



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 06	Month 04	Year 2023		Day 05	Month 04	Year 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	Rainow Village Bus
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1159414
Charity's principal address	Tower, Hill House, Rainow, Macclesfield, Cheshire
Postcode	SK10 5TX

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Ken Butler	Chairman		
2	Tony Wilkinson	Treasurer		
3	Tim Grimes	Secretary		
4				
5				
6				
7				
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9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by the trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Three Trustees are responsible for overall strategy and direction whilst other unpaid volunteers undertake specific tasks (including driving the bus) as the need arises. There has been no change in the Trustees during this reporting period.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Rainow Village Bus (RVB) provides services which are available to all the residents of the village of Rainow in East Cheshire. RVB operates a 15 seat minibus and provides residents with a bookable transport service from Rainow and neighbouring towns for all the charitable, voluntary, community and social groups in Rainow and nearby villages. RVB has been operating since 2014. Originally the operation of a timetable service on Friday and Saturday evenings to Macclesfield was part of the RVB operation. However, this has not proved popular and so has been discontinued for the time being. This is kept under regular review however.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The charity is a non-profit making charitable incorporated organisation with a constitution lodged with the Charities Commission. Trustees are elected by a meeting of all available volunteers and are expected to serve at least three years.

Locally devised systems for group hire bookings and vehicle operation are used. Regular articles providing updates of RVB activities appear in the quarterly village magazine. All vehicle management administration (servicing, maintenance, MOT checking, driver rotas) is carried out by Trustees or volunteers.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

All activities are carried out by unpaid volunteers.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Demand for the Rainow Village Bus services remains high and stable. . In this reporting period there were 100 session bookings compared to 110 last financial year and 106 session bookings in the last full year of pre-Covid operation.

Bookings continue to involve a variety of village groups (e.g. Cubs, Scouts, Guides, local charities, Church groups, Women's Institute, local Primary Schools, rambling groups and other local social groups) who have hired the vehicle for journeys of varying lengths throughout the period.

The type of bookings have remained similar to last year. The majority of bookings are from local schools and charities with almost 60% of bookings coming from just 2 organisations. Demand from local social groups is growing again but is still lower than pre-pandemic. This reduced diversity of booking does increase the risk of significant fluctuations in booking volume from year to year.

Following a discussion at a meeting of trustees and volunteers it was unanimously decided not to return to a scheduled service on Friday and Saturday evenings, on the basis that there remained insufficient demand for such a service.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Rainow Village Bus endeavours to maintain sufficient cash reserves to cover running expenses during the year including unexpected expenses particularly those involving vehicle maintenance.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The fixed cost (ie. not including fuel) of providing the Rainow Village Bus service is usually around £2500 per annum. To cover this cost around 60-70 session bookings per year are required. Maintenance costs can vary significantly year on year. In this reporting period maintenance costs happened to be fairly low. Hence the lower expenditure in year. We would expect these to increase as the bus ages.

Groups pay a hire charge based on the time used (number of sessions) and distance covered. All charges are standard to the users. Our income during the year was £5,202, while our expenditure was £3,091. At the end of the financial year our cash in the bank was £6,926.

Charges for hiring the bus were raised during the last financial year as a result of the significantly increased fuel charges and the decision to add AA cover for the bus. As can be seen from the accounts the financial position is now very stable. And as a result, there has been no change in hire charges during the current reporting period. They remain at £35 per session and 60p per mile.

The level of activity and financial sustainability has now returned to pre-covid levels.

Section F

Other optional information

A continuing challenge for Rainow Village Bus has been to find sufficient volunteer drivers, particularly those who are available during the day in mid-week (when most bookings occur). This issue is compounded by the fact that the necessary D1 on the licence is lost once aged 70 unless actively maintained. This latter process can be complex and time consuming and many drivers simply step down once they turn 70. Although we gained 2 additional volunteer drivers, we have lost 1 and expect to lose another 2 in the coming year. At the end of this reporting period we had 8 volunteer drivers. The trustees continue to look for options to increase the volunteer driver pool.

Following the uncertainty of COVID years and the energy crisis in 2022, this last financial year has seen the return to a firm financial footing. The primary risks to the service provided are the difficulty in finding volunteer drivers, potentially increased maintenance costs as the bus ages and the dependence on a less diverse range of user groups.

However at present RVB is firmly established with good prospects. In these circumstances no further changes in basic operation are envisaged.

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Anthony James Wilkinson	
Full name(s)	Anthony James Wilkinson	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer, Trustee	
Date	04/10/2024	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Rainow Village Bus	No (if any) 1159414
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Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period from	Period start date 4/6/2023	To	Period end date 4/5/2024
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
General Income	5,202	-	-	5,202	5,411
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,202	-	-	5,202	5,411
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,202	-	-	5,202	5,411
A3 Payments					
General expenses	3,091	-	-	3,091	4,760
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	3,091	-	-	3,091	4,760
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	3,091	-	-	3,091	4,760
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,111	-	-	2,111	651
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	4,815	-	-	4,815	4,164
Cash funds this year end	6,926	-	-	6,926	4,815

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	4,815	-	-
		Agreement Error	OK	OK
		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Mercedes Sprinter 524 Minibus delivered November 2016		-	25,000
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
	Anthony James Wilkinson	Anthony James Wilkinson (Treasurer and Trustee)	10/4/2024	