



Charity Registration No: 1163835

**Trustee's Annual Report
and
Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

Vyner Park Charity

Charity Registration No: 1163835

Trustees annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Introduction

The Charity was registered on 5 October 2015 and has as its sole trustee Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council.

Whilst, the Charity's objects are the support or promotion of any charitable purpose, including the provision of recreational facilities and activities for the benefit of the community of Swarland and surrounding area in the county of Northumberland, the main focus is the management and development of the recreational facilities, other land, amenities and fixed assets within Vyner Park, Swarland.

Management Committee

The Charity has an appointed management committee which oversees its day to day running. The management committee comprises 3 members of the parish council and up to 5 members of the local community.

The following served on the management committee during the year:

S Woolfrey (Chair), Parish Council member

A Cowan

B Fergie (Treasurer)

A Ferguson

A Hastie

K Howard-Row, Parish Council member

J Richardson

R Simpson, Parish Council member

In addition, L Simpson is secretary to the committee.

Review of the Year

In August 2023 Jan Anderson retired as committee secretary after eight years in the role with Liz Simpson taking over. A special thank you to Jan, who has guided us through some very complex situations at times, from everyone concerned.

The aim of the Charity is to manage and develop the Vyner Park recreational facilities for the Parish. The users are many and varied and range from the local football team to regular bowls, tennis and walking netball groups on the sporting side complimented by the more casual dog walkers and fresh air seekers. The children's play park is also well used and Nelson's at the Park continues to be a success, attracting people from outside the area, as well as locally from within the Parish. Last summer we opened up the park for a weekend Brownies camp and, although it was a very wet weekend, it went well. Brownies also installed bird and bat boxes around the park, an initiative which was awarded a Love Northumberland Award.

The Trustee and the committee are very grateful to the many individuals (volunteers) who help run the Park, particularly those who undertake regular maintenance such as cutting the grass and those that also help out with larger ad-hoc projects, such as the installation of a digger in the play park. These people save the Charity a lot of money and allow the Committee to concentrate on improving the facilities.

Improvements carried out in the year included: electrical works and installation of a wood burner in the Pavilion, installation of steps on the east side of the field, the purchase and installation of a children's digger, as well as laying additional bark in the Play Area. The costs of the wood burner and digger were generously supported by grants from Northumberland County Council, with additional help from the Parish Council. About 50 trees were planted in various locations around the park and more recently an ecology survey was carried out on the meadow area.

Not everything, however, went to plan. Unfortunately, the early part of 2023/24 was spent dealing with a burglary at the Pavilion. Although the damage was minor, the costs were significant, requiring an insurance claim. As a result, the Charity accelerated the installation of a CCTV system and, with the help of the Parish Council, installed a burglar alarm. So far, we have not had another burglary. The problem with sewage spilling from the manholes in the park during periods of heavy rain has continued. The Charity regularly complains to Northumbria Water, but so far, no significant improvements have been carried out. Our view is that sewage spills in a public park on paths that are used by walkers, children and pets and that filters into the Swarland burn is a serious health risk, unfortunately Northumbria Water do not seem to share this view.

Each year groups of dedicated volunteers run a Village Show and Bonfire on behalf of the Community. These events are major fundraisers for the Charity. The 2023 Show was a great success attracting an increasing number of visitors with profits shared with local charitable good causes. The Bonfire, however, was not as lucky with the weather. Although everything was organised for the event, very wet weather forced a cancellation, a fate that a number of organised bonfires suffered.

Financially, with receipts of £36,750 and expenditure of £36,295 the Charity made a small surplus of £455 in the year. The main sources of income were our annual grant from the Parish Council and Swarland Show. The success of the Show deserves special mention as it not only contributed in excess of £5,000 to the Charity it also made donations to five local charitable community groups.

The year was planned to be one of significant maintenance expenditure, the pavilion electrical works and stove installation along with the play digger and bark in the play park have already been mentioned and cost a combined £9,000. Add to this the cost of the regular grass cutting and general maintenance coupled with CCTV system and burglar alarm installations gives a total maintenance cost of £17,000 for the year.

Whilst the Charity has been running less than 10 years the pavilion and recreational facilities are over 20 years old and meeting their maintenance demands is expected to be a significant focus of the Charity over the coming years.

Trustee

(Newton on the Moor and Swarland Parish Council)

VYNER PARK CHARITY

(Regd Charity No. 1163835)

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2024

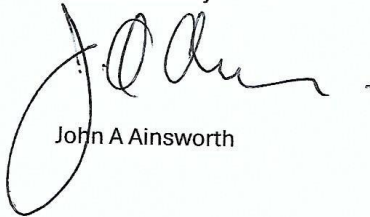
Receipts	£
Parish Council Grants	7,950
Nelson's (Swarland) Ltd	6,510
Other Grants	2,300
Swarland Show	16,275
Events	-
Donations & Bookings	3,000
Other	715
Total Receipts	36,750
Payments	
Maintenance	17,205
Utilities	6,550
Swarland Show	10,536
Events	1,206
Sundry	798
Total Payments	36,295
Excess of receipts over payments	455
Bank balance 31st March 2023	31,689
Add: Excess of receipts over payments	455
Bank balance 31st March 2024	<u>32,144</u>

To the members of the Vyner Park Charity

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have completed the internal audit of the charity's accounts and can inform you that the accounts show a true and fair view of the charity's financial position as at 31st March 2024. I can also assure the charity that it has sound financial systems and reporting in place. I have completed and signed the AGAR form accordingly. Minor matters, not material to the accounts, were discussed with the Treasurer

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ainsworth', with a large circular flourish on the left side.

John A Ainsworth

Annual Internal Audit Report 2023/24

VINER PARK CHARITY

During the financial year ended 31 March 2024, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2023/24 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.			N/A
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.			N/A
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			N/A
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.			N/A
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.			N/A
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2022/23, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2022/23 AGAR tick "not covered")			N/A
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.			N/A
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2023-24 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2022-23 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).			N/A
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2022/23 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).			N/A
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	Yes	No	Not applicable
			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

15/05/2024 16/05/2024 17/05/2024

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

JOHN A. AINSWORTH

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

J.A. Ainsworth

Date

17/05/2024

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).