

VYNER PARK CHARITY – TRUSTEE REPORT

Registered Charity: 1163835

Vyner Park
Swarland
Morpeth
Northumberland

Introduction

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

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, however, the main focus of the Charity is the management and development of the recreational facilities, other land, amenities and fixed assets within Vyner Park, Swarland.

The Facilities

Vyner Park is a recreation facility centrally located opposite the Village Square in Swarland. It was refurbished and a new pavilion built around the millennium with the help of substantial grants from Sports Council England. Improvements were also made in 2021 to the external facilities, with much of the work was carried out by community volunteers.

The Park facilities include a football pitch, artificial bowling green, two tennis courts and a multiuse games area (MUGA). There is also an outdoor gym. The Pavilion has full changing facilities which can be used for teams and matches by arrangement. The MUGA and tennis courts have floodlights. The facilities are currently free to use although a donation is requested towards the upkeep of the facilities, particularly for regular users or groups. There is not a formal booking system at the moment.

Parishioners and visitors are welcome to use the paths around the Park and dogs are welcomed in most areas. A popular enclosed dog run area is available at the entrance to the Park. Dog owners are asked to keep their pets on leads whilst in the main Park area and clean-up after their animals. Dog poo bins are provided.

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

M Whiteley, Parish Council member (talking over from K. Howard Row who resigned mid year)

J Richardson

R Simpson, Parish Council member

In addition, L Simpson is secretary to the committee.

Review of the Year

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 (a not for profit café) continues to be a success, attracting people from outside the area, as well as locally from within the Parish.

The Trustee and the committee are very grateful to the many individuals (volunteers) who continue to 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 play digger in the play park. These people save the Charity a lot of money and allow the Committee to concentrate on improving the facilities.

Work and Improvements carried out in the year included:

A survey of the plants in Vyner Park and mapping of the various habitats in the park was carried out by the Northumberland Wildlife Trust in June commissioned by SNAC (Swarland and Newton action on Climate Change).

The annual play park inspection was carried out and just a few minor points were raised. A new zipwire has been installed. A grant of some native species hedging has been given which will be used for a Peace Garden memorial area in the gravelled area next to the tennis courts.

New MUGA lights have been installed and some remedial work has been done to the boards around the MUGA. It is hoped to replace the boards to the MUGA which is expected to cost about £2000. The pavilion showers had been rewired to current electrical standards.

Work has been carried out to tidy and thin the shrubs on the north area of the bowling green, and is to be done in the play area. The pallet storage area was tidied and volunteers cut back shrubs to make way for the bonfire. A new container was purchased for storage.

Unfortunately footpath repairs were not progressing as had been hoped in the park. Long term improvements are needed which will require grant funding. A local resident had volunteered to help by investigating grant availability and obtaining quotes.

The Directorship of Nelson's changed on 1st October but the popular café continues as before, and the new team helped with the Bonfire Night event.

Each year groups of dedicated volunteers run a Village Show and Bonfire on behalf of the Community. The Bonfire event is a major fundraiser for the Charity. The 2024 Show was a great success attracting an increasing number of visitors with profits shared with local charitable good causes. The annual Bonfire Night went ahead on 1st November. Attendance was down on previous years nevertheless, the surplus made was around £2k.

Financially, with receipts of £48,130 and expenditure of £36,349 the Charity made a surplus of £11,781 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 provides an amazing community event enjoyed by all, but it also made donations totalling £850 to five local charitable community groups.

Tidying and thinning of shrubs on the north side of the bowling green was completed, with similar work planned for the play area. The pallet storage area was tidied, and shrubs were cut back to prepare for the bonfire. A new container was purchased for additional storage.

The Charity has been running for just over 10 years now, but 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.

VYNER PARK CHARITY

(Regd Charity No. 1163835)

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st March 2025

Receipts	£
Parish Council Grants	6,576
Nelson's (Swarland) Ltd	10,850
Other Grants	-
Swarland Show	17,800
Events	2,629
Donations & Bookings	3,880
Other	6,395

Total Receipts	48,130
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Payments

Maintenance	10,374
Utilities	9,637
Swarland Show	16,020
Events	36
Sundry	282

Total Payments	36,349
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Excess of receipts over payments	11,781
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Bank balance 31st March 2024	32,144
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Add: Excess of receipts over payments	11,781
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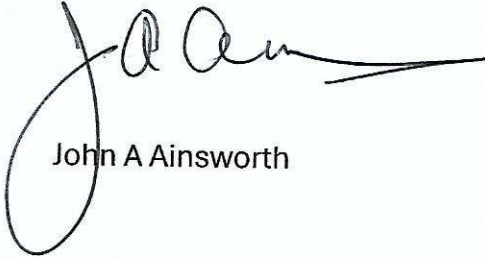
Bank balance 31st March 2025	<u>43,925</u>
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To the members of the Vyner Park Charity

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 2025. 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 loop at the start and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John A Ainsworth

Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25

VYNER PARK CHARITY

During the financial year ended 31 March 2025, 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 2024/25 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 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 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 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 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 2023/24 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

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

16/05/2025 17/05/2025 19/05/2025 21/05/2025

JOHN A AINSWORTH

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

21/05/2025

*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).