

Friends of Combe Valley

Registered Charity Number: 1163581

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended

30th September 2021

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FOR PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

The committee of Friends of Combe Valley presents its annual report and financial statements for the year ended 30th September 2021

ORGANISATIONAL INFORMATION

Name of Charity:	Friends of Combe Valley
Principal Address:	Combe Valley Countryside Park, Café and Discovery Centre Freshfields, Bexhill, East Sussex TN38 8FB
Registered Charity Number:	1163581
Governing Document:	Constitution adopted 15/09/2015 Amended on 03/04/2019 Amended 23/02/2021
Trustees:	Peter Clarke (Chair) (appointed 01/01/2019) William Ackroyd (Treasurer) (appointed 14/08/2019) Christopher Dadswell (Vice Chair) (appointed 13/12/2019) Will Kemp (appointed 01/01/2019) Karl Beaney (appointed 13/12/2019) Cliff Willard (appointed 13/12/2019) Elise Liversedge (appointed 18/12/2020) Anna Sabin (appointed 11/05/2021) Emma Ramsden (appointed 11/05/2021)
Bankers:	The Co-operative Bank
Independent Examiners:	Lorraine Brown Employee of Rother Voluntary Action 47 London Road Bexhill on Sea East Sussex TN39 3JY

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

The trustees submit their annual report and financial statements for Friends of Combe Valley for the period ended 30th September 2021.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Friends of Combe Valley has a committee of Trustees governed by a constitution adopted 19/09/2015, Amended 03/04/2019 and 23/02/2021. Day to day management of the Charity is vested in the Trustees, who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the constitution.

The Board of Trustees shall be administered by no less than three and no more than twelve members. Trustees are appointed on a 3-year rotational basis at the Annual General Meeting. The names of the Trustees are shown on page 2 of this document.

The method adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees is contained within the constitution.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The objects of the CIO are to work within the Combe Haven Valley and in particular within the boundaries of the Combe Valley Countryside Park:

- a) To promote the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment, including biodiversity. In particular but not exclusively by, encouraging the public to use and enjoy the area and its fauna and flora.
- b) To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection, and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

The Trustees have considered their duty to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission, and in their opinion the foregoing report on the achievements and performance demonstrates that they have complied therewith.

BACKGROUND

Friends of Combe Valley was registered as a charity with Trustees in 2015, it became inactive for a number of years, after which it was restructured in the Spring of 2019 and became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a membership association with limited liability for its members.

In May 2019 the Friends of Combe Valley (FCV) took over the running of the café at the Discovery Centre in the Combe Valley Countryside Park and started to recruit members. The café closed in March 2020, initially because of the weather and flooding which meant we had no customers and then because of Covid. It has been closed ever since although it has been possible to use it for one or two small events. Currently works are being done to get it ready to reopen.

The Combe Valley Countryside Park CIC is responsible for the management of the park and does that through Groundwork South CIC (GWS). FCV operate under a service level agreement with the CIC, which has currently expired, but which is anticipated to be renewed in due course, as things return to some form of normality after the Covid Lockdown.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

ACHIEVEMENTS, PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE PLANS

The Charity's work and activities have been faced with difficulties due to the Coronavirus pandemic (Covid). Despite this, membership numbers have increased to just over 70, both active members who are able to offer direct assistance with the work and informal members who offer support and assistance as and when they can.

It has participated in some fund-raising activities, and it has received a number of grants, which are being used, though this has been made complicated by Covid. Grants successfully applied for/received include:

- i) The Chalk Cliff Trust: funding towards equipment for use in the park.
- ii) Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner: to provide equipment to establish a Warden service in the park.
- iii) Coop Community Fund: fundraising through instore shopping token scheme.
- iv) Hastings Direct: for signs in the park.
- v) Rother Community Fund: match funding for equipment for use in the park.

Future Plans

- 1) Continue to develop the relationship with the Combe Valley Countryside Park CIC and Groundwork South CIC in expanding its work in the park.
- 2) It is hoped that the café will be open again before too long and activities for members, including walks in the park will be set up.
- 3) Discussions have begun on creating a cultural strategy for the park, working with the Combe Valley Countryside Park CIC and Groundwork South CIC.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Position

The charity reported that the finances are in a stable and creditable condition.

Receipts in the year was £11,879 and payments £6,036 resulting in a surplus of £5,843 for the year. The net fund reserve at 30th September 2021 totalled £14,521.


RISKS, POLICIES AND SAFEGUARDS

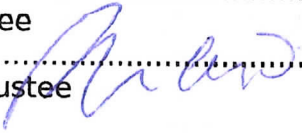
The Trustees have considered the major risks faced by the organisation to establish policies and systems to mitigate those risks.

RESERVES AND INVESTMENT POLICIES

In line with guidance by the Charity Commission, the trustees endeavour to build up its reserves to enable the charity to fulfil its objectives and financial plans.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

.....  Date: 11-12-2021
Pete Clarke, Chairperson and Trustee

.....  Date: 9 Dec 2021
William Ackroyd, Treasurer and Trustee

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF FRIENDS OF COMBE VALLEY
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

I report on the accounts of Friends of Combe Valley for the period ended 30 September 2021 which are set out on pages 2 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Dated: 21/12/2021

L. Brown
Employee of Rother Voluntary Action

Receipts and Payments account
For the year ended 30th September 2021

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
RECEIPTS					
Grants	4	-	10,625	10,625	8,000
Café takings		-	-	-	941
Membership & donations		845	-	985	813
Centre hiring		-	-	-	0
Events		-	-	-	310
Income from CIC		409	-	409	-
Total Receipts		1,254	10,625	11,879	10,065
PAYMENTS					
Grant disbursements	4	-	4,547	4,547	273
Café expenditure		-	-	-	-
Materials		-	-	-	487
volunteer expenses		-	-	-	39
Food		-	-	-	268
Hiring		-	-	-	0
Administrative expenditure:		-	-	-	-
Misc expenses		100	-	100	156
Stationery		-	-	-	0
Postage		2	-	2	22
Telephone		-	-	-	0
Financial Charges:		-	-	-	-
Insurance		157	-	157	89
Bank charges		-	-	-	23
Travel		-	-	-	0
Activities		30	-	30	9
CIC costs		-	-	-	115
Equipment purchased	4	-	1,200	1,200	-
Total Payments		289	5,747	6,036	1,483
Net receipts/(payments)		965	4,878	5,843	8,582
Funds at start of this period		1,815	6,863	8,678	96
Transfers between funds					
Funds at end of this period		2,780	11,741	14,521	8,678

**Statement of assets and liabilities
at 30th September 2021**

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Cash funds				
Co-op Bank	2,637	11,741	14,378	8,530
Cash in hand	118	-	118	124
Cash float at café	25	-	25	25
Total cash funds	2,780	11,741	14,521	8,678

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Other monetary assets				
Debts owed to the charity	-	-	-	409

	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost	Current value
Assets retained for the charity's own use			
Equipment		2,195	1,864

	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due	When due
Current Liabilities			
Debts owed by the charity	-	-	-

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

<p><i>P. K. Clarke</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Trustee (Print Name)</p>	<p><i>P. K. Clarke</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p><i>11-12-2021</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Date</p>
<p><i>William Arkrow</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Trustee (Print Name)</p>	<p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p><i>9 Dec 2021</i></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Date</p>

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Receipts and Payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the organisation during the financial year. In this context "cash" includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

2. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

Trustees received no remuneration or benefits in this period

Trustees' expenses

During the year reimbursable expenses were paid to the following Trustees:
Peter Clarke £125.14; Cliff Willard £1,926.06; William Ackroyd £55; Anna Sabin £202; Chris Dadswell £88; Emma Ramsden £470.39

3. Previous period comparison

The financial year end of the charity is 30th September 2021. The previous period's figures have been included for comparison.

4. Restricted fund

These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.

Grants	2019			2020			
	Incom-ing	Outgo-ing	Bal cfwd	Bfwd	Incom-ing	Outgoi-ng	Bal cfwd
Police grant 1 - wardens	2,500	-695	1,806	1,806	0	-203	1,603
Police grant 2 - school	4,000	-443	3,557	3,557	0	-1,792	1,765
Police grant 3 - wardens					2,000		2,000
Police grant 4 - wardens					4,000		4,000
Hastings Direct	1,500	0	1,500	1,500	1,500	-300	1,200
Coop Community Fund					1,025	-1,951	-926
Art Project					400		400
Chalk Cliff CIC					1,700	-1,000	700
Rother DC						-500	-500
Total	8,000	-1,137	6,863	6,863	10,625	-5746	11,742

5. Governance Costs

Independent Examination fee for year-end accounts 2020/21 £200; (2019/20 Nil).

6. Assets retained for the charity's own use

	Equipment £
COST	
Bfwd at 1st October 2020	995
Additions	1,200
At 30th September 2021	2,195
REDUCTION IN VALUE	
Bfwd at 1st October 2020	-
Charge for the year	-331
At 30th September 2021	-331
CURRENT VALUE	
At 30th September 2021	1,864
At 30th September 2020	995