

Company Registration No: 10156361 (Wales)

Registered Charity No. 1168892

THE FERN PARTNERSHIP
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Williams Ross Limited
Chartered Accountants
CARDIFF

THE FERN PARTNERSHIP
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YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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THE FERN PARTNERSHIP

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Registered Office	Ferndale Community School Rear of Excelsior Terrace Ferndale CF43 4AR
Managing Trustees	Roy Maddox (Chair) Peter J Jones Ceri J Jones Howard Burge Jayne Dixon Nathan Prygodzicz
Company Secretary	Michelle Coburn-Hughes
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc. Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB
Accountants & Independent Examiners	Williams Ross Limited 4 Ynys Bridge Court Gwaelod y Garth Cardiff CF15 9SS
Charity Registration No.	1168892
Company Registration No.	010156361

THE FERN PARTNERSHIP
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes and the trust deed.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: 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) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The Fern Partnership (TFP) is a charitable company limited by guarantee. It was incorporated on 29 April 2016 and registered as a charity on 24th August 2016.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established its objects and powers and is governed under its Articles of Association.

Organisational Structure

The Trustees, who are directors for Companies Act purposes, are responsible for the general control and management of the charity together with the Company Secretary. The Trustees give their time freely and receive no financial benefits other than the payment of expenses.

Recruitment and appointment of directors

Trustee vacancies had previously been filled via members of the School Governors / School Management Team. In more recent years the charity has appointed new directors with specific skills, i.e. legal and HR, in order to complement the skill set of the Board with their expertise.

Induction and training of trustees

New Trustees are introduced to their new role, given copies of appropriate documents and material from the Charity Commission and have the opportunity to attend training that is relevant to on their role as a trustee.

Principal activity and public benefit statement

The Trustees believe that the Charity provides benefit to the public by helping to advance the education of pupils of Ferndale Community School by working to partnership with staff, governors and the local community to raise funds for items and activities over and above those which the local education authority provides.

Financial Review

There was an operating surplus for the year under review of £86,612, i.e. an excess of income over expenditure (2020 - surplus of £10,953).

Review of the Year and Plans for Future Periods

Our operations continued to be affected by COVID 19 during 2021. Following the resignation of the Community Development Officer, the organisation undertook a restructure of the Management team combining responsibility and roles of both Community & Childcare. The rationale was both financial and operational with the priority in strengthening the organisation in regards to shadowing and emergency / succession planning. This decision was as a result of improved and detailed risk assessment born from the crisis. The Board and the Senior Management Team are confident the organisation is in the best position it has ever been in respect of both Finances and Human resources. The new Management team have the qualities and skills required to drive the organisation forward as well as ensuring day to day operations are managed effectively.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Review of the Year and Plans for Future Periods (continued)

FuZe Play & Climbing Centre

The Centre remained closed during 2020-21 and reopened in July 2021. We continue to be vigilant in respect of sanitising and encouraging social distancing although we have removed our restrictions on numbers albeit we still ensure that we are taking all measures to protect our staff and customers.

The online booking system has proved to be very successful and is assisting in our workforce management in that we are managing our casual staff more effectively and closing the Centre on days where there are no bookings.

We have been fortunate to receive a number of resilience government grants including monies from WCVA to help us improve our business and develop a sustainable Social Enterprise. We have recently secured funding to improve our soft play offer and to fund a Development Officer as well as funding towards a number of activities such as a holiday Play Scheme and a number of themed activities including promotion of the Climbing Wall.

Ferndale Community Hwb

Childcare

Our income for our Childcare has continued to be affected by reductions in attendance mainly caused by COVID problems, e.g. illness, COVID symptoms, self-isolating and a general reluctance with parents wanting their children to leave home. We have restructured the leadership team and our numbers are continuing to increase as we strengthened our marketing with open days and more regular use of social media.

Outdoor classroom

Our new outdoor classroom proved to be very popular during the summer and we had various events including Forest Schools, Bushcraft events, Outdoor Yoga and a number of themed activities. We engaged with over 300 children and young people during the Summer of 2021. We have a number of activities being organised from December 2021 to March 2022 to continue our interaction with young people in the Community.

Sensory room

The sensory room has increased interest since we have reopened our doors to the community after COVID restrictions. We have one school using the room on a regular basis twice a week and we intend on extending this offer to other schools in our community.

Lottery Funding

The Lottery Funding award of £350k over five years has helped us provide a more resilient centre in respect of a Business Centre Manager and Admin Support. Our target for 2022 is to improve our monitoring database and to make our organisation paperless, encourage staff to become digitalised and as a result having a positive impact and by design be more environmentally friendly.

Risks and uncertainties

The future of the Communities for Work (CfW) programme is still uncertain with funding secured until March 2023 but RCT officers are of the opinion that the focus of the programme will need to be reviewed. We are widening our offer in our Community Hub in Maerdy and we are now operating an after school club funded by the Local Authority, this will enable to draw down other means of funding in the event of the CfW programme ending and it will continue to be important to work with the local authority to plan future programmes.

As highlighted above FuZe continues to be a risk but the Management Team and the Centre Development Manager continue to plan events and work in partnership with other organisations to keep the offer fresh and interesting.

Funding for all new ventures is always a risk but TFP continue to be very successful in securing external funding. As always controls are in place to closely monitor costs and terms and conditions of any grant funding to maximise all resources.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Reserves Policy

The Fern Partnership (TFP) is currently highly dependent on grant income to sustain its activities, as earned income alone would not allow the company to continue operating. This means that if there were to be a reduction in grant funding, TFP would have to close down.

To avoid closure if funding difficulties were to happen the Board of Trustees have agreed to keep a level of financial reserves to ensure that main operations can continue for a period of two months.

The main concerns of the board are to ensure that:

- staff can continue working, primarily to secure new funding
- service users are supported to move on to other service providers

Forecasted spend ensures that funding is available until at least March 2022 but, if difficulties were to arise then, it has been calculated that reserves of £50,000 would be needed at that time in order to continue running for a period of time whilst alternative funding was sought.

The reserves should be built up from the unrestricted (earned) income.

The level of reserves should be calculated and monitored every six months by the Board of Directors.

This policy should be reviewed annually and whenever there are significant changes in staff hours or numbers.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

The charity trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those financial statements, the management committee should follow best practice and:

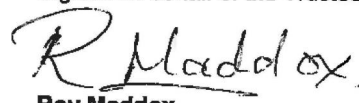
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charitable company will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and that enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees


Roy Maddox
Chairperson

17/12/2021
Date

THE FERN PARTNERSHIP

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 6 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the accounts in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities in the UK and Republic of Ireland preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

I understand that this has been done in order for the accounts to provide a true and fair view in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

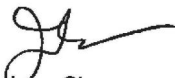
Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our 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 386 of the 2006 Act, and section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2006 Act and 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.



John Chown
for and behalf of
Williams Ross Limited
Chartered Accountants
4 Ynys Bridge Court
Gwaelod Y Garth
Cardiff
CF15 9SS

17 December 2021

Date