

ALVECHURCH COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

England & Wales · Charity number 1154840

Details

Other names	THE LOUNGE
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	07308396
Registered	2013-12-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	The Lounge 22 The Square Alvechurch Birmingham B48 7LA
Phone	0121 445 5512
Email	manager@alvechurchlounge.org.uk
Website	alvechurchlounge.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO THE AGE OF 25 LIVING IN THE PARISH OF ALVECHURCH BY PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE AND ORGANISING PROGRAMMES OF PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS OF: (A) ADVANCING IN LIFE AND HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BY DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS INDEPENDENT, MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS; (B) ADVANCING EDUCATION; (C) RELIEVING UNEMPLOYMENT; (D) PROVIDING RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT WHO HAVE NEED BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, POVERTY OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SUCH PERSONS.

Activities: Activities are aimed at the 10-13 age group and develop independence and self confidence. Sessions include 2 youth diner groups and a drop in youth club in the evening. There are targeted activity sessions teaching new skills, craft sessions, health and well being plus games and outdoor activities. Activities for those over age 65 are aimed at reducing isolation through a weekly friendship group.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LOCAL
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£145,639	£150,576	-	-
2024-07-31	£133,233	£149,180	-	-
2023-07-31	£113,114	£124,959	-	-
2022-07-31	£132,315	£101,194	-	-
2021-07-31	£117,439	£95,321	-	-
2020-07-31	£93,728	£79,437	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Laura Ann Evans		2016-04-23
Mark Richard Newberry		2016-04-23
Rachael Bestwick		2018-04-01

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07308396
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154840

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 July 2025

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2025

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	10
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	11
Statement of financial position	12
Notes to the financial statements	13
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	23
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	25

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Structure, governance and management

Alvechurch Communities Together is a charity registered with the Charities Commission number 1154840.

In addition to the trustees there is a management committee that meets on a monthly basis to review progress and plan activities. This committee has general delegated powers to operate on a day to day basis.

Objectives and activities

Introduction

Alvechurch Communities Together (ACT) was established in 2011 to offer local young people a safe, calm, and stable base to meet regularly, and offer activities, to help combat some low-level antisocial behaviour within the community. This was as well as offering friendly, relaxed space to support the wider community. It operates from 'The Lounge' a light and contemporary café and community space located in the centre of the village. ACT provide inclusive and supportive services in Alvechurch, recognising needs and maximising reach, our work is delivered collaboratively and creatively across the area. This means providing support to the most vulnerable groups, and a friendly space to help all local people come together to interact and build connections.

We use our premises, skills, support, and grants to strengthen the community. The Lounge Cafe is open six days a week. Five days it operates as a community café and one day a week it opens to run a grant-funded project; Friendship Matters, a seniors support group that delivers friendship, bespoke activities, seated exercises and hot food and drinks.

Two evenings a week The Lounge acts as a Youth Club venue to host activities for young people in the parish - Youth@The Lounge. Two youth sessions are run as 'youth-diner' sessions straight from school, followed by two open access 'youth-club' sessions - both providing a safe environment for young people to develop, try new things, have fun and socialise.

As a charity, running such a diverse and complex programme of activity in the community, we focus heavily on oversight and have strong financial management for informed decision-making and accountability.

We continue to be supported by the Alvechurch Parish Council, other organisations, charities, and businesses, for which we are very grateful. The café contributes to our running costs - and ensures that the level of support required to run community projects continues to reduce, and this helps mitigate increases in the fixed costs.

At all times the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning their activities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Key Strengths

The Four Key Strengths of ACT:

1. It builds **resilience** in young people of the village and gives them:
 - A *safe* venue they feel 'ownership' of
 - A *communication point* where they can be supported in different ways,
 - A way to be *accepted* within the village, and part of a group who can be responsible,
 - An *enabling* pathway - to become involved in village initiatives; and
 - A place where they can be *happy*, make friends have fun and be themselves.
2. It **prevents loneliness and isolation** in older people offering bespoke activities and support groups, such as 'Friendship Matters'.
3. It **offers local support** for everyone's mental wellbeing: offering workshops, training, events and activities for all.
4. It **creates a welcoming and comfortable place** with the Lounge café as our visible community hub and a friendly space.

Governance and Management

During the past year Trustees with the Management Group have attempted to:

- Develop The Lounge's work to encompass and reflect other diverse community organisations.
- Develop activities, especially around 'loneliness and isolation' including a weekly session for older people.
- Improve financial security and reserves - although we must note that ongoing economic inflation, government increases in wages, NI and an uncertain external environment remain significant financial risks to the organisation.
- Develop an organisation that is renowned for good practice in terms of supporting wellbeing, which people come to see and learn from.
- Encourage those who have benefited from the project to come back and volunteer to help others.

We employ a Community and Youth Co-ordinator which provides ACT with extra resources to plan, manage and deliver community work, as well as directly run our weekly community groups. They have considerable awareness of the nature and scope of community work and safeguarding frameworks.

Since the appointment they have delivered meaningful change for individuals in the community, including increasing our youth club provision and offering school holiday activity days at Blackwell Adventure. They have secured several successful charity bids including National Lottery Community Funding for 2 years of Friendship Matters and grants from Bromsgrove District Council, to organise fully funded trips for a group of up to 30 Parish seniors. As well as organising annual community events such as Easter trails, Youth picnic in the park stall, Halloween 'Spooktacular' family event and letters from Santa.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Strategy

The ACT Mission

"To serve as a focal point in the village of Alvechurch, providing a variety of activities and services to diverse social and generational groups: participating in community cohesion development and responsibility"

The Purpose

"Creating a happier, healthier and more connected community in Alvechurch."

The Vision

"To create a more positive village through inclusive community services".

Addressing loneliness and isolation is everybody's business, at ACT we seek to ensure no one is left behind. At the heart of our vision is the whole community - our 'eyes and ears' to identify people who might be lonely and who might be looking for meaningful connections. At a time when the country is facing cuts in local services, neglect, isolation, and loneliness, we want to ensure Alvechurch thrives and stays vibrant.

Internal Modifications

The café interior transformation took place in April - May 2021 which has been an enormous bonus for our operations. The refurbishment created a more welcoming, fresh, and relaxed space. There has been an increasing demand for all community services and more people making use of the café. This growth has sustained - and - the investment has proven to be the most important action we have taken for our café business and charity outcomes.

2023 saw us act on our plan to upgrade the kitchen, using the designated £4,000 of funding from Alvechurch Parish Council and matched by funding from ACT to complete the transformation to the highest standards and add functionality as well as value. The front of the café also received a fresh coat of paint and new tables and chairs to replace the old and well used previous furniture.

Going forward we are considering installation of an outdoor awning to allow further seating in all weathers.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

The Café

The cafe provides a community hub for the village, open five days a week and offering both:

- Individual residents and visitors of all ages a place to meet, eat and connect; they can purchase affordable food and drinks, made freshly on site. They can also use the cafe Wi-Fi.
- A venue for community groups to hold regular sessions, meetings and events.

The Café has coped with some challenges and opportunities during the past 12 months including:

- A growing level of new customers from the community using the café. Caring and welcoming staff are vital to this. Post pandemic many residents now trust and feel safe coming to the café - staying local - for their social interactions.
- The successful refurbishment of the kitchen and new furniture has had a positive impact on trade and is popular with the community, staff and volunteers. The coffee machine (allowing us to make barista made hot drinks) remains popular and is an essential part of our offer.
- Significant increases in costs of rent, utilities, food, wages and NI all have an impact on the charity finances.
- Exciting community events have taken place that both (i) use the café as a hub, and (ii) are led, sponsored by or in aid of ACT. The Lounge ran Christmas letters to Santa, Breakfast with Santa, Festive Acts of Kindness projects, an Easter Trail & Easter Egg Raffle event and a Family Halloween event. These are examples of some of the annual events we run helping to bring the community together.

As business has improved, the staffing of the café has evolved and we now employ eight members of staff and have approximately ten volunteers. Having a fresh new interior, a stable team, and robust leadership has allowed us to focus on the overall project, rather than the tactical issues associated with running the café business. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such a committed volunteer team as we attempt to further increase the operating performance and align the staffing resources to the workload.

There has been ongoing competition from food and drink traders locally. Despite this we continued to get good customer numbers and deliver quality, affordable and locally sourced food, and drink, for local people. Our menu prices have not increased since May 2021, making us accessible for all.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Youth Activities

The Youth@The Lounge programme is run by our employed Lead Youth Worker, and focuses on a variety of different weekly activities, with expert planning and engagement with the young people. An additional employed youth work assistant supplements the volunteers team.

Our onsite youth provision run from The Lounge offers a varied and interesting programme of activities as well as providing advice, assistance, and opportunities for fun/activities and trying new things. These sessions have also included: offsite trips to take part in outdoor adventure activities, sports, crafts, cooking, as well as trips to the local park 'The Wiggin' for activities and games. Highlights of the year were Grass sledding, Pedal go- karts, trying new foods from our local Indian restaurant, and the multi activity holiday sessions at Blackwell Adventure - taking on 3G swing and giant zipwire.

The hub for youth work has trialled various locations to increase capacity, including the local Baptist church hall and the cricket club. Both alternative venues offered benefits but presented a variety of logistical challenges and did not significantly improve the youth experience. The charity has consulted with staff, volunteers and children and the decision has been taken that the Lounge café is the best place for youth work to continue to be based, with organised off - site trips and holiday sessions, as it operates most efficiently, effectively, and safely.

The greatest asset of our youth work is that it provides - within the village - a place where young people can socialise safely and have fun. Many participants make new friends share the challenges of their lives with our staff who listen, provide reassurance and signpost where necessary. Any young person living in the area from middle school age up until 18 is eligible to become a member. As well as opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh volunteering or gaining work experience.

We are experiencing the impact of the reducing level of funding from Alvechurch Parish Council towards our Youth provision, which continues to have high demand, and we hold waiting lists for sessions. Looking ahead, we continue to seek additional funding to build on our current offer with a focus on addressing mental health needs with some (i) targeted group work, (ii) involvement of specialist people or activities, and (iii) further support of our hard-to-reach groups.

Support for Older People

As a parish we have a higher-than-average number of older residents, many who live alone.

During this period, we have continued to deliver the 'Friendship Matters' senior support group for seniors/older people, on a weekly basis, as we see this as a vital community project. We have a qualified leader employed, delivering a range of bespoke activities to support the group, utilising The Lounge premises on a Monday morning. Regularly over 20 people attend, making the group at full capacity for the space. The project has received 2 years of funding from The National Lottery Community fund allowing us to run this provision up until Dec 2026.

Since Covid, the Friendship Matters group has doubled in attendance. It offers a varied programme of activities including seated exercises, musical sessions, crafts, games, seasonal activities and an annual Christmas party including musical bingo. We were also successful in gaining Funding from McCarthy and Stone to be able to offer a fully funded Christmas Dinner to 25 Seniors at The Lounge on 23rd Dec 2024 cooked by our chef in the small cafe kitchen.

Funding bids have also been made to Bromsgrove District Council; Small equality grant funding, to run an annual funded trip for seniors in the local Parish, which included a trip to Avoncroft Living History Museum on 9th October 2024. The trip had extremely positive feedback and a further funding request has been made to Bromsgrove District Council, so we can hopefully offer another day trip in 2025 as part of our offer for the older generation living in the parish of Alvechurch.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

We continue to bid for appropriate grants to continue running the project, as further delivery is subject to fundraising requirements.

Achievements and performance

In Summary

1. We are deeply connected to our community and immensely proud of the positive contribution our charity plays.
2. As custodians of ACT and as members of this community, we seek to safely navigate tough times ahead associated with the cost-of-living increases.
3. Our next steps are about maintaining a sustainable approach to growth and continuing to be an ever-present beacon of support and warmth for the community.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Financial review

The year ended 31 July 2025 saw an increase in cafe income from £92,516 to £97,682. This total includes the income from Mondays, when the cafe is open exclusively for Friendship Matters activities, and from the Youth Diner. It excludes events where the activities are treated as specific fundraising events and the cafe is opened outside of normal hours for these. Costs of running the cafe increased from £109,466 to £111,888. Some of these costs are covered by donations and grants. Together with income from the charity's social lottery and donations and grants to help with café expenses and the youth and Friendship matters work this led to a deficit for the year of £15,657 (2024: deficit £15,911).

There was a surplus brought forward of £69,320 from which the current deficit has been deducted making a balance carried forward of £53,663.

Grants and donations totalling £26,699 were received in the year towards specific projects. £15,979 was spent in the year leaving a surplus of £10,720. This has been added to reserves brought forward of £6,865 leaving £17,585 to be spent in future years. £14,167 of this arises from a grant of £20,000 received from National Lottery and is to be spent over two years. A further £500 has been refunded to the grantor after the balance sheet date, as the conditions for the grant could no longer be met. All other monies are expected to be spent during the year ending 31 July 2026

Reserves Policy

The formulation of a robust reserves policy remains one of the key objectives. The trustees are conscious of the constraints of grant funders and in particular that despite an apparently strong position at the balance sheet date, the reserves may have to last for several months before the next round of grants may be received.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Plans for future periods

Our six priority areas for the future are:

1. Responding to the cost-of-living crisis which requires our charity to provide:
 - Food, drink and community activity at a price that is affordable for all.
 - Ongoing tight systems of control on budgeting, reserves and cash flow forecasting to mitigate the inflationary environment (energy, food, wages and NI) of cost increases going forward.
2. Exploring fundraising opportunities - importantly long-term continuation of both our 'Friendship Matters' project supporting those within our community that suffer with loneliness and isolation and our Youth Provision. Supporting those that are vulnerable in our community, to the increasing societal pressures.
3. Focusing on the ongoing financial sustainability of the café by ongoing fundraising to deliver improvements, which keep up the offer in terms of food and drink to generate good income levels.
4. Focusing on delivering a substantial and diverse volume of work - requiring additional volunteers/skills from within the community to bolster our team and ensure the sustainability of our human resources.
5. Continuing to develop a programme of projects for younger people, older people and other general wellbeing projects that could be implemented safely long term. Current items in consideration include dealing with Dementia and Alzheimer's.
6. Focusing on the development and recognition of our people. Our amazing team of staff and volunteers have been hugely resilient during a very busy year and we seek to provide them with appropriate salaries, training, and development to enhance their skills and enhance the charity's capabilities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Charity registration number 1154840
Company registration number 07308396
Principal office and registered office 22 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA

The trustees

R Bestwick
L Evans
M Newberry

Trustees at date of signing the Report

The trustees in place at the date of signing the report were:

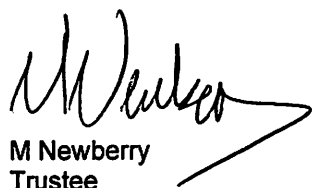
- R Bestwick
- L Evans
- M Newberry

Independent examiner David Seeley FCA
Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 27 April 2026 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



M Newberry
Trustee

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Year ended 31 July 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

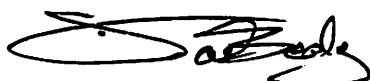
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



David Seeley FCA
Independent Examiner

Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

27 APRIL 2026

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 July 2025

			2025		2024
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	4,763	26,699	31,462	28,401
Charitable activities	6	92,681	—	92,681	90,883
Other trading activities	7	21,315	—	21,315	13,757
Investment income	8	181	—	181	192
Total income		<u>118,940</u>	<u>26,699</u>	<u>145,639</u>	<u>133,233</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of raising donations and legacies	9	101	—	101	400
Costs of other trading activities	10	110,192	4,000	114,192	111,497
Expenditure on charitable activities	11,12	24,304	11,979	36,283	37,283
Total expenditure		<u>134,597</u>	<u>15,979</u>	<u>150,576</u>	<u>149,180</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		<u>(15,657)</u>	<u>10,720</u>	<u>(4,937)</u>	<u>(15,947)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		69,320	6,865	76,185	92,132
Total funds carried forward		<u>53,663</u>	<u>17,585</u>	<u>71,248</u>	<u>76,185</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	£	2024 £
Current assets				
Debtors	18	2,285		1,925
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>71,549</u>		<u>77,957</u>
		73,834		79,882
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>2,586</u>		<u>3,697</u>
Net current assets			71,248	76,185
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>71,248</u>	<u>76,185</u>
Net assets			<u>71,248</u>	<u>76,185</u>
Funds of the charity				
Restricted funds			17,585	6,865
Unrestricted funds			<u>53,663</u>	<u>69,320</u>
Total charity funds	21		<u>71,248</u>	<u>76,185</u>

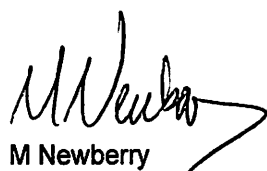
For the year ending 31 July 2025 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 27 April 2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:


M Newberry
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2025

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 22 The Square, Alvechurch, B48 7LA.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

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

Disclosure exemptions

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined in FRS 102.

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102 by reason of being small. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under the Charities SORP (FRS 102):

- No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

Significant judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

- Sufficient resources will continue to be found to fund the operation of both café and youth work, and
- There will continue to be a need for the services offered by the charity.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The trustees however do not believe there are any key assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Incoming resources

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Resources expended

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT as this cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- 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 between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as estimated by the directors.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and consequently has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up the liability of each member or a member who ceased within one year of the winding up is limited to £1.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Other donations	4,763	2,221	6,984
Grants			
Grants	—	24,478	24,478
	<u>4,763</u>	<u>26,699</u>	<u>31,462</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Other donations	4,948	2,500	7,448

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grants			
Grants	—	20,953	20,953
	<u>4,948</u>	<u>23,453</u>	<u>28,401</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cafe income	<u>92,681</u>	<u>92,681</u>	<u>90,883</u>	<u>90,883</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	5,010	5,010	1,549	1,549
Friendship Matters income	5,001	5,001	1,633	1,633
Youth income	6,579	6,579	6,090	6,090
Social lotteries	4,725	4,725	4,485	4,485
	<u>21,315</u>	<u>21,315</u>	<u>13,757</u>	<u>13,757</u>

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>181</u>	<u>181</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>192</u>

9. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Costs of generating other fundraising income	<u>101</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

10. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	107,888	4,000	111,888
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	2,304	—	2,304
	<u>110,192</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>114,192</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	109,466	—	109,466
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	2,031	—	2,031
	<u>111,497</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>111,497</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Youth Work	14,527	4,671	19,198
Friendship Matters	8,489	7,308	15,797
Support costs	1,288	—	1,288
	<u>24,304</u>	<u>11,979</u>	<u>36,283</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Youth Work	14,052	7,028	21,080
Friendship Matters	1,652	13,561	15,213
Support costs	990	—	990
	<u>16,694</u>	<u>20,589</u>	<u>37,283</u>

12. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Youth Work	19,198	—	19,198	21,080
Friendship Matters	15,797	—	15,797	15,213
Governance costs	—	1,288	1,288	990
	<u>34,995</u>	<u>1,288</u>	<u>36,283</u>	<u>37,283</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

13. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs Community Work £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Governance costs	1,288	<u>1,288</u>	<u>990</u>

14. Net expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025 £	2024 £
Operating lease rentals	<u>10,330</u>	<u>9,000</u>

15. Independent examination fees

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	530	305
Other financial services	<u>730</u>	<u>535</u>
	<u>1,260</u>	<u>840</u>

16. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	84,482	67,727
Employer contributions to pension plans	<u>1,102</u>	<u>967</u>
	<u>85,584</u>	<u>68,694</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2024: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Management	1	1
Community work	2	2
Cafe staff	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel, other than the trustees, are the café manager and senior community workers. Their combined remuneration in the year was £40,790 (2024: £41,082).

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

17. Trustee remuneration and expenses

- no remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees
- no expenses were paid to or disclaimed by the trustees.

18. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,285</u>	<u>1,925</u>

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	<u>1,526</u>	<u>1,697</u>
Accruals and deferred income	<u>1,060</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>2,586</u>	<u>3,697</u>

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £1,102 (2024: £967).

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>69,320</u>	<u>118,940</u>	<u>(134,597)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>53,663</u>

	At 1 August 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>85,231</u>	<u>109,780</u>	<u>(128,591)</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>69,320</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 202 4	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2025 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	3,000	2,000	(3,000)	—	2,000
Bromsgrove District Council	—	—	—	—	—
Bernard Piggott Trust	2,500	1,500	(4,000)	—	—
Lottery Community Fund	—	20,000	(5,833)	—	14,167
Coop Community Fund	—	1,671	(1,671)	—	—
Alvechurch Parish Council-Men in Sheds	500	—	—	—	500
Bromsgrove DC-Equalities	865	978	(925)	—	918
McCarthy Stone	—	550	(550)	—	—
	<u>6,865</u>	<u>26,699</u>	<u>(15,979)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>17,585</u>

	At 1 August 202 3	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2024 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	4,000	3,000	(4,000)	—	3,000
Bromsgrove District Council	901	5,800	(3,801)	(2,900)	—
Bernard Piggott Trust	2,000	2,500	(2,000)	—	2,500
Lottery Community Fund	—	9,760	(9,760)	—	—
Coop Community Fund	—	1,028	(1,028)	—	—
Alvechurch Parish Council-Men in Sheds	—	500	—	—	500
Bromsgrove DC-Equalities	—	865	—	—	865
McCarthy Stone	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>6,901</u>	<u>23,453</u>	<u>(20,589)</u>	<u>(2,900)</u>	<u>6,865</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2025

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2025
	£	£	£
Current assets	56,249	17,585	73,834
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,586)	—	(2,586)
Net assets	<u>53,663</u>	<u>17,585</u>	<u>71,248</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Current assets	73,017	6,865	79,882
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,697)	—	(3,697)
Net assets	<u>69,320</u>	<u>6,865</u>	<u>76,185</u>

23. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	—	2,250
Later than 5 years	95,000	—
	<u>95,000</u>	<u>2,250</u>

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07308396
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154840

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 July 2024

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2024

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	9
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	10
Statement of financial position	11
Notes to the financial statements	12
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	22
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	24

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2024

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Alvechurch Communities Together is a charity registered with the Charities Commission number 1154840.

In addition to the trustees there is a management committee that meets on a monthly basis to review progress and plan activities. This committee has general delegated powers to operate on a day to day basis.

Objectives and activities

Introduction

Alvechurch Communities Together (ACT) was established in 2011 to offer local young people a safe, calm, and stable base to meet regularly, and offer activities, to help combat some low-level antisocial behaviour within the community. This was as well as offering friendly, relaxed space to support the wider community. It operates from 'The Lounge' a light and contemporary café and community space located at the centre of the village. ACT provide inclusive and supportive services in Alvechurch, recognising needs and maximising reach, our work is delivered collaboratively and creatively across the area. This means providing support to the most vulnerable groups, and a friendly space to help all local people come together to interact and build connections.

We use our premises, skills, support, and grants to strengthen the community. The Lounge Cafe is open six days a week. Five days it operates as a community café and one day a week it opens to run a grant-funded project; Friendship Matters a senior support group that delivers friendship, bespoke activities, seated exercises and hot food and drinks.

Two evenings a week The Lounge acts as the venue to host activities for young people in the parish. Two youth sessions are run as 'youth-diner' sessions straight from school, followed by two 'youth-club' sessions - both providing a safe environment for young people to develop, try new things, have fun and socialise.

As a charity, running such a diverse and complex programme of activity in the community, we focus heavily on oversight and have strong financial management for informed decision-making and accountability.

We continue to be supported by the Alvechurch Parish Council, other organisations, charities, and businesses, for which we are very grateful. The café contributes to our running costs - and ensures that the level of support required to run community projects continues to reduce, and this helps mitigate increases in the fixed costs.

At all times the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning their activities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Key Strengths

The Four Key Strengths of ACT:

1. It builds **resilience** in young people of the village and gives them:
 - A safe venue they feel 'ownership' of
 - A communication point where they can be supported in different ways,
 - A way to be accepted within the village, and part of a group who can be responsible,
 - An enabling pathway - to become involved in village initiatives; and
 - A place where they can be happy, make friends have fun and be themselves.
2. It **prevents loneliness and isolation** in older people offering bespoke activities and support groups, such as 'Friendship Matters'.
3. It **offers local support** for everyone's mental wellbeing: offering workshops, training, events and activities for all.
4. It **creates a welcoming and comfortable place** with the Lounge café as our visible community hub and a friendly space.

Governance and Management

During the past year Trustees with the Management Group have attempted to:

- Develop The Lounge's work to encompass and reflect other diverse community organisations.
- Develop activities, especially around 'loneliness and isolation' including a weekly session for older people.
- Improve financial security and reserves. The successful complete renovation of the Kitchen and facilities, as well as new indoor and outdoor café furniture.
- While ACT finances are healthy, inflation and an uncertain external environment remain significant financial risks to the organisation.
- Develop an organisation that is renowned for good practice in terms of supporting wellbeing, which people come to see and learn from.
- Encourage those who have benefited from the project to come back and volunteer to help others.

Rachel Rollinson is the Community and Youth Co-ordinator and provides ACT with extra resource to plan, manage and deliver community work. Rachel has considerable awareness of the nature and scope of community work and safeguarding frameworks. Since her appointment she has delivered meaningful change for individuals in the community, including increasing our youth club provision to a second evening and offering holiday activity days. She has worked on several successful charity bids including securing The Coop community Fund for youth provision into 24/25, and a grant from Bromsgrove District Council, to organise a second trip for local seniors on a Heritage tour to Cadbury World. As well as community events such as Easter trails and Halloween Spooktacular family event.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Strategy

The ACT Mission

"To serve as a focal point in the village of Alvechurch, providing a variety of activities and services to diverse social and generational groups: participating in community cohesion development and responsibility"

The Purpose

"Creating a happier, healthier and more connected community in Alvechurch."

The Vision

"To create a more positive village through inclusive community services".

Addressing loneliness and isolation is everybody's business, at ACT we seek to ensure no one is left behind. At the heart of our vision is the whole community - our 'eyes and ears' to identify people who might be lonely and who might be looking for meaningful connections. At a time when many parts of the country face cuts in local services, neglect, isolation, and loneliness, we want to ensure Alvechurch thrives and stays vibrant.

Internal Modifications

The café interior transformation that took place in April - May 2021 has been an enormous bonus for our operations. The refurbishment created a more welcoming, fresh, and relaxed space. Throughout the year there has been an increasing demand for all community services and more people making use of the café. This growth has sustained - and - the investment has proven to be the most important action we have taken for our café business and charity outcomes. 2023 has seen us act on our plan to upgrade the kitchen, using the designated £4,000 of funding from Alvechurch Parish Council and matched by funding from ACT to complete the transformation to the highest standards and add functionality as well as value. The front of the café also received a fresh coat of paint and new tables and chairs to replace the old and well used previous furniture.

Going forward we are considering installation of an outdoor awning to allow further seating in all weathers.

Public support and the generosity of local businesses for fundraising and community events continues to be outstanding and proves to be invaluable for us. Fundraising to support the operation of our activity has been essential, and critical community fundraising events we helped to run were Picnic in the Park, Easter Trails and Spooktacular Halloween community event.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

The Café

The café provides a community hub for the village, open five days a week and offering both:

- individual residents of all ages a place to make friends, buy an affordable hot drink or a cooked meal and use the Wi-Fi for free and
- community groups a venue to hold meetings and events

The Café has coped with some challenges and opportunities during the past 12 months including:

- A growing level of new customers from the community using the café. Caring and welcoming staff are vital to this. Post pandemic many residents now trust and feel safe coming to the café - staying local - for their social interactions.
- The successful refurbishment of the kitchen and new furniture has had a positive impact on trade, the community and is also popular with staff and volunteers. The coffee machine (allowing us to make barista made hot drinks) remains popular and is an essential part of our offer.
- Reduced funding from Alvechurch Parish Council towards our Youth provision.
- Exciting community events have taken place that both
 - (i) use the café as a hub, and
 - (ii) are led, sponsored by or in aid of ACT. The Lounge ran Christmas letters to Santa, Breakfast with Santa, Festive Acts of Kindness projects, an Easter Trail & Easter Egg Raffle event and a Family Halloween event. These are examples of some of the annual events we run helping to bring the community together.

As business has improved, the staffing of the café has evolved and we now employ eight members of staff and have approx. ten volunteers. Having a fresh new interior, a stable team and robust leadership has allowed us to focus on the overall project, rather than the tactical issues associated with running the café business. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such a committed volunteer team as we attempt to further increase the operating performance and align the staffing resources to the workload.

There has been ongoing competition from food and drink traders locally. Despite this we continued to get good customer numbers and deliver quality, affordable and locally sourced food, and drink, for local people. Our menu prices have not increased since May 2021, making us accessible for all.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Youth Activities

The youth programme is run by our employed part-time lead youth worker, and focuses on a variety of activities, with expert planning and engagement with the young people. An additional assistant youth worker supplements the volunteers who have also made a tremendous contribution in support of our youth offer.

Our onsite provision offers a varied and interesting programme of youth activities providing advice, assistance, and opportunities for fun/activities. These sessions have also included offsite trips to do outdoor adventure activities, sports, craft, cooking, and trips to the park for games. Highlights of the year were stress boxing, Samba drumming sessions and multi-activity holiday sessions at Blackwell Adventure.

The hub for youth work has also altered, and we have trialled various locations to increase capacity, including the local Baptist church hall and the cricket club. Both alternative venues offered benefits but presented a variety of logistical challenges and did not significantly improve the youth experience. The charity has consulted with staff, volunteers and children and the decision has been taken that going forward, the Lounge café is the best place for youth work to be based, with organised off - site trips and holiday sessions, as it operates most efficiently, effectively, and safely.

The greatest asset of our youth work is that it provides - within the village - a place where young people can socialise safely and have fun. Many participants make new friends share the challenges of their lives with our staff who listen, provide reassurance and signpost where necessary. Any young person living in the area from middle school age is eligible to become a member.

Looking ahead we continue to seek additional funding to build on our current offer with a focus on addressing mental health needs with some (i) targeted group work, (ii) involvement of specialist people or activities, and (iii) further support of our hard-to-reach groups.

Support for Older People

As a parish we have a higher-than-average number of older residents, many who live alone.

During this period, we have continued to deliver the 'Friendship Matters' group for seniors/ older people on a weekly basis, as we see this as a vital community project. The project has received funding during the year, through charitable donations from the Co-op Community Fund. Funding bids have been made to Bromsgrove District Council; Small equity grant funding to run an annual trip - and we continue to bid for appropriate grants to continue running the project, further delivery is subject to fundraising requirements.

We have a qualified leader employed, delivering a range of bespoke activities to support the group, utilising The Lounge premises on a Monday. Regularly over 20 people attend, making the group at full capacity for the space.

Since Covid Friendship Matters reported increased attendance in the sessions and has offered a varied programme of activities including seated exercises, samba drumming, crafts, and musical bingo. We were successful with a bid to Bromsgrove District Council, (Equality Small Grants Scheme), to offer a day trip to Cadbury World Heritage Tour the trip had extremely positive feedback and a further funding request has been made to BDC, so we can hopefully offer another day trip in 2024 as part of our offer for the older generation living in the parish of Alvechurch.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Achievements and performance

In Summary

1. We are deeply connected to our community and immensely proud of the positive contribution our charity plays.
2. As custodians of ACT and as members of this community, we seek to safely navigate tough times ahead associated with the cost-of-living increases.
3. Our next steps are about maintaining a sustainable approach to growth and continuing to be an ever-present beacon of support and warmth for the community.

Financial review

The year ended 31 July 2024 saw an increase in cafe takings from £87,460 to £90,741. This total includes the income from Mondays, when the cafe is open exclusively for Friendship Matters activities, and from the Youth Diner. Costs of running the cafe increased from £83,762 to £109,466. This includes the cost of a substantial refurbishment. Together with income from the charity's social lottery and donations and grants to help with café expenses and the youth and Friendship matters work this led to a deficit for the year of £15,911 (2023: surplus £11,800). This includes a transfer from restricted funds of £2,800 in respect of monies spent from general funds during 2023 in advance of a specific grant received during 2024.

There was a surplus brought forward of £85,231 from which the current deficit has been deducted making a balance carried forward of £69,320.

Grants and donations totalling £23,453 were received in the year towards specific projects. £20,589 was spent in the year leaving a surplus of £2,864. This was reduced by the transfer to general funds leaving a net deficit of £36. This has been deducted from the reserves brought forward of £6,901 leaving £6,865 to be spent in future years.

Reserves Policy

The formulation of a robust reserves policy remains one of the key objectives. The trustees are conscious of the constraints of grant funders and in particular that despite an apparently strong position at the balance sheet date, the reserves may have to last for several months before the next round of grants may be received.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Plans for future periods

Our six priority areas for the future are:

1. Responding to the cost-of-living crisis which requires our charity to provide:

- Food, drink and community activity at a price that is affordable for all.
- Tighter systems of control on budgeting, reserves and cash flow forecasting to mitigate the inflationary environment (energy, food, supplies) of cost increases going forward.

2. Exploring fundraising opportunities - importantly our 'Friendship Matters' project to support those within our community that suffer with loneliness and isolation.

3. Focusing on the ongoing financial sustainability of the café by fundraising to deliver improvements to the interior, which keep up the offer in terms of food and drink to generate good income levels.

4. Focusing on delivering a substantial and diverse volume of work - requiring additional volunteers/skills from within the community to bolster our team and ensure the sustainability of our human resources.

5. Continuing to develop a programme of projects for younger people, older people and other general wellbeing projects that could be implemented safely long term. Current items in consideration include dealing with Dementia and Alzheimer's.

6. Focusing on the development and recognition of our people. Our amazing team of staff and volunteers have been hugely resilient during a very busy year and we seek to provide them with appropriate salaries, training, and development to enhance their skills and enhance the charity's capabilities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Charity registration number 1154840
Company registration number 07308396
Principal office and registered office 22 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA

The trustees

R Bestwick
L Evans
M Newberry

Trustees at date of signing the Report

The trustees in place at the date of signing the report were:

- R Bestwick
- L Evans
- M Newberry

Independent examiner David Seeley FCA
Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 27 April 2025 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:


M Newberry
Trustee

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Year ended 31 July 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 the 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



David Seeley FCA
Independent Examiner

Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

27 April 2025

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 July 2024

		2024	2023		
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	4,948	23,453	28,401	18,968
Charitable activities	6	90,883	—	90,883	87,460
Other trading activities	7	13,757	—	13,757	6,596
Investment income	8	192	—	192	90
Total income		<u>109,780</u>	<u>23,453</u>	<u>133,233</u>	<u>113,114</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of raising donations and legacies	9	400	—	400	—
Costs of other trading activities	10	111,497	—	111,497	85,663
Expenditure on charitable activities	11,12	16,694	20,589	37,283	39,296
Total expenditure		<u>128,591</u>	<u>20,589</u>	<u>149,180</u>	<u>124,959</u>
Net expenditure		<u>(18,811)</u>	<u>2,864</u>	<u>(15,947)</u>	<u>(11,845)</u>
Transfers between funds					
		2,900	(2,900)	—	—
Net movement in funds		<u>(15,911)</u>	<u>(36)</u>	<u>(15,947)</u>	<u>(11,845)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>85,231</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>92,132</u>	<u>103,977</u>
Total funds carried forward		<u>69,320</u>	<u>6,865</u>	<u>76,185</u>	<u>92,132</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 12 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	18	1,925	1,925
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>77,957</u>	<u>93,207</u>
		79,882	95,132
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>3,697</u>	<u>3,000</u>
Net current assets		76,185	92,132
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>76,185</u>	<u>92,132</u>
Net assets		<u>76,185</u>	<u>92,132</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		6,865	6,901
Unrestricted funds		<u>69,320</u>	<u>85,231</u>
Total charity funds	21	<u>76,185</u>	<u>92,132</u>

For the year ending 31 July 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 27 April 2025, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



M Newberry
Trustee

The notes on pages 12 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2024

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 22 The Square, Alvechurch, B48 7LA.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

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

Disclosure exemptions

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined in FRS 102.

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102 by reason of being small. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under the Charities SORP (FRS 102):

- No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

Significant judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

- Sufficient resources will continue to be found to fund the operation of both café and youth work, and
- There will continue to be a need for the services offered by the charity.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The trustees however do not believe there are any key assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Incoming resources

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Resources expended

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT as this cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- 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 between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as estimated by the directors.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and consequently has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up the liability of each member or a member who ceased within one year of the winding up is limited to £1.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Other donations	4,948	2,500	7,448
Grants			
Grants	—	20,953	20,953
	<u>4,948</u>	<u>23,453</u>	<u>28,401</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Other donations	12,067	—	12,067

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants			
Grants	—	6,901	6,901
	<u>12,067</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>18,968</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Cafe income	<u>90,883</u>	<u>90,883</u>	<u>87,460</u>	<u>87,460</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising events	1,549	1,549	—	—
Friendship Matters income	1,633	1,633	1,220	1,220
Youth income	6,090	6,090	819	819
Social lotteries	<u>4,485</u>	<u>4,485</u>	<u>4,557</u>	<u>4,557</u>
	<u>13,757</u>	<u>13,757</u>	<u>6,596</u>	<u>6,596</u>

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>192</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>

9. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Costs of generating other fundraising income	<u>400</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

10. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	109,466	109,466	83,762	83,762
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	2,031	2,031	1,901	1,901
	<u>111,497</u>	<u>111,497</u>	<u>85,663</u>	<u>85,663</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Youth Work	14,052	7,028	21,080
Friendship Matters	1,652	13,561	15,213
Support costs	990	—	990
	<u>16,694</u>	<u>20,589</u>	<u>37,283</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Youth Work	4,000	15,694	19,694
Friendship Matters	3,822	14,620	18,442
Support costs	928	232	1,160
	<u>8,750</u>	<u>30,546</u>	<u>39,296</u>

12. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Youth Work	21,080	—	21,080	19,694
Friendship Matters	15,213	—	15,213	18,442
Governance costs	—	990	990	1,160
	<u>36,293</u>	<u>990</u>	<u>37,283</u>	<u>39,296</u>

13. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs Community Work £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Governance costs	990	990	1,160

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

14. Net expenditure

Net expenditure is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>

15. Independent examination fees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	360	400
Other financial services	<u>600</u>	<u>760</u>
	<u>960</u>	<u>1,160</u>

16. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	67,727	67,334
Employer contributions to pension plans	<u>967</u>	<u>567</u>
	<u>68,694</u>	<u>67,901</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2023: 9). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Management	1	1
Community work	2	1
Cafe staff	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel, other than the trustees, are the café manager and senior community workers. Their combined remuneration in the year was £28,244 (2023: £24,055).

17. Trustee remuneration and expenses

- no remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees
- no expenses were paid to or disclaimed by the trustees.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

18. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>1,925</u>	<u>1,925</u>

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	<u>1,697</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Accruals and deferred income	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	<u>3,697</u>	<u>3,000</u>

20. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £967 (2023: £567).

21. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>85,231</u>	<u>109,780</u>	<u>(128,591)</u>	<u>2,900</u>	<u>69,320</u>

	At 1 August 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 July 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>73,431</u>	<u>106,213</u>	<u>(94,413)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>85,231</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

21. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2024 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	4,000	3,000	(4,000)	—	3,000
Bromsgrove Mental Health Cornerstone	—	—	—	—	—
Bromsgrove District Council	901	5,800	(3,801)	(2,900)	—
Bernard Piggott Trust	2,000	2,500	(2,000)	—	2,500
Green Flag	—	—	—	—	—
Barnt Green Donations Lottery Community Fund	—	—	—	—	—
	—	9,760	(9,760)	—	—
Coop Community Fund	—	1,028	(1,028)	—	—
Alvechurch Parish Council-Men in Sheds	—	500	—	—	500
Bromsgrove DC-Equalities	—	865	—	—	865
	<u>6,901</u>	<u>23,453</u>	<u>(20,589)</u>	<u>(2,900)</u>	<u>6,865</u>

	At 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2023 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	5,000	4,000	(5,000)	—	4,000
Bromsgrove Mental Health Cornerstone	1,200	—	(1,200)	—	—
Bromsgrove District Council	7,150	—	(7,150)	—	—
Bernard Piggott Trust	866	901	(866)	—	901
Green Flag	2,000	2,000	(2,000)	—	2,000
Barnt Green Donations Lottery Community Fund	3,125	—	(3,125)	—	—
	1,235	—	(1,235)	—	—
Coop Community Fund	9,970	—	(9,970)	—	—
Alvechurch Parish Council-Men in Sheds	—	—	—	—	—
Bromsgrove DC-Equalities	—	—	—	—	—
	<u>30,546</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>(30,546)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6,901</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2024

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2024
	£	£	£
Current assets	73,017	6,865	79,882
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,697)	—	(3,697)
Net assets	69,320	6,865	76,185

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2023
	£	£	£
Current assets	88,231	6,901	95,132
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,000)	—	(3,000)
Net assets	85,231	6,901	92,132

23. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	2,250	—
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	—	11,950
	2,250	11,950

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07308396
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154840

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 July 2023

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2023

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	8
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	9
Statement of financial position	10
Notes to the financial statements	11
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	21
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	23

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2023

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Objectives and activities

1. Introduction

Alvechurch Communities Together (ACT) was established in 2011 to offer local young people a safe, calm, and stable base to meet regularly, and offer activities, to help combat some low-level antisocial behaviour within the community. This was as well as offering friendly, relaxed space to support the wider community. It operates from 'The Lounge' a light and contemporary café and community space located the centre of the village. ACT provide inclusive and supportive services in Alvechurch. Recognising needs and maximising reach, our work is delivered collaboratively and creatively across the area. This means providing support to the most vulnerable groups, and a friendly space to help all local people come together to interact and build connections.

We use our premises, skills, support, and grants to strengthen the community. The Lounge Cafe is open six days a week. Five days it operates as a community café and one day a week it opens to run a grant-funded project, an older people's support group that delivers friendship, bespoke activities, and a hot lunch.

Two evenings a week The Lounge acts as the venue to host activities for young people in the parish. Two youth sessions are run as 'youth-diners' straight from school, followed by two 'youth-club' sessions - both providing a safe environment for young people to develop, have fun and socialise.

As a charity running such a diverse and complex programme of activity in the community, we focus heavily on oversight and have strong financial management for informed decision-making and accountability.

We continue to be supported by the Alvechurch Parish Council, other organisations, charities, and businesses, for which we are very grateful. The café contributes to our running costs - and ensures that the level of support required to run community projects continues to reduce, and this helps mitigate increases in the fixed costs.

At all times the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning their activities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

Key Strengths

There are four key strengths of Alvechurch Communities Together:

1. It builds **resilience** in young people of the village and gives them:

- *A safe venue-* that they feel 'ownership' of
- *A communication point-* where they can be supported in different ways,
- *A way to be accepted* within the village- and part of a group who can be responsible,
- *An enabling pathway* - to become involved in village initiatives; and
- *A place where they can be happy*, make friends have fun and be themselves.

2. It **prevents loneliness and isolation** in older people offering activities and support groups, such as 'Friendship Matters'.

3. It **offers local support** for everyone's mental wellbeing: offering workshops, training, events and activities for all.

4. It **creates a welcoming and comfortable place** with the Lounge café as our visible community hub, a friendly space.

2. Governance and Management

During the past year Trustees with the Management Group have attempted to:

- Work hard to see our village, our charity, and our cafe emerge strongly from the challenges of the Covid pandemic.
- Develop The Lounge's work to encompass and reflect other diverse community organisations.
- Develop activities, especially around 'loneliness and isolation' including a weekly session for older people.
- Improve financial security and reserves. The successful attraction of charitable funding from local businesses to contribute to café refurbishment is a good example of this.
- While ACT finances are healthy, inflation and an uncertain external environment remain significant financial risks to the organisation.
- Develop an organisation that is renowned for good practice in terms of supporting wellbeing, which people come to see and learn from.
- Encourage those who have benefited from the project to come back and volunteer to help others.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

3. Strategy

The ACT Mission

"To serve as a focal point in the village of Alvechurch, providing a variety of activities and services to diverse social and generational groups: participating in community cohesion development and responsibility"

The Purpose

"Creating a happier, healthier and more connected community in Alvechurch."

The Vision

"To create a more positive village through inclusive community services".

Addressing loneliness and isolation is everybody's business, at ACT we seek to ensure no one is left behind. At the heart of our vision is the whole community - our 'eyes and ears' to identify people who might be lonely and who might be looking for meaningful connections. At a time when many parts of the country face cuts in local services, neglect, isolation, and loneliness, we want to ensure Alvechurch thrives and stays vibrant. We do so through sticking to our guiding principles:

The principles: of being positive, collaborative, inspiring and creative.

Four pillars support our vision.

Pillar 1: inspiring meaningful connections

- Giving back to the community: e.g. volunteers
- Giving people opportunities: like DoE and local training and employment
- Boosting 'protective' factors in the community: like meaning, resilience, and quality of relationships

Pillar 2: collaborative networks

- Understanding: the needs of the community by working with different groups
- Sharing resources and working together: sharing capacity and resources with other groups to create and build initiatives for our community
- Driving conversations and developing our network: to maximise reach and support delivered to ensure no one is left behind.
- Driving public conversation and raising awareness of isolation

Pillar 3: services to vulnerable groups

- Building young people's resilience: youth club, youth diner, holiday activities
- Preventing loneliness and isolation in older people: activities and support groups, Friendship Matters

Pillar 4: investing in Alvechurch

- Creating a welcoming place: with the Lounge café as our visible hub, a friendly space

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

4. The Café

The cafe provides a community hub for the village, open five days a week and offering both:

- individual residents of all ages a place to make friends, buy an affordable hot drink or a cooked meal and use the Wi-Fi for free and
- community groups a venue to hold meetings and events
- community events have taken place that both (i) use the café as a hub, and (ii) are led, sponsored by or in aid of ACT. The third Alvechurch Scarecrow Festival was held in October 2022 which raised funds for the charity and provided an engaging community week-long event. In addition, The Lounge also ran Christmas letters to Santa, Breakfast with Santa, Festive Act of Kindness projects, an Easter Trail & Easter Egg Raffle event. These are examples of some of the annual events we run helping to bring the community together.

The staffing of the café continues to evolve and we now employ eight members of staff and have approximately ten volunteers.

There continues to be ongoing competition from food and drink traders locally. Despite this we continued to get good customer numbers and deliver quality, affordable and locally sourced food, and drink, for local people. Our menu prices have not increased since May 2021.

5. Youth Activities

The youth programme was extended in Sept 2022 and run by our employed part-time lead youth worker, and focussed on a variety of activities, with expert planning and engagement with the young people. An additional assistant youth worker supplements the volunteers who have also made a tremendous contribution in support of youth activities.

We continue to offer a variety of youth activities and our highlights of the year were stress boxing, Samba drumming sessions and multi activity holiday sessions at Blackwell Adventure.

Our youth provision continues to be appreciated within the village and is seen as a place where young people can socialise safely and have fun. Any young person living in the area from middle school age is eligible to become a member.

To supplement the income we get from our Café we need to continue to seek additional funding, for example the APC contributed £4,000 in the year specifically for youth provision.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

6. Support for Older People

As a parish we have a higher-than-average number of older residents, many who are living alone.

We have continued to deliver the 'Friendship Matters' group for older people on a weekly basis, as we see this as a vital community project. As well as using Café income to support activities we rely upon and use charitable donations from the likes of the Co-op Community Fund, and Bromsgrove District Council and we continue to bid for appropriate grants where we can.

We have a qualified leader employed, delivering a range of bespoke activities to support the group, utilising The Lounge premises on a Monday and we regularly have over 20 people attend.

Since Covid Friendship Matters reported increased attendance in the sessions and has offered a varied programme of activities including seated exercises, samba drumming, crafts, and musical bingo. We were successful with a bid to Bromsgrove District Council, (Equality Small Grants Scheme), to offer a day trip to The Black Country Living Museum for up to 26 Parish Seniors in Sept 2022, the trip had extremely positive feedback and a further funding request has been made to BDC, so we can hopefully offer another day trip in 2023.

Achievements and performance

In Summary

1. We feel connected to our community and immensely proud of the positive contribution of the ACT across our community.
2. We feel strongly that we have a role to play in helping our community cope with the cost-of-living increases
3. We continue to look at how we effectively invest our funding to maintain and enhance our community offering, for example we intend to utilise funds in our FY23/24 to refurbish our kitchen. .

Financial review

The year ended 31 July 2023 saw an increase in cafe takings from £81,014 to £87,460. This total includes the income from Mondays, when the cafe is open exclusively for Friendship Matters activities, and from the Youth Diner. Costs of running the cafe increased from £55,513 to £83,762. Together with income from the charity's social lottery and grants to help with both café expense and the youth work this led to a surplus for the year of £11,800 (2022: £14,400).

There was a surplus brought forward of £73,431 to which the current surplus has been added making a balance carried forward of £85,231.

Grants and donations totalling £6,901 were received in the year towards specific projects. £30,546 was spent in the year leaving a net deficit of £23,645. This has been deducted from the reserves brought forward of £30,546 leaving £6,901 to be spent in future years.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

Financial review *(continued)*

Reserves Policy

The formulation of a robust reserves policy remains one of the key objectives. The trustees are conscious of the constraints of grant funders and in particular that due despite an apparently strong position at the balance sheet date, the reserves may have to last for several months before the next round of grants may be received.

Structure, governance and management

Alvechurch Communities Together is a charity registered with the Charities Commission number 1154840.

In addition to the trustees there is a management committee that meets on a monthly basis to review progress and plan activities. This committee has general delegated powers to operate on a day to day basis.

Plans for future periods

Our six priority areas for the future are:

1. Responding to the cost-of-living crisis which requires our charity to provide:
 - Food, drink and community activity at a price that is affordable for all.
 - Tighter systems of control on budgeting and reserves, together with cash flow forecasting to mitigate the inflationary environment (energy, food, supplies) of cost increases going forward.
2. Exploring fundraising opportunities - importantly our 'Friendship Matters' project to support those within our community that suffer with loneliness and isolation.
3. Focusing on the ongoing financial sustainability of the café by fundraising to deliver improvements to the interior, which keep up the offer in terms of food and drink to generate good income levels.
4. Focusing on delivering a substantial and diverse volume of work - requiring additional volunteers/skills from within the community to bolster our team and ensure the sustainability of our human resources.
5. Continuing to develop a programme of projects for younger people, older people and other general wellbeing projects that could be implemented safely during the pandemic and long term. Current items in consideration include dealing with Dementia and Alzheimer's.
6. Focusing on the development and recognition of our people. Our amazing team of staff and volunteers have been hugely resilient during a very busy year, and we seek to provide them with appropriate salaries, training, and development to enhance their skills and enhance the charity's capabilities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Charity registration number 1154840
Company registration number 07308396
Principal office and registered office 22 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA

The trustees

R Bestwick
L Evans
M Newberry

Trustees at date of signing the Report

The trustees in place at the date of signing the report were:

- R Bestwick
- L Evans
- M Newberry

Independent examiner David Seeley FCA
Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 28 May 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



L Evans
Trustee

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Year ended 31 July 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 the 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



David Seeley FCA
Independent Examiner

Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

28 MAR 2024

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 July 2023

		Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
	Note				
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	12,067	6,901	18,968	30,503
Charitable activities	6	87,460	—	87,460	81,014
Other trading activities	7	6,596	—	6,596	20,792
Investment income	8	90	—	90	6
Total income		<u>106,213</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>113,114</u>	<u>132,315</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	9	85,663	—	85,663	57,107
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	8,750	30,546	39,296	44,087
Total expenditure		<u>94,413</u>	<u>30,546</u>	<u>124,959</u>	<u>101,194</u>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		<u>11,800</u>	<u>(23,645)</u>	<u>(11,845)</u>	<u>31,121</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		73,431	30,546	103,977	72,856
Total funds carried forward		<u>85,231</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>92,132</u>	<u>103,977</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	17	1,925	2,017
Cash at bank and in hand		93,207	103,463
		<u>95,132</u>	<u>105,480</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>3,000</u>	<u>1,503</u>
Net current assets		92,132	103,977
Total assets less current liabilities		92,132	103,977
Net assets		92,132	103,977
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds		6,901	30,546
Unrestricted funds		85,231	73,431
Total charity funds	20	92,132	103,977

For the year ending 31 July 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 28 May 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



L Evans
Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2023

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 22 The Square, Alvechurch, B48 7LA.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

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

Disclosure exemptions

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined in FRS 102.

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102 by reason of being small. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under the Charities SORP (FRS 102):

- No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

Significant judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

- Sufficient resources will continue to be found to fund the operation of both café and youth work, and
- There will continue to be a need for the services offered by the charity.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The trustees however do not believe there are any key assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Incoming resources

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Resources expended

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT as this cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- 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 between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as estimated by the directors.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and consequently has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up the liability of each member or a member who ceased within one year of the winding up is limited to £1.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Other donations	12,067	–	12,067
Grants			
Grants	–	6,901	6,901
	<u>12,067</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>18,968</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Other donations	72	2,595	2,667

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Grants			
Grants	—	27,836	27,836
	<u>72</u>	<u>30,431</u>	<u>30,503</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Cafe income	<u>87,460</u>	<u>87,460</u>	<u>81,014</u>	<u>81,014</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Friendship Matters income	1,220	1,220	3,537	3,537
Youth income	819	819	13,640	13,640
Social lotteries	<u>4,557</u>	<u>4,557</u>	<u>3,615</u>	<u>3,615</u>
	<u>6,596</u>	<u>6,596</u>	<u>20,792</u>	<u>20,792</u>

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>90</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

9. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	83,762	83,762	55,513	55,513
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	<u>1,901</u>	<u>1,901</u>	<u>1,594</u>	<u>1,594</u>
	<u>85,663</u>	<u>85,663</u>	<u>57,107</u>	<u>57,107</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Youth Work	4,000	15,694	19,694
Friendship Matters	3,822	14,620	18,442
Support costs	928	232	1,160
	<u>8,750</u>	<u>30,546</u>	<u>39,296</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Youth Work	15,064	4,730	19,794
Friendship Matters	14,473	8,980	23,453
Support costs	840	–	840
	<u>30,377</u>	<u>13,710</u>	<u>44,087</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2023 £	Total fund 2022 £
Youth Work	19,694	–	19,694	19,794
Friendship Matters	18,442	–	18,442	23,453
Governance costs	–	1,160	1,160	840
	<u>38,136</u>	<u>1,160</u>	<u>39,296</u>	<u>44,087</u>

12. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs Community Work £	Support costs Youth Work £	Support costs Friendship Matters £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Governance costs	<u>928</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>1,160</u>	<u>840</u>

13. Net (expenditure)/income

Net (expenditure)/income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease rentals	<u>9,000</u>	<u>8,509</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

14. Independent examination fees

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	400	230
Other financial services	760	460
	<u>1,160</u>	<u>690</u>

15. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	67,334	56,492
Employer contributions to pension plans	567	–
	<u>67,901</u>	<u>56,492</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2022: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Management	1	1
Community work	1	1
Cafe staff	2	1
	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel, other than the trustees, are the café manager and senior community workers. Their combined remuneration in the year was £24,055 (2022: £19,705).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

- no remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees
- no expenses were paid to or disclaimed by the trustees.

17. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>1,925</u>	<u>2,017</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	1,000	468
Accruals and deferred income	2,000	1,019
Social security and other taxes	—	16
	<u>3,000</u>	<u>1,503</u>

19. Pensions and other post retirement benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £567 (2022: £Nil).

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2023 £
General Funds	<u>73,431</u>	<u>106,213</u>	<u>(94,413)</u>	<u>85,231</u>

	At 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2022 £
General Funds	<u>59,031</u>	<u>101,884</u>	<u>(87,484)</u>	<u>73,431</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2023 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	5,000	4,000	(5,000)	4,000
Bromsgrove Mental Health	1,200	—	(1,200)	—
Cornerstone	7,150	—	(7,150)	—
Bromsgrove District Council	866	901	(866)	901
Worcs County Council	—	—	—	—
Bernard Piggott Trust	2,000	2,000	(2,000)	2,000
Green Flag	3,125	—	(3,125)	—
Barnt Green Donations	1,235	—	(1,235)	—
Lottery Community Fund	9,970	—	(9,970)	—
	<u>30,546</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>(30,546)</u>	<u>6,901</u>

	At 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2022 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	—	5,000	—	5,000
Bromsgrove Mental Health	1,200	—	—	1,200
Cornerstone	—	10,000	(2,850)	7,150
Bromsgrove District Council	—	866	—	866
Worcs County Council	2,000	—	(2,000)	—
Bernard Piggott Trust	—	2,000	—	2,000
Green Flag	10,625	—	(7,500)	3,125
Barnt Green Donations	—	2,595	(1,360)	1,235
Lottery Community Fund	—	9,970	—	9,970
	<u>13,825</u>	<u>30,431</u>	<u>(13,710)</u>	<u>30,546</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Current assets	88,231	6,901	95,132
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,000)	—	(3,000)
Net assets	<u>85,231</u>	<u>6,901</u>	<u>92,132</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Current assets	74,934	30,546	105,480
Creditors less than 1 year	(1,503)	—	(1,503)
Net assets	<u>73,431</u>	<u>30,546</u>	<u>103,977</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2023

22. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<u>11,950</u>	<u>20,950</u>

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07308396
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154840

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 July 2022

ACCUO ACCOUNTING LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2022

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	10
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	11
Statement of financial position	12
Notes to the financial statements	13
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	23
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	25

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2022

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Objectives and activities

1 Introduction

Alvechurch Communities Together (ACT) is now in its twelfth year of operation. It operates from 'The Lounge', a light and contemporary café and community space located in the centre of the village. ACT provides inclusive and supportive services in Alvechurch, recognising needs and maximising reach, our work is delivered collaboratively and creatively across the area. This means providing support to the most vulnerable groups, and a friendly space to help all local people come together to interact and build connections.

We use our premises, skills, support, and grants to strengthen the community. The Lounge Cafe is open six days a week. Five days it operates as a community café and one day a week it opens to run a grant-funded project, an older people's group that delivers friendship, activities, and lunch.

Two evenings a week The Lounge acts as the venue to host activities for young people in the parish. Three youth sessions are run as 'youth-diners' and there is also one 'youth-club' - both providing a safe environment for young people to develop, have fun and socialise.

As a charity running such a diverse and complex programme of activity in the community, we focus heavily on oversight and have strong financial management for informed decision-making and accountability. We continue to be supported by the Alvechurch Parish Council, other organisations, charities and businesses for which we are very grateful. The café contributes to our running costs - and ensures that the level of support required to run community projects continues to reduce, and this helps mitigate increases in the fixed costs.

At all times the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning their activities.

Key Strengths

There are four key strengths of Alvechurch Communities Together:

1. It **builds resilience** in young people of the village and gives them:

- A *safe venue* they feel 'ownership' of
- A *communication point* where they can be supported in different ways,
- A way to be *accepted* within the village, and part of a group who can be responsible,
- An *enabling* pathway - to become involved in village initiatives; and
- A place where they can be *happy*, make friends have fun and be themselves.

2. It **prevents loneliness and isolation** in older people, offering activities and support groups, such as 'Friendship Matters'.

3. It **offers local support** for everyone's mental wellbeing: offering workshops, training, events and activities for all.

4. It **creates a welcoming and comfortable place**: with the Lounge café as our visible community hub, a friendly space.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

2 Governance and Management

During the past year Trustees with the Management Group have attempted to:

- Work hard to see our village, our charity, and our café emerge strongly from the challenges of the Covid pandemic.
- Develop The Lounge's work to encompass and reflect other diverse community organisations.
- Develop activities, especially around 'loneliness and isolation' including weekly session for older people.
- Improve financial security and reserves. The successful attraction of charitable funding from local businesses to pay for café refurbishment, is a good example of this.
- While ACT finances are healthy, inflation and an uncertain external environment remain significant financial risks to the organisation.
- Develop an organisation that is renowned for good practice in terms of supporting wellbeing, which people come to see and learn from.
- Encourage those who have benefited from the project to come back and volunteer to help others.

During the spring of 2022 ACT Trustees appraised internal capability and capacity and highlighted a risk that the charity was lacking sufficient skilled staff resources to deliver strategic aims. Following this review and a recruitment process, Rachel Rollinson was appointed Community and Youth Co-ordinator and provides ACT with extra resource to plan, manage and deliver community work. Rachel has considerable awareness of the nature and scope of community work and safeguarding frameworks. Since her appointment she has delivered meaningful change for individuals in the community and has worked on several successful charity bids including securing a large grant from the charity Cornerstone.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

3 Strategy

The ACT Mission

"To serve as a focal point in the village of Alvechurch, providing a variety of activities and services to diverse social and generational groups: participating in community cohesion development and responsibility"

The Purpose

"Creating a happier, healthier and more connected community in Alvechurch".

The Vision

"To create a more positive village through inclusive community services".

Addressing loneliness and isolation is everybody's business, at ACT we seek to ensure no one is left behind. At the heart of our vision is the whole community - our 'eyes and ears' to identify people who might be lonely and who might be looking for meaningful connections. At a time when many parts of the country face cuts in local services, neglect, isolation, and loneliness, we want to ensure Alvechurch thrives and stays vibrant. We do so through sticking to our guiding principles:

The principles: *of being positive, collaborative, inspiring and creative.*

Four pillars support our vision

Pillar 1: inspiring meaningful connections

- Giving back to the community: e.g., volunteers
- Giving people opportunities: like DoE and local training and employment
- Boosting 'protective' factors in the community: like meaning, resilience, and quality of relationships

Pillar 2: collaborative networks

- Understanding: the needs of the community by working with different groups
- Sharing resources and working together: sharing capacity and resources with other groups to create and build initiatives for our community
- Driving conversations and developing our network: to maximise reach and support delivered to ensure no one is left behind.
- Driving public conversation and raising awareness of isolation

Pillar 3: services to vulnerable groups

- Building young people's resilience: youth club, youth diner, holiday activities
- Preventing loneliness and isolation in older people: activities and support groups, Friendship Matters

Pillar 4: investing in Alvechurch

- Creating a welcoming place: with the Lounge café as our visible hub, a friendly space

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

4. Covid

Some ongoing coronavirus measures remained in place during the year, specifically; people wearing face coverings in public spaces, appropriate social distancing, PPE, collection of customer data for Test and Trace, to operate by table service only, to ensure social distancing between and to limit the size of parties making bookings. The government also required those who tested positive for the coronavirus and their close contacts to self-isolate. Measures were disruptive operationally (e.g., on occasions, staff sickness absence was high and meant delivery could be challenging) however, they slowed and contained the spread of the coronavirus, and allowed us to get 'back to normal' in 2022. The charity, staff and volunteers showed incredible resilience throughout this period. Priorities for us included;

- (i) supporting the wellbeing of the community,
- (ii) sustaining the future of the charity and
- (iii) making up the financial losses of closing the café during the previous year.

We made good use of the expertise in our trustees, management group, staff and volunteers. ACT has managed to:

- Use the charitable grants we levered (e.g., European Regional Development Funding and local business support) to refurbish the café;
- Boost community support and operate more hours and provision of youth work and sustain older people's support; and)
- Immediately re-open the café when government policy allowed at the start of this year

The café interior transformation that took place in April - May 2021 has been an enormous bonus for our operations over the year. The refurbishment created a more welcoming, fresh, and relaxed space. Throughout the year there has been an increasing demand for all community services and more people making use of the café. This growth has sustained - and - the investment has proven to be the most important action we have taken for our café business and charity outcomes. Learning and looking ahead, we are considering how we can use grants to add further value and adapt our offer and continue ongoing successes post Covid; in 2023 we plan to upgrade the kitchen and are considering installation of an outdoor awning to allow further seating in all weathers.

Public support and the generosity of local businesses for fundraising continuous to be outstanding and has proved a lifeline for us. Fundraising to support the operation of our activity has been essential, and two critical community fundraising events we helped to run were Picnic in the Park raising £2,700 and the Scarecrow Festival generating £3,371.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

5. The Café

The café provides a community hub for the village, open five days a week and offering both:

- individual residents of all ages a place to make friends, buy an affordable hot drink or a cooked meal and use the Wi-Fi for free and
- community groups a venue to hold meetings and events

The Café has coped with some challenges and opportunities during the past 12 months including:

- The end of a period of national lockdown with cautious return to social life for many members of the community.
- Continuing adherence to government Covid advice, PPE, etc, combined with considerable rates of sickness absence to manage.
- A growing level of new customers from the community using the café. Caring and welcoming staff are vital to this. Post pandemic many residents now trust and feel safe coming to the café - staying local - for their social interactions.
- The successful refurbishment during closure continues to have a positive impact on trade, the community and is popular with staff and volunteers. The new coffee machine (allowing us to make barista made hot drinks) remains popular and is an essential part of our offer.
- Exciting community events have taken place that both (i) use the café as a hub, and (ii) are led, sponsored by or in aid of ACT. The second Alvechurch Scarecrow Festival held in October 2021 which raised £3,371 through providing an engaging community week-long event. In addition, The Lounge also ran Christmas letters to Santa, Festive Kindness projects, an Easter Trail & Easter Egg Raffle event. These are examples of annual events we run helping to bring the community together.

As business has improved, the staffing of the café has evolved and we now employ nine members of staff and 12 volunteers. This is a 31% increase in the size of our team and the 5 new individuals have been a great source of capacity and strength. Having a fresh new interior, a stable team and robust leadership has allowed us to focus on the overall project, rather than the tactical issues associated with running the café business. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such a committed volunteer team as we attempt to further increase the operating performance and align the staffing resources to the workload.

There has been ongoing competition from food and drink traders locally. Despite this we continued to get good customer numbers and deliver quality, affordable and locally sourced food, and drink, for local people. Our menu prices have not increased since May 2021.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Objectives and activities *(continued)*

6. Youth Activities

The youth programme was extended and run by our employed part-time youth worker and focussed on a variety of activities, with expert planning and engagement with the young people. An additional junior worker supplements the volunteers who have also made a tremendous contribution in support of youth activities.

Provision was in person offering a varied and interesting programme of youth activities providing advice, assistance, and opportunities for fun/activity. These have also included off site trips to do adventure sports, craft, cooking, and trips to the park for games. Highlights of the year were stress boxing, a relax kids' session and bowling. The hub for youth work has also altered, and we have trialled various locations to increase capacity, including the village hall and the cricket club. Both alternative venues offered benefits but presented a variety of logistical challenges and did not significantly improve the youth experience. The charity has consulted with staff, volunteers and children and the decision has been taken that going forward from September 2022, the Lounge café is the best place for youth work to be based - here it operates most efficiently, effectively, and safely.

The greatest asset of our youth work is that it provides - within the village - a place where young people can socialise safely and have fun. Many participants make new friends share the challenges of their lives with our staff who listen, provide reassurance and signpost where necessary. Any young person living in the area at middle school is eligible to become a member.

Covid increased the need and demand for opportunities to socialise by younger people. There remains a waiting list of children to attend our youth provision - and to manage this we secured a grant from Cornerstone in 2021 to increase provision. Increased provision started during 2022 in terms the hours, activities and the numbers of young people engaged.

Looking ahead we continue to seek additional funding to build on our Cornerstone grant and the Parish Council funding, to extend the current offer with a focus on addressing mental health needs with some (i) targeted group work, (ii) involvement of specialist people or activities, and (iii) further support of our hard-to-reach groups, as well as being able to offer (iv) additional sessions to meet the increasing current demand.

7. Support for Older People

As a parish we have a higher-than-average number of older residents, many who are living alone.

During this period, we successfully gained funding and continue to deliver the 'Friendship Matters' group for older people on a weekly basis. The project has been funded during the year, both by charitable donations and grants including the National Lottery and the Co-op Community Fund.

We have employed a qualified leader delivering a range of activities to support our older people, utilising The Lounge premises on a Monday. Regularly over 20 people attend, many who had not been engaged with The Lounge before. Funding, covered the cost until March 2022 and while we are continuing, further delivery is subject to fundraising requirements.

In May 2022 Community Groups were able to return in person. After this date Friendship Matters reported increased attendance and has offered a varied programme of activities including seated exercises, samba, drumming, and musical bingo. We look forward to continuing with new and exciting activities and have bid to Bromsgrove District Council, (Equality Small Grants Scheme), to offer a day trip in 2022.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Achievements and performance

In Summary

We are deeply connected to our community and immensely proud of the positive contribution our charity plays. As custodians of ACT and as members of this community, we seek to safely navigate tough times ahead associated with the cost-of-living increases. Our next steps are about maintaining as sustainable approach to growth and continuing to be an ever-present beacon of support and warmth for the community.

Financial review

The year ended 31 July 2021 saw an increase in cafe takings from £51,942 to £81,014. Costs of running the cafe decreased from £64,317 to £55,513. Together with income from the charity's social lottery and grants to help with both café expense and the youth work this led to a surplus for the year of £14,400 (2021: £16,093).

There was a surplus brought forward of £59,031 to which the current surplus has been added making a balance carried forward of £73,431.

Grants and donations totalling £30,431 were received in the year towards specific projects. £13,710 was spent in the year leaving a net surplus of £16,721. This has been added to the reserves brought forward of £13,825 leaving £30,546 to be spent in future years.

Reserves Policy

The formulation of a robust reserves policy remains one of the key objectives. The trustees are conscious of the constraints of grant funders and in particular that due despite an apparently strong position at the balance sheet date, the reserves may have to last for several months before the next round of grants may be received.

Structure, governance and management

Alvechurch Communities Together is a charity registered with the Charities Commission number 1154840.

In addition to the trustees there is a management committee that meets on a monthly basis to review progress and plan activities. This committee has general delegated powers to operate on a day to day basis.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Plans for future periods

Our six priority areas for the future are:

1. Responding to the cost-of-living crisis which requires our charity to provide:
 - o Food, drink community activity at a price that is affordable for all.
 - o Tighter systems of control on budgeting, reserves, and cash flow forecasting to mitigate the inflationary environment (energy, food, supplied) cost increases going forward
2. Exploring fundraising opportunities – importantly our ' Friendship Matters' project to support those within our community that suffer with loneliness and isolation.
3. Focusing on the ongoing financial sustainability of the café by fundraising to deliver improvements to the interior, which keep up the offer in terms of food and drink to generate good income levels
4. Focusing on delivering a substantial and diverse volume of work – requiring additional volunteers/skills from within the community to bolster our team and ensure the sustainability of our human resources
5. Continuing to develop a programme of projects for younger people, older people and other general wellbeing projects that could be implemented safely during the pandemic and long term. Current items in consideration include dealing with Dementia and Alzheimer's
6. Focusing on the development and recognition of our people. Our amazing team of staff and volunteers have been hugely resilient during a very busy year and we seek to provide them with appropriate salaries, training, and development to enhance their skills and enhance the charity's capabilities

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Charity registration number 1154840
Company registration number 07308396
Principal office and registered office 22 The Square
Alvechurch
B48 7LA

The trustees

R Bestwick
L Evans
M Newberry
K Swadkins
-resigned September 2021

Trustees at date of signing the Report

The trustees in place at the date of signing the report were:

- R Bestwick
- L Evans
- M Newberry

Independent examiner

David Seeley FCA
Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 26 May 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



L EVANS
Trustee

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Year ended 31 July 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 the 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



David Seeley FCA
Independent Examiner

Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

26 May 2023

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 July 2022

		Unrestricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
	Note				
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	72	30,431	30,503	54,958
Charitable activities	6	81,014	—	81,014	51,942
Other trading activities	7	20,792	—	20,792	10,538
Investment income	8	6	—	6	1
Total income		<u>101,884</u>	<u>30,431</u>	<u>132,315</u>	<u>117,439</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	9	57,107	—	57,107	65,821
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	30,377	13,710	44,087	29,500
Total expenditure		<u>87,484</u>	<u>13,710</u>	<u>101,194</u>	<u>95,321</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>14,400</u>	<u>16,721</u>	<u>31,121</u>	<u>22,118</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		59,031	13,825	72,856	50,738
Total funds carried forward		<u>73,431</u>	<u>30,546</u>	<u>103,977</u>	<u>72,856</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	£	2021 £
Current assets				
Debtors	17	2,017		332
Cash at bank and in hand		103,463		74,603
		<u>105,480</u>		<u>74,935</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>1,503</u>		<u>2,079</u>
Net current assets			<u>103,977</u>	<u>72,856</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>103,977</u>	<u>72,856</u>
Net assets			<u>103,977</u>	<u>72,856</u>
Funds of the charity				
Restricted funds			30,546	13,825
Unrestricted funds			<u>73,431</u>	<u>59,031</u>
Total charity funds	20		<u>103,977</u>	<u>72,856</u>

For the year ending 31 July 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 26 May 2023 and are signed on behalf of the board by:



L EVANS
Trustee

The notes on pages 13 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2022

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 22 The Square, Alvechurch, B48 7LA.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

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

Disclosure exemptions

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined in FRS 102.

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102 by reason of being small. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under the Charities SORP (FRS 102):

- No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

Significant judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

- Sufficient resources will continue to be found to fund the operation of both café and youth work, and
- There will continue to be a need for the services offered by the charity.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The trustees however do not believe there are any key assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Incoming resources

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Resources expended

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT as this cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- 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 between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as estimated by the directors.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and consequently has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up the liability of each member or a member who ceased within one year of the winding up is limited to £1.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations			
Other donations	72	2,595	2,667
Grants			
Grants	—	27,836	27,836
Government grant income	—	—	—
	<u>72</u>	<u>30,431</u>	<u>30,503</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Other donations	3,598	5,550	9,148

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Grants			
Grants	13,304	21,614	34,918
Government grant income	10,892	–	10,892
	<u>27,794</u>	<u>27,164</u>	<u>54,958</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Cafe income	<u>81,014</u>	<u>81,014</u>	<u>51,942</u>	<u>51,942</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Friendship Matters income	3,537	3,537	1,463	1,463
Youth income	13,640	13,640	5,225	5,225
Social lotteries	3,615	3,615	3,850	3,850
	<u>20,792</u>	<u>20,792</u>	<u>10,538</u>	<u>10,538</u>

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

9. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	55,513	–	55,513
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	1,594	–	1,594
	<u>57,107</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>57,107</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

9. Costs of other trading activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	55,153	9,164	64,317
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	1,504	–	1,504
	<u>56,657</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>65,821</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Youth Work	15,064	4,730	19,794
Friendship Matters	14,473	8,980	23,453
Support costs	840	–	840
	<u>30,377</u>	<u>13,710</u>	<u>44,087</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Youth Work	6,599	7,600	14,199
Friendship Matters	8,236	4,375	12,611
Support costs	2,690	–	2,690
	<u>17,525</u>	<u>11,975</u>	<u>29,500</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2022 £	Total fund 2021 £
Youth Work	19,794	–	19,794	14,199
Friendship Matters	23,453	–	23,453	12,611
Governance costs	–	840	840	2,690
	<u>43,247</u>	<u>840</u>	<u>44,087</u>	<u>29,500</u>

12. Analysis of support costs

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Governance costs	<u>840</u>	<u>2,690</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	<u>8,509</u>	<u>10,618</u>

14. Independent examination fees

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	240	230
Other financial services	<u>600</u>	<u>460</u>
	<u>840</u>	<u>690</u>

15. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>56,492</u>	<u>45,654</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2021: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Management	1	1
Community work	1	2
Cafe staff	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel, other than the trustees, are the café manager and senior community workers. Their combined remuneration in the year was £19,705 (2021: £19,662).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

- no remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees
- no expenses were paid to or disclaimed by the trustees.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

17. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>2,017</u>	<u>332</u>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	468	468
Accruals and deferred income	1,019	1,595
Social security and other taxes	16	16
	<u>1,503</u>	<u>2,079</u>

19. Government grants

The amounts recognised in the financial statements for government grants are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Recognised in income from donations and legacies:		
Government grants income	<u>—</u>	<u>10,892</u>

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2022
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>59,031</u>	<u>101,884</u>	<u>(87,484)</u>	<u>73,431</u>

	At 1 August 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2021
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>42,938</u>	<u>90,275</u>	<u>(74,182)</u>	<u>59,031</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2022 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	–	5,000	–	5,000
Bromsgrove Mental Health	1,200	–	–	1,200
Cornerstone	–	10,000	(2,850)	7,150
Bromsgrove District Council	–	866	–	866
Worcs County Council	2,000	–	(2,000)	–
Bernard Piggott Trust	–	2,000	–	2,000
Green Flag	10,625	–	(7,500)	3,125
Cafe Refurbishment	–	–	–	–
SME Grant	–	–	–	–
Barnt Green Donations	–	2,595	(1,360)	1,235
Lottery Community Fund	–	9,970	–	9,970
	<u>13,825</u>	<u>30,431</u>	<u>(13,710)</u>	<u>30,546</u>

	At 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2021 £
Alvechurch Parish Council	6,600	–	(6,600)	–
Bromsgrove Mental Health	1,200	–	–	1,200
Cornerstone	–	–	–	–
Bromsgrove District Council	–	–	–	–
Worcs County Council	–	2,000	–	2,000
Bernard Piggott Trust	–	1,000	(1,000)	–
Green Flag	–	15,000	(4,375)	10,625
Cafe Refurbishment	–	5,550	(5,550)	–
SME Grant	–	3,614	(3,614)	–
Barnt Green Donations	–	–	–	–
Lottery Community Fund	–	–	–	–
	<u>7,800</u>	<u>27,164</u>	<u>(21,139)</u>	<u>13,825</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Current assets	74,934	30,546	105,480
Creditors less than 1 year	(1,503)	–	(1,503)
Net assets	<u>73,431</u>	<u>30,546</u>	<u>103,977</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Current assets	61,110	13,825	74,935
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,079)	–	(2,079)
Net assets	<u>59,031</u>	<u>13,825</u>	<u>72,856</u>

22. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Terminating within 2 to 5 years	<u>20,250</u>	<u>29,250</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 July 2022

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 July 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Other donations	2,667	9,148
Grants	27,836	34,918
Government grant income	—	10,892
	<u>30,503</u>	<u>54,958</u>
 Charitable activities		
Cafe income	<u>81,014</u>	<u>51,942</u>
 Other trading activities		
Friendship Matters income	3,537	1,463
Youth income	13,640	5,225
Social lotteries	3,615	3,850
	<u>20,792</u>	<u>10,538</u>
 Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
 Total income	<u>132,315</u>	<u>117,439</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Expenditure		
Costs of other trading activities		
Purchases	18,121	10,962
Wages and salaries	26,387	30,037
Operating leases	4,288	5,792
Rates and water	143	358
Light and heat	1,393	975
Repairs and maintenance	2,614	10,674
Insurance	593	398
Other establishment	664	—
Telephone	257	443
Other office costs	960	4,491
PRS licence	1,687	1,691
	<u>57,107</u>	<u>65,821</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	30,105	15,617
Operating leases	4,221	4,826
Rent	—	100
Rates and water	362	258
Light and heat	1,135	793
Insurance	273	227
Legal and professional fees	840	2,690
Telephone	209	—
Other office costs	91	471
Youth work activity costs	6,851	4,518
	<u>44,087</u>	<u>29,500</u>
Total expenditure	<u>101,194</u>	<u>95,321</u>
Net income	<u>31,121</u>	<u>22,118</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 July 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Costs of other trading activities		
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs		
Purchases	18,121	10,962
Wages and salaries	26,387	30,037
Operating leases-property	4,288	5,792
Water	143	358
Light and heat	1,393	975
Repairs & maintenance	2,614	10,674
Insurance	593	398
Other property costs	664	—
Telephone	257	443
Other general costs	960	4,491
PRS licence	93	187
	<u>55,513</u>	<u>64,317</u>
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries		
Prize money	1,594	1,504
	<u>1,594</u>	<u>1,504</u>
Costs of other trading activities	<u>57,107</u>	<u>65,821</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Youth Work		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Salaries	10,186	7,271
Operating leases-property	2,753	3,186
Rent	—	100
Water	236	168
Light & heat	740	517
Insurance	178	148
Telephone	136	—
Other general costs	59	341
Community work activities	5,506	2,468
	<u>19,794</u>	<u>14,199</u>
Friendship Matters		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Salaries	19,919	8,346
Operating leases-property	1,468	1,640
Rates & water	126	90
Light & heat	395	276
Insurance	95	79
Telephone	73	—
Other office costs	32	130
Friendship matters activities	1,345	2,050
	<u>23,453</u>	<u>12,611</u>
Governance costs		
Legal and other professional fees	840	2,690
	<u>840</u>	<u>2,690</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>44,087</u>	<u>29,500</u>

Accounts

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 07308396
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 1154840

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Company Limited by Guarantee
Unaudited Financial Statements
31 July 2021

ACCUO ACCOUNTING LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2021

	Page
Trustees' annual report (incorporating the director's report)	1
Independent examiner's report to the trustees	7
Statement of financial activities (including income and expenditure account)	8
Statement of financial position	9
Notes to the financial statements	10
The following pages do not form part of the financial statements	
Detailed statement of financial activities	20
Notes to the detailed statement of financial activities	22

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report)

Year ended 31 July 2021

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Achievements and performance

Covid

The UK government enforced coronavirus lockdowns and measures during the year. The café, the charity and all involved showed incredible resilience throughout this period. Priorities for us included;

- (i) supporting the wellbeing of the community,
- (ii) sustaining the future of the charity and
- (iii) managing the financial losses in the cafe.

We made good use of the expertise in our trustees, management group, staff and volunteers. ACT have managed to:

- Ensure the café staff and our community workers benefit from the government furlough scheme
- Ensure the charity obtained other grants to cover overheads and lost income (e.g., European Regional Development Funding and local business support)
- Flex community support and operate youth work and older peoples support remotely over Zoom
- Operate the café as a take-away when government policy allowed and open up for short periods - within all guidelines for appropriate social distancing and PPE.

During lockdown in 2021 a transformation took place at The Lounge. An interior designer working voluntarily, provided a new vision for the café's interior. Charitable donations from two local businesses, Central Roofing and Thorlux Lighting allowed the vision to be implemented which included a revamp of café and kitchen with new décor, flooring and furniture. The work was managed voluntarily by ACT trustees and delivered by a team of local tradespeople. Local volunteers also took part in the final stages of refurbishment to help support the café reopening for indoor service from 17 May 2021.

This refurbishment has been successful in many ways. It has created a more welcoming, fresh and relaxed space for the community and our team to enjoy. Following refurbishment, we have seen an increased demand for all community services and more people making use of the café.

Public support and the generosity of local businesses for fundraising has been outstanding and has proved a lifeline for us. Fundraising to support the operation of our activity has been essential, as the critical community fundraising events we would normally run were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

The café

The café provides a community hub for the village, open five days a week and offering both:

- individual residents of all ages a place to make friends, buy a hot drink or a cooked meal and use the internet or Wi-Fi for free and
- community groups a venue to hold meetings

The café has coped with numerous challenges and opportunities during the past 12 months associated with covid restrictions (on business operation and everyday life) including:

- Many months of financial challenge as the café was forced to close during periods of national lockdown.
- Opening when possible and adapting to takeaway with the cost of closing then reopening the café, and adhering to social contact limits, PPE etc, has been considerable.
- The benefit of Local Restrictions Support Grants from our local council helping with rent and overheads. This support has been very welcome.
- A growing level of new customers from the community using the café. Caring and welcoming staff are vital to this. During the pandemic many people have been home based and lonely. As their usual ways of seeing family and friends has been put on pause they have welcomed the familiar faces working in the café. Many residents have told us that being open and being in a public space made a huge difference to their social interactions - and they have looked forward to visits to the café after short walks
- A new coffee machine so we can offer a variety of expert barista made hot drinks.
- A successful refurbishment during closure which has been positive for trade, the community and popular with staff and volunteers.
- A growing number of new and exciting community events that both (i) use the café as a hub, and (ii) are led, sponsored by or in aid of ACT. One example is the Alvechurch Scarecrow Festival held in October 2020 which raised £5,158 through providing an engaging community week-long event. In addition The Lounge also ran an Easter Trail & Easter Egg Raffle event. These are two examples of annual events The Lounge ran helping to bring the community together.

As business has improved the staffing of the café has evolved and we now employ 8 members of staff and 8 volunteers. Having a fresh new interior, a stable team and a great leader has allowed us to focus on the overall project, rather than the tactical issues associated with running the café business. We consider ourselves fortunate to have such a committed volunteer team as we attempt to further increase the operating performance and align the staffing resources to the workload.

There has been increasing competition from food and drink traders locally. Despite this we continued to get good customer numbers and deliver quality, affordable and locally sourced food and drink for local people.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Youth Activities

The youth programme was run by a part-time youth worker and focussed on a variety of activities, with expert planning and engagement with the young people. An additional junior worker supplements the volunteers who have also made a tremendous contribution in support of youth activities.

Provision altered throughout the year depending on covid restrictions. Whether on-line or in person, a varied and interesting programme of youth activities has run during the year providing advice, assistance and opportunities for fun/activity. These have included off site trips to do adventure sports and trips to the park for games.

The greatest asset of our youth work is that it provides - within the village - a place where young people can socialise safely and have fun. Many participants make new friends share the challenges of their lives with our staff who listen, provide reassurance and signpost where necessary. Any young person living in the area at middle school is eligible to become a member.

Covid increased both the need and demand for opportunities to socialise in younger people. There is currently a waiting list of children to attend all youth provision - and therefore our ambition for the year ahead is to increase the hours, the activities and the numbers of young people engaged.

Looking ahead we will be seeking additional funding to extend the current basic offer with a focus on addressing their mental health needs with some (i) targeted group work, (ii) involvement of specialist people or activities, and (iii) further support of our hard-to-reach groups, as well as being able to offer (iv) additional sessions to meet the increasing current demand.

Support for older people

As a parish we have a higher-than-average number of older residents, many who are living alone.

During this period, we successfully gained funding and continue to deliver a 'Friendship Matters' group for older people on a weekly basis. The project has been funded during the year, both by charitable donations and grants including the National Lottery and the Co-op community fund.

We have employed a qualified leader delivering a range of activities to support our older people, utilising The Lounge premises on a Monday. Regularly over 20 people attend, many who had not been engaged with The Lounge before. Funding, covered the cost until March 2021 and while we are continuing, further delivery is subject to fundraising requirements.

We continued to support the members of Friendship Matters during lockdowns including phone calls, visits and online video calls. We particularly focused on checking in on older people who live alone or might not have many relatives or close connections locally.

In May Community Groups were able to return in person. Our Friendship Matters Group has seen an increase in attendance and has offered a varied programme of activities including seated exercises, samba, drumming and musical bingo. We look forward to continuing with new and exciting activities and maybe even a trip in 2022

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Positive mental health in the community

During this period, and with a lot of hard work, we delivered pilot activity to help with mental health and wellbeing. The funding from Bromsgrove District Council covered costs of several well attended:

- Workshops and events led by qualified mental health practitioners
- Additional activities for youth groups outside of normal provision e.g., cooking and yoga.

In Summary

We are deeply connected to our community and immensely proud of the positive contribution our charity plays. As custodians of ACT and as members of this community, we seek to safely navigate the turbulent times ahead, maintaining a sustainable approach and continuing to be an ever present beacon of support and warmth.

Financial review

The year ended 31 July 2021 saw a decrease in cafe takings from £54,732 to £51,942. Costs of running the cafe decreased from £69,272 to £68,511. Together with income from the charity's social lottery and grants to help with both café expense and the youth work this led to a surplus for the year of £16,093 (2020: £14,956).

There was a surplus brought forward of £42,938 to which the current surplus has been added making a balance carried forward of £59,031.

Grants and donations totalling £27,164 were received in the year towards specific projects. £21,139 was spent in the year leaving a net surplus of £6,025. This has been added to the reserves brought forward of £7,800 leaving £13,825 to be spent in future years.

Reserves Policy

The formulation of a robust reserves policy remains one of the key objectives. The trustees are conscious of the constraints of grant funders and in particular that due despite an apparently strong position at the balance sheet date, the reserves may have to last for several months before the next round of grants may be received.

Structure, governance and management

Alvechurch Communities Together is a charity registered with the Charities Commission number 1154840.

In addition to the trustees there is a management committee that meets on a monthly basis to review progress and plan activities. This committee has general delegated powers to operate on a day to day basis.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

Plans for future periods

Our priority areas for the future are:

1. Responding to the ongoing demands of the pandemic which requires our charity to provide; fast-paced responses, innovative solutions, coordinated action across our community activity and charity, transparency and effective communication.
2. Exploring fundraising opportunities for our ' Friendship Matters' project to support those within our community that suffer with loneliness and isolation.
3. Focusing on the ongoing financial sustainability of the café by fundraising to deliver improvements to the interior, the offering in terms of food and drink and ensure enough reserves are in place to cope with the inflationary environment (energy, food, supplied) and residual COVID impacts
4. Learning already from the pandemic we recognise that as a charity we deliver a substantial volume of work. In the year ahead we will focus on the encouragement of additional volunteers/skills from within the community to bolster our team and ensure the sustainability of our human resources.
5. Continue to develop a programme of projects for younger people, older people and other general wellbeing projects that could be implemented safely during the pandemic and long term. Current items in consideration include dealing with bereavement and loss, mental health and well being, diversity and inclusion.
6. Focus on the development and recognition of our people. Our amazing team of staff and volunteers have been hugely resilient during a very challenging two years and we seek to provide them with appropriate training and development to enhance their skills and enhance the charities capabilities.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Director's Report) *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd
Charity registration number	1154840
Company registration number	07308396
Principal office and registered office	22 The Square Alvechurch B48 7LA

The trustees

R Bestwick
L Evans
M Newberry
K Swadkins
W Ulyett

(Retired 8 February 2021)

Trustees at date of signing the Report

The trustees in place at the date of signing the report were:

- R Bestwick
- L Evans
- M Newberry
- K Swadkins

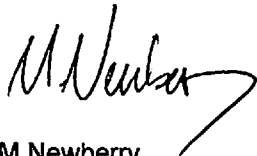
Independent examiner

David Seeley FCA
Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 20 April 2022 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



M Newberry
Trustee

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Year ended 31 July 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

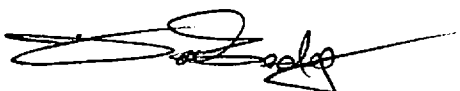
Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements 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 financial statements 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.



David Seeley FCA
Independent Examiner

Accuo Accounting Limited
Chartered Accountants
Alvechurch
Birmingham
B48 7JX

20/04/2022

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Activities (including income and expenditure account)

Year ended 31 July 2021

		Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	Total funds	2020 Total funds
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	5	27,794	27,164	54,958	33,280
Charitable activities	6	51,942	–	51,942	54,372
Other trading activities	7	10,538	–	10,538	6,011
Investment income	8	1	–	1	65
Total income		<u>90,275</u>	<u>27,164</u>	<u>117,439</u>	<u>93,728</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds:					
Costs of other trading activities	9	56,657	9,164	65,821	62,259
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	17,525	11,975	29,500	17,178
Total expenditure		<u>74,182</u>	<u>21,139</u>	<u>95,321</u>	<u>79,437</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>16,093</u>	<u>6,025</u>	<u>22,118</u>	<u>14,291</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		42,938	7,800	50,738	36,447
Total funds carried forward		<u>59,031</u>	<u>13,825</u>	<u>72,856</u>	<u>50,738</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £	£	2020 £
Current assets				
Debtors	17	332		739
Cash at bank and in hand		74,603		52,783
		<u>74,935</u>		<u>53,522</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>2,079</u>		<u>2,784</u>
Net current assets			<u>72,856</u>	<u>50,738</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>72,856</u>	<u>50,738</u>
Net assets			<u>72,856</u>	<u>50,738</u>
Funds of the charity				
Restricted funds			13,825	7,800
Unrestricted funds			<u>59,031</u>	<u>42,938</u>
Total charity funds	20		<u>72,856</u>	<u>50,738</u>

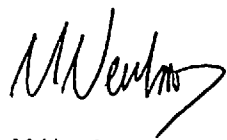
For the year ending 31 July 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476;
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

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

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 20 April 2022, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



M Newberry
Trustee

The notes on pages 10 to 18 form part of these financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 July 2021

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is 22 The Square, Alvechurch, B48 7LA.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

Going concern

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

Disclosure exemptions

The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined in FRS 102.

The entity satisfies the criteria of being a qualifying entity as defined in FRS 102 by reason of being small. As such, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available under the Charities SORP (FRS 102):

- No cash flow statement has been presented for the company.
- Disclosures in respect of financial instruments have not been presented.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

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.

Significant judgements

The judgements (apart from those involving estimations) that management has made in the process of applying the entity's accounting policies and that have the most significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements are as follows:

- Sufficient resources will continue to be found to fund the operation of both café and youth work, and
- There will continue to be a need for the services offered by the charity.

Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Accounting estimates and assumptions are made concerning the future and, by their nature, will rarely equal the related actual outcome. The trustees however do not believe there are any key assumptions or other sources of estimation uncertainty that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the purposes of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor.

Incoming resources

Income

All income is included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income, any performance related conditions attached have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, the income is considered probable and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Donations and legacy income is received by way of donations, legacies, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Income from charitable trading activity is accounted for when earned.
- Income from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Resources expended

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT as this cannot be recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with attracting donations, grants and legacies and the costs of trading for fundraising purposes.
- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- 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 between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned on an appropriate basis, as estimated by the directors.

Operating leases

Lease payments are recognised as an expense over the lease term on a straight-line basis. The aggregate benefit of lease incentives is recognised as a reduction to expense over the lease term, on a straight-line basis.

4. Limited by guarantee

The charitable company is limited by guarantee and consequently has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up the liability of each member or a member who ceased within one year of the winding up is limited to £1.

5. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations			
Other donations	3,598	5,550	9,148
Grants			
Grants	13,304	21,614	34,918
Government grant income	10,892	–	10,892
	<u>27,794</u>	<u>27,164</u>	<u>54,958</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations			
Other donations	5,083	–	5,083

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

5. Donations and legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Grants			
Grants	–	9,500	9,500
Government grant income	18,697	–	18,697
	<u>23,780</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>33,280</u>

6. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Cafe income	<u>51,942</u>	<u>51,942</u>	<u>54,372</u>	<u>54,372</u>

7. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fundraising events	–	–	2,709	2,709
Friendship Matters income	1,463	1,463	–	–
Youth income	5,225	5,225	400	400
Social lotteries	3,850	3,850	2,902	2,902
	<u>10,538</u>	<u>10,538</u>	<u>6,011</u>	<u>6,011</u>

8. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Bank interest receivable	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>65</u>

9. Costs of other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	55,153	9,164	64,317
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	1,504	–	1,504
	<u>56,657</u>	<u>9,164</u>	<u>65,821</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

9. Costs of other trading activities *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs	57,217	3,720	60,937
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries	1,322	–	1,322
	<u>58,539</u>	<u>3,720</u>	<u>62,259</u>

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Youth Work	6,599	7,600	14,199
Friendship Matters	8,236	4,375	12,611
Support costs	2,690	–	2,690
	<u>17,525</u>	<u>11,975</u>	<u>29,500</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Youth Work	10,133	6,445	16,578
Friendship Matters	–	–	–
Support costs	600	–	600
	<u>10,733</u>	<u>6,445</u>	<u>17,178</u>

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2021 £	Total fund 2020 £
Youth Work	14,199	–	14,199	16,578
Friendship Matters	12,611	–	12,611	–
Governance costs	–	2,690	2,690	600
	<u>26,810</u>	<u>2,690</u>	<u>29,500</u>	<u>17,178</u>

12. Analysis of support costs

	Support costs Community Work £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Governance costs	2,600	2,600	600

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

13. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	<u>10,618</u>	<u>7,302</u>

14. Independent examination fees

	2021	2020
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	230	200
Other financial services	<u>460</u>	<u>400</u>
	<u>690</u>	<u>600</u>

15. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>45,654</u>	<u>48,181</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 8 (2020: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Management	1	1
Community work	2	2
Cafe staff	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2020: Nil).

Key Management Personnel

The key management personnel, other than the trustees, are the café manager and senior community workers. Their combined remuneration in the year was £19,662 (2020: £17,086).

16. Trustee remuneration and expenses

- no remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees
- no expenses were paid to or disclaimed by the trustees.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

17. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>332</u>	<u>739</u>

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	468	919
Accruals and deferred income	1,595	1,849
Social security and other taxes	16	16
	<u>2,079</u>	<u>2,784</u>

19. Government grants

The amounts recognised in the financial statements for government grants are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Recognised in income from donations and legacies:		
Government grants income	<u>10,892</u>	<u>18,697</u>

20. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2021
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>42,938</u>	<u>90,275</u>	<u>(74,182)</u>	<u>59,031</u>

	At 1 August 2019	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2020
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	<u>27,982</u>	<u>84,228</u>	<u>(69,272)</u>	<u>42,938</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

20. Analysis of charitable funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2020	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2021
	£	£	£	£
Alvechurch Parish Council	6,600	–	(6,600)	–
Bromsgrove Mental Health	1,200	–	–	1,200
National Lottery-Friendship Matters	–	–	–	–
Worcs County Council	–	2,000	–	2,000
Sir John Middlemore Trust	–	–	–	–
Bernard Piggott Trust	–	1,000	(1,000)	–
Green Flag	–	15,000	(4,375)	10,625
Cafe Refurbishment	–	5,550	(5,550)	–
SME Grant	–	3,614	(3,614)	–
	<u>7,800</u>	<u>27,164</u>	<u>(21,139)</u>	<u>13,825</u>

	At 1 August 2019	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2020
	£	£	£	£
Alvechurch Parish Council	–	6,600	–	6,600
Bromsgrove Mental Health	–	1,200	–	1,200
National Lottery-Friendship Matters	6,465	–	(6,465)	–
Worcs County Council	–	700	(700)	–
Sir John Middlemore Trust	2,000	–	(2,000)	–
Bernard Piggott Trust	–	1,000	(1,000)	–
Green Flag	–	–	–	–
Cafe Refurbishment	–	–	–	–
SME Grant	–	–	–	–
	<u>8,465</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>(10,165)</u>	<u>7,800</u>

21. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Current assets	61,110	13,825	74,935
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,079)	–	(2,079)
Net assets	<u>59,031</u>	<u>13,825</u>	<u>72,856</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£
Current assets	45,722	7,800	53,522
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,784)	–	(2,784)
Net assets	<u>42,938</u>	<u>7,800</u>	<u>50,738</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

22. Operating lease commitments

The total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Leases terminating between 1 and 5 years	<u>29,250</u>	<u>38,250</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Information

Year ended 31 July 2021

The following pages do not form part of the financial statements.

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 July 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Other donations	9,148	5,083
Grants	34,918	9,500
Government grant income	10,892	18,697
	<u>54,958</u>	<u>33,280</u>
 Charitable activities		
Cafe income	<u>51,942</u>	<u>54,372</u>
 Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	—	2,709
Friendship Matters income	1,463	—
Youth income	5,225	400
Social lotteries	3,850	2,902
	<u>10,538</u>	<u>6,011</u>
 Investment income		
Bank interest receivable	<u>1</u>	<u>65</u>
 Total income	<u>117,439</u>	<u>93,728</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Expenditure		
Costs of other trading activities		
Purchases	10,962	14,506
Wages and salaries	30,037	35,889
Operating leases	5,792	4,697
Rates and water	358	181
Light and heat	975	1,098
Repairs and maintenance	10,674	1,574
Insurance	398	726
Other establishment	–	1,563
Telephone	443	434
Other office costs	4,491	20
PRS licence	1,691	1,571
	<u>65,821</u>	<u>62,259</u>
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Wages and salaries	15,617	12,292
Operating leases	4,826	2,605
Rent	100	–
Rates and water	258	342
Light and heat	793	636
Insurance	227	421
Legal and professional fees	2,690	600
Other office costs	471	13
Youth work activity costs	4,518	269
	<u>29,500</u>	<u>17,178</u>
Total expenditure	<u>95,321</u>	<u>79,437</u>
Net income	<u>22,118</u>	<u>14,291</u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 July 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Costs of other trading activities		
Fundraising trading - Cafe costs		
Purchases	10,962	14,506
Wages and salaries	30,037	35,889
Operating leases-property	5,792	4,697
Water	358	181
Light and heat	975	1,098
Repairs & maintenance	10,674	1,574
Insurance	398	726
Other property costs	—	1,563
Telephone	443	434
Other general costs	4,491	20
PRS licence	187	249
	<u>64,317</u>	<u>60,937</u>
Costs of other trading activities - Membership schemes and social lotteries		
Prize money	<u>1,504</u>	<u>1,322</u>
Costs of other trading activities	<u><u>65,821</u></u>	<u><u>62,259</u></u>

Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd

Company Limited by Guarantee

Notes to the Detailed Statement of Financial Activities *(continued)*

Year ended 31 July 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Youth Work		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Salaries	7,271	12,292
Operating leases-property	3,186	2,605
Rent	100	—
Water	168	342
Light & heat	517	636
Insurance	148	421
Other general costs	341	13
Community work activities	2,468	269
	<u>14,199</u>	<u>16,578</u>
Friendship Matters		
<i>Activities undertaken directly</i>		
Salaries	8,346	—
Operating leases-property	1,640	—
Rates & water	90	—
Light & heat	276	—
Insurance	79	—
Other office costs	130	—
Friendship matters activities	2,050	—
	<u>12,611</u>	<u>—</u>
Governance costs		
Legal and other professional fees	2,690	600
	<u>29,500</u>	<u>17,178</u>