

Civic Voice (Registered number: 07142946)

Report of the Trustees

for the year ended 30 April 2021

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Board is recruited openly and all its members are also members of local civic societies.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

07142946 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1134476

Registered office

Bank House
9 Dicconson Terrace
Lytham
Lytham St Anne's
FY8 5JY

Trustees

P A Bedwell (resigned 17/3/2021)
D J Evans
M E Gunson
J J Humble
G C Orton (resigned 17/3/2021)
K M Hollins
H Kidman
S M Cunningham (resigned 31/1/2021)
PS Karpinski
M Hamilton
G Battarbee (appointed 17/3/2021)
J Maggs (appointed 17/3/2021)
R Osborne (appointed 17/3/2021)
L Brown (appointed 17/3/2021)

Independent Examiner

McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 10 December 2021 and signed on the board's behalf by:

J J Humble - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Civic Voice

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Civic Voice ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission 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 the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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.

Neil McMillan FCA
McMillan & Co LLP
Chartered Accountants
28 Eaton Avenue
Matrix Office Park
Buckshaw Village
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 7NA

10 December 2021

Civic Voice

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 30 April 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations		3,590	-	3,590	553
Charitable activities					
Membership		44,667	-	44,667	46,825
Projects		53,534	-	53,534	85,233
Grants / Fees		4,100	-	4,100	64,046
Other trading activities	3	847	-	847	843
Total		106,738	-	106,738	197,500
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities		135,871	-	135,871	116,192
Other	4	2,615	-	2,615	7,469
Total		138,486	-	138,486	123,661
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(31,748)	-	(31,748)	73,839
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		73,357	34,525	107,882	34,043
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		41,609	34,525	76,134	107,882

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice (Registered number: 07142946)

Balance Sheet

30 April 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	1,457	-	1,457	1,457
Cash at bank and in hand		83,029	34,525	117,554	138,527
		<u>84,486</u>	<u>34,525</u>	<u>119,011</u>	<u>139,984</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	9	(42,877)	-	(42,877)	(32,102)
		<u>41,609</u>	<u>34,525</u>	<u>76,134</u>	<u>107,882</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>41,609</u>	<u>34,525</u>	<u>76,134</u>	<u>107,882</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
		<u>41,609</u>	<u>34,525</u>	<u>76,134</u>	<u>107,882</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>41,609</u>	<u>34,525</u>	<u>76,134</u>	<u>107,882</u>
FUNDS	10				
Unrestricted funds				41,609	73,357
Restricted funds				34,525	34,525
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>76,134</u>	<u>107,882</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 30 April 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 30 April 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 10 December 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

J J Humble - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 April 2021

1. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The charity is limited by guarantee. Each member of the charity undertakes that if the charity is wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, he/she will contribute a sum not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity for:

- payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity contracted before he/she ceases to be a member,
- payment of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up; and
- adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The presentational currency of the charity is pound sterling (£) and the amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1.

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably,
- Legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established,
- Income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers,
- Income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered and is classified under headings of the Statement of Financial Activities to which it relates:

- Expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities and the sale of donated goods,
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities,
- Other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justified and consistent basis.

Financial instruments

Financial instruments are classified and accounted for according to the substance of the contractual arrangement as financial assets, financial liabilities or equity instruments. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Going concern

The charity has, as noted in the Trustees Report, reviewed reserves policies, ongoing projects and income and expenditure. It is heavily reliant on national and local government funding and other charitable foundations. A new fundraising strategy and new fundraising committee have been implemented, and as a result the going concern basis of accounting has been adopted.

Government Grants

Government grants are accounted for under the accruals model. Where the grant is classed as revenue, it is recognised in income on a systematic basis over the periods in which the company recognises the related costs.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2021

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Events	847	843

4. OTHER

	2021	2020
	£	£
Support costs	2,615	7,469

Included in accountancy and legal fees are costs of £1,700 (2020: £1,700) in relation to Independent Examination and payroll costs of £300 (2020: £300) also paid to the Independent Examiner.

5. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 April 2021 nor for the year ended 30 April 2020.

Trustees' expenses

During the year the following expenses were paid to the trustees:

	2021	2020
	£	
M G Ash	-	267
P A Bedwell	-	375
P A Douce	-	-
D J Evans	-	-
M E Gunson	-	120
J J Humble	-	1,830
C F Winter	-	-
H Kidman	-	691
S Cunningham	-	68
G Orton	-	49
TOTAL	-	3,400

Expenses reimbursed relate to travel, subsistence and entertaining.

6. STAFF COSTS

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
Number of staff - Admin	3	3

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the current or previous year.

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2021

7. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations	553	-	553
Charitable activities			
Membership	46,825	-	46,825
Projects	85,233	-	85,233
Grants / Fees	-	64,046	64,046
Other trading activities	843	-	843
Total	<u>133,454</u>	<u>64,046</u>	<u>197,500</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities	57,267	58,925	116,192
Other	7,469	-	7,469
Total	<u>64,736</u>	<u>58,925</u>	<u>123,661</u>
NET INCOME	<u>68,718</u>	<u>5,121</u>	<u>73,839</u>
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	4,639	29,404	34,043
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>73,357</u></u>	<u><u>34,525</u></u>	<u><u>107,882</u></u>

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u><u>1,457</u></u>	<u><u>1,457</u></u>

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2021

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	40,156	29,381
Other creditors	721	721
Accruals and deferred income	2,000	2,000
	<u>42,877</u>	<u>32,102</u>

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/5/20 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/4/21 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	73,357	(31,748)	41,609
Restricted funds			
Special Projects	34,525	-	34,525
	<u>107,882</u>	<u>(31,748)</u>	<u>76,134</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	106,738	(138,486)	(31,748)
	<u>106,738</u>	<u>(138,486)</u>	<u>(31,748)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/5/19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30/4/20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	4,639	68,718	73,357
Restricted funds			
Special Projects	29,404	5,121	34,525
	<u>34,043</u>	<u>73,839</u>	<u>107,882</u>

Civic Voice

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 30 April 2021

10. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	133,454	(64,736)	68,718
Restricted funds			
Special Projects	64,046	(58,925)	5,121
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>197,500</u>	<u>(123,661)</u>	<u>73,839</u>

Restricted funds are specifically:

Restricted Fund - Local Heritage Lists

Local Heritage Listing is a means for community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment. A Local Heritage List identifies those heritage assets that are not protected by statutory national designations but are of local heritage interest, contributing to the sense of place and history of the local area.

The amount held in this fund as at 30 April 2021 was £34,525 (2020: £34,525).

11. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £1,186 (2020: £2,719).

12. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 30 April 2021 or 30 April 2020.