

# GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1174037

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** CIO

**Registered** 2017-07-31

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** 204 Preston Road  
Grimsargh  
Preston  
PR2 5JS

**Phone** 07954159074

**Email** [grimsarghwetlandstrust@gmail.com](mailto:grimsarghwetlandstrust@gmail.com)

**Website** [www.grimsarghwetlands.org](http://www.grimsarghwetlands.org)

## Activities

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**Objects:** A)TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT BY PROMOTING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; ANDB)TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE AREA OF BENEFIT THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.THE AREA OF BENEFIT BEING GRIMSARGH AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS.

**Activities:** The aim of the charity is to promote and preserve Grimsargh Wetlands for the local community. Our main objective is to protect this wonderful wildlife habitat and to encourage and promote the fauna and flora of the site. Grimsargh Wetlands is a Biological Heritage site and regularly attracts rare birds, animals and plants. Aims also to improve access and promote education.

## Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GRIMSARGH AND THE SURROUNDING AREAS
- Lancashire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-06-30	£21,621	£25,481	-	-
2024-06-30	£2,412	£11,955	-	-
2023-06-30	£11,238	£8,568	-	-
2022-06-30	£6,383	£9,966	-	-
2021-06-30	£39,593	£39,522	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
DAVID JOHN HINDLE MA	Chair	2017-05-18
Dominic James Best		2025-12-17
Dr Michael John Fisher		2018-07-04
John Willan		2022-07-20
Lesley Carole Walker		2018-12-15
Phillip John Livesey		2024-10-16
Richard Geoffrey Carefoot		2023-09-20
STEPHEN WHITTAM		2017-05-18

**GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174037

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# Accounts

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Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	07	2024	<b>To</b>	30	06	2025

**Section A Reference and administration details**

**Charity name GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

**Other names charity is known by**

Grimstargh Wetlands Trust, Charity, 1174037

**Registered charity number (if any) 1174037**

**Charity's principal address**

204 Preston Road,	
Grimstargh,	
Preston.	
<b>Postcode</b>	PR2 5JS

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1.	David Hindle	Chairperson		
2.	Lesley Walker	Treasurer		
3.	Jayne Woollam	Secretary	July 2024 – May 2025 now Deceased	
4.	Phillip Livsey		Ratified by members at the AGM, October, 2024.	Members
5.	John Willan			
6.	Steve Whittam			
7.	Mike Fisher			
8.	Geoff Carefoot			
9.				
10.				

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

<b>Type of adviser</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>

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

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**Trustee's Responsibilities**

The trustees are aware of the Charity Commissioner's guidance on Public Benefit and give regard to it in their administration of the affairs of their charity.

It is understood that that the Trustees and any others could be deemed as "managers" in the activities and affairs of the charity are "fit and proper" persons under the terms of the Finance Act 2010.

Where persons become a Trustee for the first time or are elected to be a Trustee after a period of absence, they are invited to meet with the Chairman and Treasurer beforehand in order that they may be thoroughly briefed as to the present situation of the charity.

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We have a Trustee who is covered regularly by DBS checks via the Disclosure and Barring Service however Trustees very rarely engage with young people and vulnerable adults. We always specify such visitors are to be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult/family member who must ensure supervision of individuals.

**Section B Structure, governance and management**

**Description of the charity's trusts**

<p>Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)</p>	<p>Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members, other than Trustees.</p>
<p>How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)</p>	<p>Trust</p>
<p>Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)</p>	<p>A yearly re-election of a third of the trustees by the membership at the annual AGM. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should stand for re-election annually. Appointment of new trustees is open to anyone who is interested in furthering the Trust's purposes. The role of trustee should be advertised and potential new trustees should be invited to submit a short resume of his/her experience, relevant to the post advertised. A short interview may also take place. Grimsargh Parish Council selected the first trustees, following the submission of a letter of application and an interview.</p>
<p><b>Additional governance issues (Optional information)</b> You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</li> <li>• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;</li> <li>• relationship with any related parties;</li> <li>• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</li> </ul>	<p>New trustees are advised to read the constitution, the handbook and various policy documents. The charity is a trust which abides by the constitution of a charitable incorporated organisation with voting rights by members. There are potentially 9 trustees. Currently we have 7 trustees and 2 vacancies. On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust signed a lease relating to the land, reservoirs and buildings, with Grimsargh Parish Council for a peppercorn rent, for 25 years. Grimsargh Parish Council are the landlords of the site, and the lease does include various caveats, as agreed with Grimsargh Parish Council. Clearly, there are risks associated with managing this type of site and we have comprehensive public liability insurance, also the trustees are insured individually as officers and directors. The Trust occasionally liaises with United Utilities, the former owners of the site. The trustees have erected multiple signs around the site warning the public of hazards etc. Volunteers regularly repair or reinstate any damage caused by erosion or vandalism. Trustees risk-assess the conditions prior to the volunteer days. Volunteer days occur on a fortnightly basis throughout the year, avoiding ground nesting bird breeding season. Volunteers are advised via email and book via the Trust website. Power tools are not allowed to be used on site by volunteers. Volunteers are given a talk at the start of each session regarding hazards and uneven ground etc. Children under 16 are not allowed to volunteer unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This information, including a disclaimer, is available when booking in for sessions on our website.</p>

**Section C Objectives and activities**

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

Mission statement – “The maintenance and enhancement of the biological status of Grimsargh Wetlands for the benefit of the local community”.

The charity is established to promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of both the physical and natural environment in the area known as Grimsargh Wetlands, Grimsargh by promoting its biological diversity. At the same time, the charity promotes the provision of facilities for recreation for everyone, irrespective of age, infirmity, disability or social or economic need.

## 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 site continues as two water bodies and one marsh-like area. The Trust is deliberately trying to create different habitats for wildlife and offer a place of sanctuary. The Trust has replaced fencing and safety features along the public footpath that bisects our site, ensuring that the public can still visit and view the wildlife but are restricted to the main path and dogs are prevented from accessing the wider spaces.

The trustees have maintained footpaths, mobility ramps and steps to ensure this site accessible to all members of the public, including those with mobility issues, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. The Trust continues to monitor water levels and uses a sluice to regulate water levels to enhance the habitat for wading birds. Tern rafts have also been installed to try and encourage terns to breed on the site. Grimsargh Wetlands is fully accessible to all and we do not charge an entrance fee, but encourage donations where possible. The trustees have established volunteering opportunities, educational walks and talks, as well as social activities. It is linking people, who would not otherwise come into contact, with each other and thus is creating a better sense of community, via its volunteering and educational opportunities.

The Trustees are protecting and conserving the fauna and flora of the site, while simultaneously, encouraging the whole community to enjoy volunteering activities as well as being able to access the site irrespective of the season. This year, once more, we have again used contractors to maintain the steep sides and banks of encroaching raspberry canes in order that orchids and other wildflowers can return to the site. on the south bank of the Mere. Grimsargh Wetlands is special in that it is really three unique sites in one site. The Fen, the Island Lake and the Mere, each site attracting very different flora and fauna, including red-listed curlews, lapwings, oystercatchers and little ringed plovers. In Spring curlews and lapwings appear in large numbers, proof indeed that Grimsargh Wetlands is an important staging post for rare birds. There are many other species of birds, including, breeding tawny owls, barn owls, many species of ducks and geese, terns, herons, buzzards, kestrels, herons, house martins, swifts, swallows, Mediterranean gulls, and a plethora of crows and jackdaws. Badgers, butterflies, hares, deer, frogs, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and many other insects are regularly seen on the Wetlands. The flora includes rare hybrid willow, wild primroses, lichens, liverworts, wild orchids and many more species are to be found on the Wetlands. In these days of encroaching urbanisation, it provides an oasis for nature in an otherwise overdeveloped urban sprawl to the north of Preston.

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

- policy on grantmaking;

In July 2024 we received a grant of £2,500.00 from the Harold and Alice Bridges Trust used to contribute to the purchase of an Aquapeche boat (specific project). In August 2024 a grant paid to us in two instalments totalling £11,400.00 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund, to cover costs of re-fencing the length of worn-out fencing along the public footpath (specific project). Linked with the latter is a grant of £1185 from Grimsargh Parish Council to cover the costs of closing the public footpath during the works being undertaken by contractors.

We recognise that membership, legacies and fundraising are important sources of revenue; in order to secure the long-term viability of the Trust, we need to plan for its future sustainability. Long-term it is hoped to develop the site further by reinstating an existing building on site from which an income stream could be derived, if it were to be hired out to various groups. Alternatively, a new building could be erected on site for the same purpose.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Achievements of the Charity 2024-2025

A) Membership

Membership figures are lower this year, we are continuing to encourage people to join/renew via our website which is now set up for 'subscriptions' that auto renew annually. We can collate members details via our CMS database. Some members prefer to pay cash and this occurs at our AGM. Due to our Secretary sadly passing away in May 2025 we are currently re-collating our details and will gather more information at our AGM.

Trustees voted to keep membership fees at the same level as the previous year, 2023-2024: Individual, £20.00; Volunteer/Student, £10.00; Life, £250.00; Corporate Members £100.00. Corporate Members, Non-Business, have one vote, Corporate Business Membership, have no vote, due to a potential conflict of interest.

New members receive: a membership card; a Grimsargh Wetlands Trust sticker; guided walks; an invitation to the AGM with voting rights, except for Corporate Business Members; a quarterly newsletter and a calendar.

B) Trustee Meetings

We have held 7 ordinary meetings this year; the AGM took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2024. 10 members attended the AGM. All officers were reappointed. Philip Livsey was ratified by the members. The Annual Report is circulated to trustees and members in advance of the AGM.

Trustees continue to hold robust discussions regarding proposed developments and on-going site maintenance; motions are voted on and a majority vote is acted upon. We are hoping to recruit to the 2 vacant Trustees positions in the coming year.

C) Jayne Woollam

This year we have to report the very sad passing of our Secretary Jayne Woollam. We were profoundly shocked and saddened by the unexpected death of our dear friend and fellow trustee. Jayne played a key role in the organisation and running of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust. As Trust Secretary, Jayne was the driving force behind so many of the Trust's fund-raising, volunteering and other public engagement activities. In addition, Jayne led many of the Trust's successful applications for funding from external bodies, most notably a sequence of major grants from the Lancashire Environmental Fund. It is no exaggeration to say that this funding success has, over the last 8 years, transformed the site into what it is today – one of the premier local nature reserves in Lancashire. We will miss her terribly but continue to strive to make Grimsargh Wetlands a huge contribution to the local community and for local wildlife conservation.

As of May 2025, Lezley Walker is covering both the Secretary and Treasurer positions within the Trust and continues to circulate agendas and minutes to the trustees and the clerk to Grimsargh Parish Council. The number of ordinary meetings during this return period is reduced due to these changes.

### 1. Public facing media

The website continues to provide information for visitors to the reserve, along with an on-line map showing the location of all the access points and viewing screens, together with a database of the wildlife likely to be seen at the Wetlands. Future events, from volunteer days to guided walks are also bookable online. The quarterly newsletter is also available on-line. Previous newsletters are now archived on the website. We acknowledge the immense support of HAN Communications in assisting Trustees to manage this enterprise.

Han McGivern continues to manage our Facebook page and this provides the Trust with an easily accessible platform to advertise events and recent sightings and again we are indebted to Han for her commitment and professionalism.

### 2. Fundraising

Fundraising has been a challenge again as we have not managed to recruit a Trustee with the time/capacity for fundraising as a main focus. We receive donations via local stores (collection tins) and events such as Grimsargh Farmers' Market, Goosnargh and Longridge Show, Grimsargh Field Day. We continue to produce an annual calendar to sell and this raises much needed funds via sponsorship of pages by local businesses and sales to the public.

On our website we have information regarding options of leaving a legacy in a will to the Trust, to support projects on the Wetlands.

We continue to be supported locally via donations received for providing informative 'talks' to local groups regarding the Wetland heritage, resident species and other topics. This period these were delivered to the Preston Society Bird Watching and Natural History in March 2025.

### 3. Newsletter

Mike Fisher continues to produce and circulate an excellent quarterly newsletter, updating volunteers and members with news and progress on the Wetlands. The newsletter is archived on the website. Mike also writes a biannual article for Grimsargh Parish Council's newsletter. The newsletter continues to be a conduit for the Trust to channel its news and progress to the community and the wider public; we are extremely grateful for Mike's hard work and commitment to producing an excellent newsletter.

### 4. Grimsargh Parish Council

The trustees continue to have an excellent working relationship with Grimsargh Parish Council. The clerk to the Parish Council and Councillors are invited to attend meetings, if necessary, to liaise with the trustees on matters of mutual interest, given that Grimsargh Parish Council owns the freehold of the site. Councillors attend the Annual General Meeting and have one corporate vote.

### 5. Volunteer Days

This year we have held fortnightly volunteering days, for the public benefit

during the autumn and winter months, avoiding the bird breeding season. Volunteer days provide the public with physical exercise; the health benefits of working alongside nature have long been established. We have struggled this year to attract many people to our volunteer days. We have a regular small number of supporters who attend most sessions; however, the Trustees make up the biggest proportion of the volunteering effort on most occasions. Campaigns to recruit volunteers have largely been unsuccessful so far and it is a great pity that the local community are not more actively involved with the maintenance and upkeep of this precious local reserve.

#### D) Maintenance

We continue to use contractors a number of times during the autumn and winter months to clear scrub from the embankment slopes and embankment tops, as well as clear willow from the Fen. This clearance has meant that the wild primroses and orchids have been given the opportunity to flourish in Spring and it has allowed a phragmites reed bed to flourish in the Fen, having removed the invasive willow. We are looking to engage with local groups e.g. Kings Trust during the coming months/years to enable large groups of volunteers to work on specific projects.

The tern raft was 'revamped' ready for the arrival of the terns but unfortunately this year the gulls took over the floating raft and as a result we did not have any terns nesting.

#### E) The Lancashire Environmental Fund.

We have been supported again by LEF for our major project replacing fencing along the public footpath, making it safe for walkers and dogs, keeping them separated from the areas of our site that are private and entry is not permitted.

We are aware that the funding streams available via LEF will soon be depleted and further grant applications via LEF will not be possible.

#### F) Andy Small Memorial

A stone memorial to Andy Small, previously a Trustee, has been situated on the Wetlands at the start of the public footpath entrance onto the site. This is maintained by the Small family and the Trustees are not involved with the upkeep of this memorial.

#### G) Significant projects

The Trustees have installed a Sand Martin, artificial nesting bank on site. This was constructed by Geoff Carefoot and offered an interesting focus for our volunteers as this was built and then installed at the edge of our Island Lake. An electronic attractor call device was also purchase and installed to help attract sand martins to the nesting site. It can take years for a colony to establish so it may be some time before we see any birds actually nesting but we are hopeful that this will prove possible in the future.

We purchased a new boat this year, an Aquapeche flat shallow draft vessel which will enable safe manoeuvring on the Mere, maintenance of the tern rafts,

cutting trees boarding the Mere and upkeep of the Island Lake islands to encourage nesting birds and keep down the vegetation.

### The Future

The trustees are committed to ensuring that Grimsargh Wetlands continues to flourish for wildlife and the community it serves. We are actively seeking sponsorship from large local businesses to help us pay for our maintenance and upkeep costs and our insurance costs; as neither can be the subject of capital grants that may be awarded.

The Wetlands is crucial for local nature, especially endangered wading birds in northern England.

The site offers opportunities for social interactions, health and mental well-being for the community.

New housing developments continue to encroach on its remaining farm land perimeter; the public need green spaces. It is vital, that this site is maintained not only for nature, but for a community who needs and uses it.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

**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.

Lancashire Environmental Fund, sponsorship, donations, fundraising, membership, calendar, lasting legacy, Alice and Harold Bridges Trust, collection tins.

**Section F Other optional information**

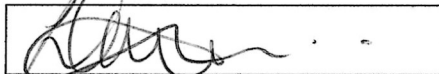
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**Section G Declaration**

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**



**Full name(s)**

Lesley Walker

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Treasurer (acting Secretary)

**Date: DD / MM / 2025**

14 / 11 / 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

1174037

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	1st July 2024	To	30th June 2025
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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 £
				2025	2024
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees	258			258	330
Grants	14,685			14,685	-
Fund Raising & Sales	1,949			1,949	205
Parish Council	3,040			3,040	300
Donations	1,689			1,689	1,577
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>21,621</b>			<b>21,621</b>	<b>2,412</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>21,621</b>			<b>21,621</b>	<b>2,412</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	2,877			2,877	4,099
Improvements & Repairs	17,050			17,050	5,710
Equipment	4,346			4,346	1,566
Expenses	1,208			1,208	580
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>25,481</b>			<b>25,481</b>	<b>11,955</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>25,481</b>			<b>25,481</b>	<b>11,955</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>25,481</b>			<b>25,481</b>	<b>11,955</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3,860</b>			<b>3,860</b>	<b>- 9,543</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>12,290</b>			<b>12,290</b>	<b>12,290</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>8,431</b>			<b>8,431</b>	<b>12,293</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	8,431		
	Petty Cash Account	30		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>8,461</b>		

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error

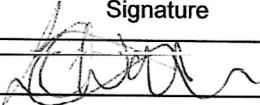
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	LC WALKER	14/11/2025

**GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174037

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

Period start date                      Period end date  
 From      01      07      2023      To      30      06      2024

**Section A                      Reference and administration details**

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Grimсарgh Wetlands Trust, Charity, 1174037

**Registered charity number (if any)      1174037**

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4.	Phillip Livsey		Co-opted in 2024, to be ratified by members at the AGM, October, 2024.	<b>Members</b>
5.	John Willan			
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**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

<b>Type of adviser</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>

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How the charity is constituted	Trust
Trustee selection methods	A yearly re-election of a third of the trustees by the membership at the annual AGM. The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should stand for re-election annually. Appointment of new trustees is open to anyone who is interested in furthering the Trust's purposes. The role of trustee should be advertised and potential new trustees should be invited to submit a short resume of his/her experience, relevant to the post advertised. A short interview may also take place. Grimsargh Parish Council selected the first trustees, following the submission of a letter of application and an interview.
<p><b>Additional governance issues (Optional information)</b>            You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;</li> <li>• the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;</li> <li>• relationship with any related parties;</li> <li>• trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.</li> </ul>	<p>New trustees are advised to read the constitution, the handbook and various policy documents. The charity is a trust which abides by the constitution of a charitable incorporated organisation with voting rights by members. There are potentially 9 trustees. Currently we have 8 trustees. On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust signed a lease relating to the land, reservoirs and buildings, with Grimsargh Parish Council for a peppercorn rent, for 25 years. Grimsargh Parish Council are the landlords of the site, and the lease does include various caveats, as agreed with Grimsargh Parish Council. Clearly, there are risks associated with managing this type of site. However, the trustees have public liability insurance, the trustees are insured individually, and the trust occasionally liaises with United Utililites, the former owners of the site. The trustees have erected multiple signs around the site warning the public of hazards etc. Volunteers regularly repair or reinstate any damage caused by erosion or vandalism. Trustees risk assess the conditions prior to the volunteer days. Volunteer days occur on a fortnightly basis throughout the year, under normal circumstances. Prior to volunteer days, volunteers are advised via email and the new website, as to what to wear and the type of tools that will be required. Power tools are not allowed to be used on site by volunteers. Volunteers are given a talk at the start of each session regarding hazards and uneven ground etc. Children under 16 are not allowed to volunteer unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This information, including a disclaimer, is now on our new website, where volunteers can register their intention to volunteer on a particular day.</p>

**Section C Objectives and activities**

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

Mission statement – “The maintenance and enhancement of the biological status of Grimsargh Wetlands for the benefit of the local community”.

The charity is established to promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of both the physical and natural environment in the area known as Grimsargh Wetlands, Grimsargh by promoting its biological diversity. At the same time, the charity promotes the provision of facilities for recreation for everyone, irrespective of age, infirmity, disability or social or economic need.

## 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)

Originally the site was made up of three disused reservoirs, largely neglected and largely inaccessible to the public, especially in winter, as there was no footpath, or the footpath was in a terrible state of disrepair. In 6 years since the establishment of the Trust, the trustees have constructed footpaths, mobility ramps and steps, erected gates, viewing screens and fences that have made this site accessible to all members of the public, including those with mobility issues, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. The Trust has also installed a sluice, which allows the trustees to regulate water levels to enhance the habitat for wading birds. Tern rafts have also been installed to try and encourage terns to breed on the site. Grimsargh Wetlands is fully accessible to all. The site is free. The trustees have established volunteering opportunities, educational walks and talks, as well as social activities. It is linking people, who would not otherwise come into contact, with each other and thus is creating a better sense of community, via its volunteering and educational opportunities.

The trustees are protecting and conserving the fauna and flora of the site, while simultaneously, encouraging the whole community to enjoy volunteering activities as well as being able to access the site irrespective of the season. This year encroaching raspberry canes have been removed and that has helped the return of the wild primroses and orchids on the south bank of the Mere. Grimsargh Wetlands is special in that it is really three unique sites in one site. The Fen, the Island Lake and the Mere, each site attracting very different flora and fauna, including red-listed curlews, lapwings, oyster catchers and little ringed plovers. In Spring curlews and lapwings appear in large numbers, proof indeed that Grimsargh Wetlands is an important staging post for rare birds. There are many other species of birds, including, breeding tawny owls, barn owls, many species of ducks and geese, terns, herons, buzzards, kestrels, herons, house martins, swifts, swallows, Mediterranean gulls, and a plethora of crows and jackdaws. Badgers, butterflies, hares, deer, frogs, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and many other insects are regularly seen on the Wetlands. The flora is also rather special, including rare hybrid willow, wild primroses, lichens, liverworts, wild orchids and many more species are to be found on the Wetlands. This year an osprey has been seen passing over the Wetlands, as well as a peregrine falcon and a rare garganey duck. In these days of encroaching urbanisation, it provides an oasis for nature in an otherwise overdeveloped urban sprawl to the north of Preston.

### Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

- policy on grantmaking;

In 2024, trustee Geoff Carefoot successfully applied for a grant of £2,500.00 from the Harold and Alice Bridges Trust, and Secretary, Jayne Woollam applied for a grant of £11,400.00 from the Lancashire Environmental Fund, the result of which will be known at the beginning of July, 2024. We continue to pursue grants from organisations, for example, "Naturesave Trust". However, while we recognise that membership, legacies and fundraising are important sources of revenue, in order to secure the long-term viability of the Trust, we need to plan for its future sustainability. Long-term it is hoped to develop the site further by reinstating an existing building on site from which an income stream could be derived, if it were to be hired out to various groups. Alternatively, a new building could be erected on site for the same purpose.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Achievements of the Charity 2023-2024

1. Membership

Current membership stands at 26.

Trustees voted to keep membership fees at the same level as the previous year, 2023-2024: Individual, £20.00; Volunteer/Student, £10.00; Life, £250.00; Corporate Members £100.00. Corporate Members, Non-Business, have one vote, Corporate Business Membership, have no vote, due to a potential conflict of interest.

New members receive: a membership card; a Grimsargh Wetlands Trust sticker; guided walks; an invitation to the AGM with voting rights, except for Corporate Business Members; a quarterly newsletter and new members receive a calendar.

We hope to expand our membership base in 2024-2025, as we are aware that since Covid, it has declined.

2. Meetings - 1st July 2023- 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

We have held 9 ordinary meetings this year; the AGM took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. 16 people attended the AGM. All officers were reappointed. Geoff Carefoot, who had formerly been an outstanding trustee, had his position as a newly co-opted trustee, co-opted August 2023, ratified by the members at the AGM in September 2023. The Annual Report is circulated to trustees and members in advance of the AGM.

We co-opted Phil Livsey in January 2024, and his position will hopefully be ratified by the members at the 2024 AGM. Over the years Phil has proved himself a loyal volunteer at our volunteer days, a keen wildlife enthusiast and he has a wealth of experience of environmental issues, himself having worked in environmental health for much of his career.

During 2023 trustees Phil Atkinson and Alan Sargent resigned. Phil resigned in September 2023. There are currently 8 trustees and one vacancy. We hope to co-opt a new trustee with the right skills set for the Trust 2024-2025.

Meetings have been highly productive this year, and a lot has been achieved. Trustees are committed and proactive. Trustees continue to hold robust discussions regarding proposed developments and on-going site maintenance; motions are voted on and a majority vote is acted upon.

Trustees organise guided walks and regular volunteering days for the public benefit, as well as liaising with several volunteering organisations.

Full attendance by trustees at the meetings is nearly always recorded, as noted in the minutes. The Secretary circulates agendas and minutes to the trustees and the clerk to Grimsargh Parish Council.

### 3. The Website

The website continues to provide information for visitors to the reserve, along with an on-line map showing the location of all the access points and viewing screens, together with a database of the wildlife likely to be seen at the Wetlands. Future events, from volunteer days to guided walks are also bookable online. The quarterly newsletter is also available on-line. Previous newsletters are now archived on the website. The website has already elicited more engagement from the local community and wider public and the trustees believe that it has been a significant achievement for the Trust. We acknowledge the immense support of HAN Communications in assisting Trustees to manage this enterprise.

Han McGivern has also successfully managed our Facebook page during 2023-2024. Facebook provides the Trust with an easily accessible platform to advertise events and recent sightings and again we are indebted to Han for her commitment and professionalism.

### 4. Fundraising 2023-2024

Fundraising has been a challenge this year, following the passing of the Trust's chief fundraiser, trustee, Andy Small, in 2023. However, money has been raised this year through donations from our stalls at events such as Grimsargh Farmers' Market, Goosnargh and Longridge Show Grimsargh Field Day. Collection tins at guided walks etc have also produced a modest income stream.

It was agreed in 2023 that we would re-launch our Grimsargh Wetlands Calendar and hopefully this will again raise much needed funds in 2024-2025. Geoff Carefoot has also produced packs of greetings' cards to sell, with an aerial view of the Wetlands on the front of the cards.

Trustee, Mike Fisher floated the idea of promoting a "lasting legacy" donation in 2023. The trustees agreed that this was a good idea and hopefully the public will consider leaving a legacy to the Trust, to support projects on the Wetlands funded by their legacy, once this provision has been made available on our website.

We have also received grants from GPC and donations from Longridge and Garstang Masons. The £300.00 grant from GPC was used to fund the construction of a tern raft and was funded originally by Lancashire County Council.

Much of our costs are the "unglamorous" ongoing costs of public liability insurance and employing contractors to maintain the site; securing funding for these costs presents the Trust with a continuing challenge but trustees are currently discussing possible new revenue sources, for example, CIL money from the Parish Council, as the Trust certainly provides leisure provision and open space availability for the community.

## 5. Newsletter 2023-2024

Mike Fisher continues to produce and circulate an excellent quarterly newsletter, updating volunteers and members with news and progress on the Wetlands. The newsletter is now archived on the website. Mike also writes a biannual article for Grimsargh Parish Council's newsletter. The newsletter continues to be one of the highlights of the Wetlands, a conduit for the Trust to channel its news and progress to the community and the wider public; we are extremely grateful for Mike's hard work and commitment to producing an excellent newsletter.

## 6. Grimsargh Parish Council

The trustees continue to have an excellent working relationship with Grimsargh Parish Council. The clerk to the Parish Council and Councillors are invited to attend meetings, if necessary, to liaise with the trustees on matters of mutual interest, given that Grimsargh Parish Council owns the freehold of the site. Councillors Terry Cryer and Peter Burton attend the Annual General Meeting and have one corporate vote.

## 7. Volunteer Days

This year we have held fortnightly volunteering days, for the public benefit during the autumn and winter months, avoiding the bird breeding season. Volunteer days provide the public with physical exercise; the health benefits of working alongside nature have long been established, from improving mood to meeting and getting to know new people, thus reducing social isolation. We regularly attract 10-15 volunteers to our volunteer days.

Due to safeguarding issues, we do not allow any child under 16 to attend volunteering sessions, or guided walks, unless accompanied by an adult.

There is a full risk assessment of volunteering for the Trust on our website, and volunteers are asked to read it carefully before signing up to volunteer with us.

During the summer months of 2023, pop-up volunteer evenings were held to clear pathways and undertake general maintenance.

The schedule of volunteer days is placed on the website and emailed directly to volunteers by the secretary. All volunteer sessions occur at the weekends, on a fortnightly basis, rotating Saturdays and Sundays. We ask everyone to book onto the volunteer day, using the website. A great deal has been achieved during the year by our volunteers and we are very grateful to their support.

## 8. Maintenance

In the Autumn of 2023, Wilkinson's Landscapers were employed to clear scrub from the embankment slopes and embankment tops, as well as clear willow from the Fen. This clearance has meant that the wild primroses and orchids have been given the opportunity to flourish in Spring and it has allowed a phragmites reed bed to flourish in the Fen, having removed the invasive willow. There is also a phragmites reed bed developing in the northeastern corner of the Island Lake.

## 9. The Lancashire Environmental Fund.

In July 2023, Steve Whittam submitted an expression of interest to the LEF for a potential project on the Fen.

However, in January 2024, Secretary Jayne Woollam took this submission forward and applied to the LEF for a grant of £11,400.00. The grant was for a new handrail up the public footpath steps, a new gate onto the Fen, replacement fencing along the public footpath and security fencing on the Mere. Grimsargh Parish Council agreed to pay third-party funding to support the grant application.

If successful, the Trust will be meeting its objective to maintain and improve the site. The result of the grant application will be made public in July 2024.

## 10. On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

The trustees held an "Open Evening" in the Village Hall, for the public benefit, on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. It was an opportunity to engage with and inform the public about the work of the Wetlands. Prior to the meeting, trustees had delivered promotional flyers to 500 houses in Grimsargh, focusing on the new estates. We had hoped that it would provide an opportunity to recruit new volunteers. Sadly, we recruited only four new volunteers, perhaps a reflection of the difficulties faced trying to attract new volunteers, post-Covid.

## 11. Volunteering Groups on the Wetlands

The following volunteering organisations came on site to coppice willow and help maintain the Wetlands during 2023-2024, overseen by trustee, Mike Fisher:

Ribble Rivers Trust – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

Fylde Rangers – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

Friends of Avenham and Miller Park – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October.

The Trust, for the public benefit, regularly engages with other organisations. The days are mutually beneficial, as the work of the volunteers from these organisations help us to maintain the site, and the cropped willow, used by these groups to shore up river banks, shore up sand dunes and create willow sculptures, clearly is of material use to them, as well as providing the volunteers from the groups with physical exercise and an opportunity to improve their mental well-being by being surrounded by nature.

## 12. Trail Camera

Trustee, Steve Whittam, procured a trail camera to hopefully record wildlife on the Island Lake.

## 13. Tree Felling

In November 2023, qualified tree surgeon, Harry Watkinson was employed by the trustees to survey two ash trees. The trees had ash dieback and could potentially be a danger to the public. The tree surgeon heavily pruned the trees.

#### 14. Winter Walk

For the public benefit, the trustees held a Winter Guided Walk on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December. The walk was well attended, and feedback from attendees was very positive.

#### 15. Andy Small Memorial

In January 2024, the trustees approved a proposal to erect a memorial to Andy on the Wetlands. The trustees had been asked to consider this request, following a request from GPC to the trustees to consider the erection of a memorial. The request to GPC had been made by Andy's family.

#### 16. Longridge Masons

In January 2024, the Trust received a donation of £200.00 from Longridge and Garstang. Masonic Lodge

#### 17. Bees

In February 2024, the Trust was approached by a professional beekeeper, Karl Francis, who proposed keeping bees on the Wetlands. While the trustees agreed to this proposal, it was difficult to find a suitable location for the hives and therefore, sadly, this project did not progress.

#### 18. Spring Flower Walk, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

For the public benefit, the trustees led a guided walk on the 30<sup>th</sup> March. Attendance was excellent and the trustees received very positive feedback from the public. It was encouraging that the attendees made generous donations to Grimsargh Wetlands, following the event.

#### 19. New Planning Sub-Committee, March 2024.

In March 2024, a new working sub-committee reconvened to meet to discuss short and long-term plans for the Wetlands. Geoff Carefoot, John Willan and Steve Whittam are members of this sub-committee; they are tasked with holding meetings and reporting their proposals back to the trustees at ordinary meetings.

#### 20. Application for a Schedule 1 Licence, March 2024

David reported that he had obtained a Schedule 1 licence, permitting named trustees, David, Geoff, Steve and John to go onto the islands during the bird breeding season. It was hoped that we could install electric fencing and the little ringed plover cage. However, this has not happened because it was agreed, by a majority of trustees, that electric fencing on the islands was not a viable option.

This year trustees have deliberately kept water levels high on the Island Lake, in an effort to deter mammals, such as foxes, accessing the islands and predated the wading birds' chicks.

Sadly, there has been little success again this year regarding getting the chicks

successfully fledged, suggesting that avian predation is the main problem for wading chicks, not mammalian predation, therefore rendering the installation of an electric fence on the island unnecessary.

It is very disappointing that fledgling success this year among our wading birds has been negligible. The trustees remain committed to try and improve the fledgling success of wading birds on the Wetlands but given the high number of gulls and crows on the Wetlands, this continues to be a huge problem for us.

#### 21. Grant from GPC

In March 2024, Grimsargh Wetlands were awarded a grant of £300.00 from Grimsargh Parish Council, funded by LCC. The award, funded by LCC, was a biological grant for projects in the local area.

#### 22. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 – Installation of Geoff's Tern Raft

Having secured a grant from Grimsargh Parish Council, Geoff had produced a tern raft during the winter. On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024, volunteers helped to install the raft on the Mere.

#### 23. RSPB Magazine, April 2024

David reported that he had “put Grimsargh Wetlands on the map nationally” by highlighting its importance in the March edition of the RSPB magazine. David had written a review of his recent book, “Enjoying Birdwatching in Lancashire and Cumbria” and he had written a chapter on Grimsargh Wetlands.

#### 24. Wildlife Highlights 2023-2024

##### Fauna

The site continues to be a honeypot for wildlife. As well as being an oasis for nature, set in the middle of an area of increasing urbanisation, Grimsargh Wetlands has become an important staging post for flocks of curlew and whimbrel, attracting large numbers of the latter in Spring.

Frequent visitors to the site include endangered species, including lapwing, avocets, oyster catcher, whimbrel, curlew and little ringed plover, amongst large flocks of ducks and geese.

David Hindle and Geoff Carefoot regularly update the ELOC website, reporting ornithological sightings.

The site also attracts mammals, including voles, badgers, stoats, weasels and foxes. There is a plethora of insects too, including damsel and dragon flies.

##### Flora

Following the clearance of the south embankment of the Mere, there was a profusion of wild primroses and orchids in 2023. There was also an abundance of other spring flowers including, Lesser Celandine, Colt's Foot, and Wood Anemone.

The following were recorded during Spring 2023, Scarlet Elf Cup, Yellow Brain fungus, Rosy Crust fungus, Jelly Ear fungus, and King Alfred's Cake fungus. The site is rich in mosses, fungi, and liverworts. We are hoping to expose limestone in 2024-2025; its exposure will encourage the growth of bee-orchids and other limestone growing flora.

#### The Future

The trustees are committed to ensuring that Grimsargh Wetlands continues to flourish for wildlife and the community it serves.

The Wetlands is crucial for nature, especially endangered wading birds in northern England.

Moreover, this site is for the public benefit. Apart from the regular volunteering sessions and guided walks, the next one being August 17<sup>th</sup> 2024, the Wetlands provides local people with a leisure are, a place to walk their dogs, a place to get physical exercise and a place to engage with nature.

New housing developments are encroaching on its perimeter; the public need green spaces. It is vital, that this site is maintained not only for nature, but for a community who needs and uses it.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

**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.

Lancashire Environmental Fund, sponsorship, donations, fundraising, membership, calendar and greetings cards, lasting legacy, Alice and Harold Bridges Trust, collection tins.

**Section F Other optional information**

**Section G Declaration**

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

*Jayne Woollam*

**Full name(s)**

Jayne Woollam

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Secretary

**Date 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust 1174037

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 1st July 2023 To 30th June 2024

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 £
				2024	2023
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees	330			330	286
Grants	-			-	-
Fund Raising & Sales	205			205	4,352
Parish Council	300			300	-
Donations	1,577			1,577	6,600
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>2,412</b>			<b>2,412</b>	<b>11,238</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>2,412</b>			<b>2,412</b>	<b>11,238</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	4,099			4,099	3,967
Improvements & Repairs	5,710			5,710	2,000
Equipment	1,566			1,566	1,509
Expenses	580			580	1,092
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>11,955</b>			<b>11,955</b>	<b>8,568</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>11,955</b>			<b>11,955</b>	<b>8,568</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>11,955</b>			<b>11,955</b>	<b>8,568</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 9,543</b>			<b>- 9,543</b>	<b>2,670</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>21,836</b>			<b>21,836</b>	<b>19,166</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>12,293</b>			<b>12,293</b>	<b>21,836</b>

**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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	12,293		
	Petty Cash Account	10		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>12,303</b>		

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

Agreement Error

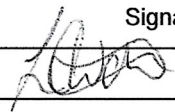
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	LEILEY WALKER	23/9/2024

**GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174037

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

Period start date                      Period end date  
**From**      01      07      2022      **To**      30      06      2023

**Section A                      Reference and administration details**

**Charity name      GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

**Other names charity is known by**      Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, Charity 1174037

**Registered charity number (if any)      1174037**

**Charity's principal address**

204 Preston Road,	
Grimsargh,	
Preston.	
<b>Postcode</b>	PR2 5JS

**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.	David Hindle	Chairman		
2.	Lesley Walker	Treasurer		
3.	Jayne Woollam	Secretary		
4.	Alan Sargent		Alan was co-opted, Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> August, subject to ratification at the AGM.	
5.	Phil Atkinson			
6.	Steve Whittam			
7.	Mike Fisher			
8.	Andy Small	Deceased June 2023		
9.	John Willan			
10.				
11.				

12.				
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**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	Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members, other than trustees.
How the charity is constituted	Trust
Trustee selection methods	A yearly re-election of a third of the trustees by the membership at the annual AGM. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should stand for re-election annually. Appointment of new trustees is open to anyone who is interested in furthering the Trust's purposes. The role of trustee should be advertised and potential new trustees should be invited to submit a short resume of his/her experience, relevant to the post advertised. A short interview may also take place. Grimsargh Parish Council selected the first trustees, following the submission of a letter of application and an interview.
<b>Additional governance issues (Optional information)</b>	

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.

**Section C**  
**Objectives and activities**

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

New trustees are advised to read the constitution, the handbook and various policy documents. The charity is a trust which abides by the constitution of a charitable incorporated organisation with voting rights by members. There are potentially 9 trustees. Currently we have 9 trustees. On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust signed a lease relating to the land, reservoirs and buildings, with Grimsargh Parish Council for a peppercorn rent, for 25 years. Grimsargh Parish Council are the landlords of the site, and the lease does include various caveats, as agreed with Grimsargh Parish Council. Clearly, there are risks associated with managing this type of site. However, the trustees have public liability insurance, the trustees are insured individually. The trustees have erected multiple signs around the site warning the public of hazards, including avian flu. Volunteers regularly repair or reinstate any damage caused by erosion or vandalism, although, thankfully, vandalism is relatively rare. Trustees risk assess the conditions prior to the volunteer days. Volunteer days occur on a fortnightly basis throughout the year, under normal circumstances. Prior to volunteer days, volunteers are advised via email, and the new website, as to what to wear and the type of tools that will be required. Power tools are not allowed to be used on site by volunteers. Volunteers are given a talk at the start of each session regarding hazards and uneven ground. Volunteers are asked to read the disclaimer on the new website. Volunteers now sign up for volunteer days, via the new website. Children under 16 are not allowed to volunteer unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This information, including a disclaimer, is now on our new website, where most of our volunteers can register their intention to volunteer on a particular day.

Mission statement – “The maintenance and enhancement of the biological status of Grimsargh Wetlands for the benefit of the local community”.

The charity is established to promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of both the physical and natural environment in the area known as Grimsargh Wetlands, Grimsargh by promoting its biological diversity. At the same time, the charity promotes the provision of facilities for recreation for everyone, irrespective of age, infirmity, disability or social or economic need.

**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)**

Originally the site was made up of three disused reservoirs, largely neglected and largely inaccessible to the public, especially in winter, as there was no footpath, or the footpath was in a terrible state of disrepair. In five years, the trustees have constructed footpaths, mobility ramps and steps, erected gates, viewing screens and fences that have made this site accessible to all members of the public, including those with mobility issues, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. The site is now fully accessible to all. The site is free. The trustees have established volunteering opportunities, educational walks and talks, as well as social activities. It is linking people, who would not otherwise come into contact, with each other and thus is creating a better sense of community.

The trustees have enhanced the site by creating islands in the Island Lake, to encourage wading birds to nest. A sluice has also been installed to regulate the water level to maximise the potential for wading birds to breed. This has paid dividends and this year lapwing, avocets, greater crested grebe and oyster catcher have bred. The trustees' aim is to protect the fauna and flora of the site, while simultaneously, encouraging the whole community to enjoy volunteering activities as well as being able to access the site irrespective of the season. The site is special in that it is really three sites in one. The Fen, the Island Lake and the Mere, each site attracting a wide range of flora and fauna. The site attracts large numbers of wading birds. In these days of encroaching urbanisation, it provides an oasis for nature in an otherwise overdeveloped urban sprawl to the north of Preston.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

- policy on grantmaking;

While we have secured grants totalling £60,000.00 from the "Lancashire Environmental Fund" since 2018, including £10,980.00 January 2021, £3,000.00 from the "Alice and Harold Bridges Trust" March, 2020, and £1,250.00 from "SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Group", December, 2020, we continue to pursue grants from other organisations, for example, "Naturesave Trust". However, while we recognise that membership, legacies and fundraising are important sources of revenue, in order to secure the long-term viability of the Trust, we need to plan for its future sustainability. Long-term it is hoped to develop the site further by reinstating an existing building on site from which an income stream could be derived, if it were to be hired out to various groups. Alternatively, a new building could be erected on site for the same purpose. It is also hoped that gift aid and donations will form a realistic income stream. It is hoped that our new website will also attract new sponsors in the coming years.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

Summary of Achievements:

1. It is with great sadness that we must report on the passing of fellow trustee, Andrew Small. He was a founder trustee of Grimsargh Wetlands; he is a great loss to us. Andy worked tirelessly raising funds for the Trust; in addition, he led projects, successfully applied for grants, and organised and led walks for the public. He built up an invaluable relationship with the two local schools, leading guided walks for the school children around the Wetlands. A memorial to honour Andrew's contribution to the Wetlands is being planned by the trustees, in consultation with Andy's family.
2. Alan Sargent was co-opted as a trustee, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2022. Alan has been a loyal volunteer and possesses hands-on practical skills. He is committed to helping at volunteer days.
3. Following the AGM in July 2022, it was agreed that there should be two categories of corporate membership: Corporate membership, non-business, one vote; Corporate membership; businesses, no votes.
4. At the August 2022 meeting of the trustees, it was agreed that members will be consulted on any of the following:
  - a. Changes in membership.
  - b. Changes in the status of the site.
  - c. Major project spends involving the GPC dowry.
  - d. Any material changes to the site.
  - e. Changes in the constitution.However, there has been nothing in the year 2022/23 that has warranted contacting members.
5. During August 2022 Trustees met with a specialist for advice in using grazing animals to maintain wildlife sites. During the course of the year this proposal, led by trustee John Willan, was fully explored. However, it was decided that there were too many risk factors and liabilities.
6. Two walks took place in August and September intended to inform, entertain and engage with the public. The "Butterfly Walk" took place August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the "5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk" took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. Both walks were well attended and well received. Lord Horam, our Patron attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk and made a substantial donation to the Trust, which the trustees agreed should be ring-fenced for a specific project.
7. September 2022, GPC agreed to fund the hiring of the Village Hall for trustees' meetings. We now hold monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month.
8. September 2022, landscaping contractors, Wilkinsons of Longridge, made excellent progress cutting grass along the sides and tops of the embankments. It was agreed that the Trust should employ Wilkinsons to maintain the banks four times a year.
9. In October 2022, our Warden, Neil Hartley, resigned.
10. October 2022, the Secretary received an estimate from Bowland Ecology to produce a full site survey of the fauna and flora, given that the last site survey of 2007 would now be obsolete. The cost of the survey would be approximately 4.5-5k. It was agreed that this was too great a cost. A site survey is needed, if the site was to be considered as a SSSI. It was agreed that this project should be "put on hold".
11. In October, 2022, there was a serious outbreak of avian flu. Trustees were in daily contact with DEFRA and Preston City Council. A risk assessment was put in place and signage was placed around the site.

Trustees conducted regular walks around the site, noting newly dead birds. Volunteer work and all volunteer days were suspended. It was suggested that, in line with DEFRA guidance, volunteer days could resume 14 days after the last carcass had been logged. Members and volunteers were kept updated about the avian flu situation.

12. Following the crisis, a newly formed "Crisis Sub-Committee" was formed to act when necessary.
13. During October the contractors, Wilkinsons, completed 4 days work, cutting grass on the south side of the embankment of the Fen and making incursions into the Fen itself.
14. There has been much discussion regarding the installation of an electric fence to protect breeding waders from mammalian predation. However, such an installation would not prevent avian predation. The trustees have also discussed installing wildlife trail cameras on the site.
15. In January 2023, the Treasurer reported that there had been fraudulent activity on the Trust Stripe payments account in December, 2022. As soon as we became aware of the fraudulent activity, the website payment facility was deactivated. Monies were refunded to all USA citizens involved in the card testing incident.
16. In January 2023, following the crisis of a deer being injured on the railings, a trustee offered to make contact with a local contractor, who, he said, may be able to file the railings down by half an inch to help prevent the deer being injured.
17. In February the issue of improved signage for the site was discussed. A trustee said that he had a contact in the village who could produce signs for the Trust.
18. Volunteer days resumed in January 2023. The number of volunteers has decreased this year. Reduced rates of volunteering could be due to avian flu and the pandemic. We will relaunch an appeal for volunteers in autumn 2023.
19. The Trust held a successful "Spring Flower Walk", Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup> 2023.
20. This year we have had visits from the Fylde Rangers and the Ribble Rivers Trust. Both these organisations have coppiced the willow.
21. 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023, a local walking group, "Lancashire Dot Com Walkers" enjoyed a guided walk of the site.
22. Volunteer photographers regularly continue to take excellent photographs for the Trust's Face Book site.
23. Fundraising: Andy Small continued to raise funds with his book stall, calendars and other initiatives, until his untimely death in June 2023.
24. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 1<sup>st</sup> Grimsargh Scouts visited the site for the "King's Big Coronation Help Out" The scouts weeded the site and enjoyed Coronation cup-cakes, baked by a volunteer.
25. In May, Andy, Phil, and Mike led two classes from Alston Lane School around the Wetlands. They received very positive feedback.
26. At May's meeting, a Fen project was discussed. The trustees would like to install a boardwalk, improved fencing, a sluice and steps down to the Fen. It was suggested that the Trust should apply to the LEF for funding.
27. It has been noted that the site is now attracting many more ornithologists from a wider area, possibly due to the website and social media sites. The site is attracting a wide range of "good" birds, including avocets, garganeys, little ringed plover, lapwing, whimbrel, scoter, greater crested grebe, and cormorants. This year has paid dividends;

lapwing, oyster catcher, avocet and greater crested grebe have bred. Several little egrets also visited the site this year. Trustee David Hindle and local ornithologist Geoff Carefoot regularly log recent bird sightings on the East Lancashire Ornithologists' Club website.

28. Trustees regularly attend Field Days and other events in the area, including the "Goosnargh and Longridge Agricultural Show".
29. Dog faeces continues to be a problem on the public footpath.
30. GPC has donated several nesting boxes and bat boxes to the Trust.
31. Mike Fisher continues to produce and circulate an excellent quarterly newsletter, updating volunteers and members with news and progress on the Wetlands. Hard copies of the newsletter are also given to visitors to the site, new residents to the village and to new members. The newsletter is now archived on the website. Mike also writes a biannual article for Grimsargh Parish Council's newsletter.
32. The trustees continue to have an excellent working relationship with Grimsargh Parish Council. The clerk to the Parish Council is now invited to attend meetings, so that she can update the trustees with relevant planning applications etc She receives agendas and minutes and is invited to each meeting. GPC is the freeholder of the site. Currently Councillor Terry Cryer and Deputy Councillor, Peter Burton, represent the Parish Council at the Trust AGM and any other meetings that would require the Parish Council to vote.
33. While we have faced a challenging twelve months, the trustees have worked tirelessly to keep the Trust going. A lot has been achieved and ongoing maintenance continues to be a challenge but, hopefully, the re-established volunteer days, and the use of professional contractors, will help us to face this challenge successfully. We look forward to re-engaging with the public through our volunteer days and guided walks, and we look forward to relaunching and increasing our membership and our volunteering base.
34. Membership – There are currently 29 members. Membership has dropped significantly. This could be for many reasons, not least the pandemic.
35. The trustees have held monthly meetings, which have been very well attended. Trustees continue to adopt a positive and proactive approach to managing and improving the Wetlands.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

**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.

**Section F Other optional information**

**Section G Declaration**

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

*Jayne Woollam*

**Full name(s)**

Jayne Woollam

**Date** 19/08/2023

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Secretary



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

1174037

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

1st. July 2022

To

30th June 2023

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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees	286			286	176
Grants	-			-	-
Fund Raising & Sales	4,352			4,352	4,699
Parish Council	-			-	-
Donations	6,600			6,600	1,508
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>11,238</b>			<b>11,238</b>	<b>6,383</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>11,238</b>			<b>11,238</b>	<b>6,383</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	3,970			3,970	3,397
Improvements & Repairs	2,000			2,000	4,028
Equipment	1,509			1,509	2,236
Expenses	1,092			1,092	305
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,571</b>			<b>8,571</b>	<b>9,966</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,598</b>			<b>8,565</b>	<b>9,966</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>8,598</b>			<b>8,565</b>	<b>9,966</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>2,640</b>			<b>2,667</b>	<b>- 3,583</b>
A5 Transfers between funds					
A6 Cash funds last year end	19,166			19,166	22,749
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>21,833</b>			<b>21,833</b>	<b>19,166</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	21,833		
	Petty Cash Account	20		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>21,853</b>		
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

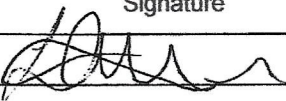
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	LC Walker	26/8/23

**GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174037

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# Accounts

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### Trustees' Annual Report for the period

		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	07	2021	<b>To</b>	30	06	2022

**Section A Reference and administration details**

**Charity name GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

**Other names charity is known by**

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, Charity, 1174037

**Registered charity number (if any) 1174037**

**Charity's principal address**

204 Preston Road,
Grimsargh,
Preston.
<b>Postcode</b> PR2 5JS

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1.	David Hindle	Chairman		
2.	Lesley Walker	Treasurer		
3.	Jayne Woollam	Secretary		
4.	John Willan		23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2022 – co-opted, to be ratified at AGM	Trustees
5.	Phil Atkinson			
6.	Steve Whittam			
7.	Mike Fisher			
8.	Andy Small			
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				

**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)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members, other than trustees.

How the charity is constituted  
(eg. trust, association, company)

Trust

Trustee selection methods  
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

A yearly re-election of a third of the trustees by the membership at the annual AGM. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should stand for re-election annually. Appointment of new trustees is open to anyone who is interested in furthering the Trust's purposes. The role of trustee should be advertised and potential new trustees should be invited to submit a short resume of his/her experience, relevant to the post advertised. A short interview may also take place. Grimsargh Parish Council selected the first trustees, following the submission of a letter of application and an interview.

**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.

**Section C**  
**Objectives and activities**

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

New trustees are advised to read the constitution, the handbook and various policy documents. The charity is a trust which abides by the constitution of a charitable incorporated organisation with voting rights by members. There are potentially 9 trustees. Currently we have 8 trustees, following the resignation of Geoff Carefoot, 2nd March, 2022. John Willan was co-opted Thursday June 23rd, following extensive attempts to recruit new trustees. On the 28th May 2018 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust signed a lease relating to the land, reservoirs and buildings, with Grimsargh Parish Council for a peppercorn rent, for 25 years. Grimsargh Parish Council are the landlords of the site, and the lease does include various caveats, as agreed with Grimsargh Parish Council. Clearly, there are risks associated with managing this type of site. However, the trustees have public liability insurance, the trustees are insured individually, and the trust liaises with United Utililites, the former owners of the site. The trustees have erected multiple signs around the site warning the public of hazards etc. Volunteers regularly repair or reinstate any damage caused by erosion or vandalism. Trustees risk assess the conditions prior to the volunteer days. Volunteer days occur on a fortnightly basis throughout the year, under normal circumstances. Prior to volunteer days, volunteers are advised via email and the new website, as to what to wear and the type of tools that will be required. Power tools are not allowed to be used on site by volunteers. Volunteers are given a talk at the start of each session regarding hazards and uneven ground etc. Children under 16 are not allowed to volunteer unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This information, including a disclaimer, is not on our new website, where most of our volunteers can register their intention to volunteer on a particular day. The Trust has two first aid trained volunteers, Steve Lunt and Neil Hartley (GWT warden).

Mission statement – “The maintenance and enhancement of the biological status of Grimsargh Wetlands for the benefit of the local community”.

The charity is established to promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of both the physical and natural environment in the area known as Grimsargh Wetlands, Grimsargh by promoting its biological diversity. At the same time, the charity promotes the provision of facilities for recreation for everyone, irrespective of age, infirmity, disability or social or economic need. The trustees also regularly hold educational guided walks for local groups, including school children, scouts and beavers.

**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)**

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

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

- policy on grantmaking;

Originally the site was made up of three disused reservoirs, largely neglected and largely inaccessible to the public, especially in winter, as there was no footpath, or the footpath was in a terrible state of disrepair. In five years since the establishment of the Trust, the trustees have constructed footpaths, mobility ramps and steps, erected gates, viewing screens and fences that have made this site accessible to all members of the public, including those with mobility issues, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. The Trust has also installed a sluice, which allows the trustees to regulate water levels to enhance the habitat for wading birds. Tern rafts have also been installed to try and encourage terns to breed on the site. Grimsargh Wetlands is fully accessible to all. The site is free. The trustees have established volunteering opportunities, educational walks and talks, as well as social activities. It is linking people, who would not otherwise come into contact, with each other and thus is creating a better sense of community, via its volunteering and educational opportunities.

The trustees are protecting and conserving the fauna and flora of the site, while simultaneously, encouraging the whole community to enjoy volunteering activities as well as being able to access the site irrespective of the season. This year encroaching raspberry canes have been removed and that has helped the return of the wild primroses and orchids on the south bank of the Fen. Grimsargh Wetlands is special in that it is really three unique sites in one site. The Fen, the Island Lake and the Mere, each site attracting very different flora and fauna, including red-listed curlews, lapwings, oyster catchers and little ringed plovers. In Spring curlews and lapwings appear in large numbers, proof indeed that Grimsargh Wetlands is an important staging post for rare birds. There are many other species of birds, including, breeding tawny owls, barn owls, many species of ducks and geese, terns, herons, buzzards, kestrels, herons, house martins, swifts, swallows, Mediterranean black backed gulls, and a plethora of crows and jackdaws. Badgers, butterflies, hares, deer, frogs, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, and many other insects are regularly seen on the Wetlands. The flora is also rather special, including rare hybrid willow, wild primroses, lichens, liverworts, wild orchids and many more species are to be found on the Wetlands. This year an osprey has been seen passing over the Wetlands, as well as a peregrine falcon and a rare garganey duck. In these days of encroaching urbanisation, it provides an oasis for nature in an otherwise overdeveloped urban sprawl to the north of Preston.

We continue to pursue grants from organisations, for example, "Naturesave Trust". However, while we recognise that membership, legacies and fundraising are important sources of revenue, in order to secure the long-term viability of the Trust, we need to plan for its future sustainability. Long-term it is hoped to develop the site further by reinstating an existing building on site from which an income stream could be derived, if it were to be hired out to various groups. Alternatively, a new building could be erected on site for the same purpose. It is also hoped that gift aid and donations will form a realistic income stream. It is hoped that our new website will also attract new sponsors in the coming years.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The pandemic has presented the trustees with several challenges again this year, as volunteers have clearly had concerns about new variants, for example, Omicron in November 2021, which has resulted in fewer people volunteering. However, we have continued to hold fortnightly volunteer days during 2021-2022.

Volunteer Days re-started in September, 2021, and while numbers have not quite reached pre-pandemic levels, a loyal group of approximately 8-16 volunteers, led by the trustees, have volunteered on a fortnightly basis, helping to clear pathways, clear the sluice, install tern rafts, clear stonework, clear scrub, prune trees and bushes, erect birdboxes, plant apple trees etc

Due to concerns about social distancing, the trustees took the decision to postpone the AGM in 2021. The Secretary, contacted a representative of The Charities Commission who advised her that the AGM could be postponed if it was in the "interests of the trust". In April 2021, a representative from the Charities Commission said, "It is essential that members can see and hear the trustees at the AGM and if these conditions cannot be met safely, then the meeting can be postponed. If this is the case, all trustees and officers can remain in post until the next AGM." As several of our members do not have the technology to access Zoom, the decision was made to postpone the AGM in the interests of public safety and members were notified of the postponement. In addition, the trustees also took the decision to postpone membership fees until the next AGM. The trustees are delighted to be able to hold a face-to-face AGM on Wednesday 20th July, 2022 and we look forward to welcoming our members and updating them on the progress that has been made during 2021-2022.

Despite the challenges we have faced, 7 individuals have become new members between 2021 and 2022. Current membership stands at 54.

Trustees voted to keep membership fees at the same level as the previous year, 2021-2022. The following are the subscriptions: Individual, £20.00; Volunteer/Student, £10.00; Life, £250.00; Corporate Sponsor, £100.00. As the Corporate "Members" do not have voting rights at the AGM, it was agreed that they would be redesignated, "Sponsors" rather than "Members". Membership fees were agreed by trustees at a meeting on the 16th December, 2020. Currently, new members receive: a membership card; a Grimsargh Wetlands Trust sticker; an exclusive guided walk; an invitation to the AGM with voting rights; a quarterly newsletter and new members receive a calendar.

#### Achievements of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, 2021-2022

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Grimsargh Wetlands has continued to thrive and while it has been a challenging year in some ways, and we have faced challenges trying to return to some semblance of "normality", much has been achieved:

##### 1. Meetings - July 2021-June 2022

The last 12 months have been challenging for the trustees, not least because, for the most part, we have been unable to hold face-to-face meetings. However, we have held 10 general meetings in total, 8 via Zoom, and 2 socially distanced meetings in the Secretary's Garden. We hope to be able to continue to hold face-to-face meetings, but the

Autumn could present challenges; however, we are now equipped to revert to Zoom meetings should the need arise. We currently, have 8 trustees, although our constitution allows for 9. John Willan's appointment in May 2022 needs to be considered and ratified at the AGM. The appointment of a new trustee arose following the resignation of Geoff Carefoot, whose contribution to Grimsargh Wetlands has been huge, project managing the installation of the sluice, overseeing, and procuring funding for the new ramp and screens at the Fen, project managing the reprofiling of the islands, procuring the container and overseeing the installation of the tern rafts.

We currently have a vacancy for one trustee.

Meetings have been highly productive, and a lot has been achieved throughout the year. Full attendance by trustees at the meetings is nearly always recorded, as noted in the minutes. Trustees are committed and proactive.

## 2. The Website

The redeveloped website, launched in December 2020, providing information for visitors to the reserve, along with an on-line map showing the location of all the access points and viewing screens, together with a database of the wildlife likely to be seen at the Wetlands. There is also an on-line shop and membership of the Trust can be renewed on-line. Future events, from volunteer days to guided walks are also bookable online. The quarterly newsletter is also available on-line. Previous newsletters are now archived on the website. The website has already elicited more engagement from the local community and wider public and the trustees believe that it has been a significant achievement for the Trust. It also generates income through its shop. We acknowledge the immense support of HAN Communications in assisting Trustees to manage this enterprise.

In April 2022, the trustees approved funding for the ongoing website hosting and phase II of development. There was a need to make the site more secure and to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the site. Given that our current provider, can no longer continue to host and maintain the site, the Trust now needs to pay to host the website with a professional provider.

As ID Design, redeveloped the website, it was agreed that ID Designs should host the website. There was an initial transfer cost of £200.00. Phase II of the development will incur costs for allowing video content and PDFs etc. ID Designs offered a rate of 50% discount on the industry rate, to support the Trust as a charity.

This transfer will see the site hosted professionally and securely by the company who built it, whilst allowing the Trust to make improvements to the CMS that sits behind it, allowing us to continue to present a professional image for Grimsargh Wetlands Trust to both the community and potential funders.

Many of the photos on our website have been taken by two local

photographers and we are very grateful to Gerry and Richard for also updating our Facebook page on almost a daily basis. Their excellent photographs stimulate engagement with the community and also serve to log the fauna and flora on the site.

3. Fundraising 2021-2022

The trustees are very grateful to trustee Andy Small for his herculean fundraising efforts this year at a time when the pandemic has had a serious impact on our fundraising ability. However, Andy has continued with his weekly book stall and “Click and Collect” sales; while fundraising opportunities have been limited. The Trust organised printing of a Calendar at Christmas to fund raise which again was a success. However, much of our costs are the “unglamorous” ongoing costs of insurance and maintenance; securing funding for these costs presents the Trust with a continuing challenge!

4. Meetings 2020-2021

The last 12 months have been difficult for the trustees, not least because, for the most part, we have been unable to hold face-to-face meetings. Two trustees have also suffered from serious illness.

We have had 10 general meetings in total, 8 via Zoom, and 2, socially distanced meetings in the Secretary’s Garden. We hope to be able to continue to hold face-to-face meetings, but the Autumn could present challenges; we are now equipped to revert to Zoom meetings should the need arise. We currently, have 8 trustees, one pending ratification, although our constitution allows for 9. Meetings have been highly productive, and a lot has been achieved throughout the year, despite the obvious limitations this year. Full attendance by trustees at the meetings is nearly always recorded, as noted in the minutes. The Warden, provides regular updates on his work at meetings. Trustees and GPC are circulated with agendas and minutes.

5. Newsletter 2021-2022

Mike Fisher continues to produce and circulate an excellent quarterly newsletter, updating volunteers and members with news and progress on the Wetlands. Hard copies of the newsletter are also given to new residents to the village and to new members. The newsletter is now archived on the website. Mike also writes a biannual article for Grimsargh Parish Council’s newsletter. The newsletter continues to be one of the highlights of the Wetlands, a conduit for the Trust to channel its news and progress to the community and the wider public, and we are extremely grateful for all his talent, hard work and commitment.

6. Grimsargh Parish Council

The trustees continue to have an excellent working relationship with Grimsargh Parish Council. The clerk to the Parish Council and Councillors are invited to attend meetings as necessary to liaise with the Trustees on matters of mutual interest.

7. “Open Day” – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021

This marked the formal opening of the viewing screens and access

points, and invitations were sent to all our supporters, including a representative of the LEF, and our Patron, Lord Horam of Grimsargh.

The highlight was the official opening of the screens and access points, followed by a guided walk around the Wetlands and finally afternoon tea in the Secretary's Garden. A good time was had by all!

#### 8. Volunteer Days

In early November 2021, we were joined by a team from the Fylde Ranger Service. In early November, we were joined by members of the Ribble Rivers Trust. Our own regular volunteer sessions have been reasonably well attended throughout the year, and we have been joined by Police Cadets and Scouts on occasions. The schedule of volunteer days is placed on the website and emailed to volunteers by the secretary. All volunteer sessions occur at the weekends, on a fortnightly basis, rotating Saturdays and Sundays. We ask everyone to book onto the volunteer day, using the website. A great deal has been achieved during the year by our volunteers. In the Autumn, Wilkinson's Landscapers were employed for three days to clear scrub from the embankment slopes and embankment tops. This clearance has meant that the wild primroses and orchids have been given the opportunity to flourish in Spring.

In May 2022, trustee Steven Whittam procured several native apple trees. Trustees and volunteers have now planted the trees in the wildflower meadow, and hopefully, the trees will attract pollinating insects. Hopefully, it will become a community orchard.

#### 9. The Community

We honour our commitment to the community by proactively engaging with it. In the autumn 2021, we held a guided walk for the children of Alston Lane School, and Grimsargh St. Michael's School visited the site for the first time on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. On Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup>, we held a Spring Flower Walk for the community, which was very well attended, indeed it was at capacity, and we received excellent feedback. The 1<sup>st</sup> Grimsargh Beavers attended a guided walk, Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2021.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> June, Grimsargh Wetlands Trust had a stall at Grimsargh Field Day, and the trustees intend to attend Longridge Show on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July. These events are important for informing the community about the work of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, as well as presenting us with an opportunity to raise funds.

#### 10. The LEF

LEF representatives attended the 'open day' of the Wetlands and also attended the site in November 2021 in order to take photographs of the site. As one of their flagship projects, the site will feature heavily in their annual report and publicity material. The LEF has very generously funded the site over the last 5 years and the CEO requested a visit of the site on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### 11. House to House Collection Licence and Street Collection Permit

The Secretary applied for and was granted the above from Preston City Council, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

## 12. Wildlife Highlights 2021-2022

Fauna – In the autumn, a Pectoral Sandpiper was photographed and a Trustee also came across a Water Scorpion. During September 2021, one of our regular photographers sighted a Common Green Grasshopper and a Meadow Grasshopper. In the Spring, good numbers of wildfowl, waders and other birds were noted.

In Spring 2022 there were 300 mallards on site, over 40 shoveler on one occasion, over 30 teal, 13 tufted duck, 12 gadwell, 5 shellduck, 2 pochard, 2 goldeneye, 2 wigeon, terns, tawny owls, 8 moorhen, 2 little grebe, heron and 2 goosander. There have been an encouraging variety of waders reported, over 300 lapwing, 43 curlew, 190 whimbrel, 3 oyster catcher, 3 snipe, 1 common sandpiper, 1 black tailed godwit, 1 redshank. In the Spring there have been many winged visitors, including Mediterranean gulls, greylag geese and Canada geese. Raptors include, kestrel, peregrine falcon, buzzard and a rare sighting of an osprey and a drake garganey. There have also been many songbirds, redwing and fieldfare noted. There are many different varieties of butterfly, damselfly and many other insects. There are regular sightings of roe deer, hare, shrew, rabbit and the occasional rat!

Visitors regularly update the ELOC website, reporting ornithological sightings.

### Flora

In spring 2022, following the clearance of the south embankment of the Mere, there was a profusion of wild primroses and orchids noted. There was also an abundance of other spring flowers including, Lesser Celandine, Colt's Foot, and Wood Anemone. The following were recorded during spring 2022, Scarlet Elf Cup, Yellow Brain fungus, Rosy Crust fungus, Jelly Ear fungus, and King Alfred's Cake fungus. The site is rich in mosses, fungi, and liverworts.

## 13. The Future

While we have faced a challenging twelve months and a lot has been achieved but we are under no illusion of the challenges that face us in 2022/2023. Ongoing maintenance will continue via volunteer days, and the use of professional contractors will help us to face this challenge successfully. We shall look to develop a 5-year plan if resources prove to allow this later this year. We look forward to re-engaging with the public through our volunteer days and guided walks.

### Immediate Future Plans:

- a. Butterfly Conservation Walk – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August
- b. 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Guided Walk – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September
- c. Further development of the website
- d. Installation of beehives, subject to GPC approval.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

**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.

Lancashire Environmental Fund, sponsorship, donations, fundraising, membership, book stall, calendar and Christmas cards, click and collect service, sponsors.

**Section F Other optional information**

**Section G Declaration**

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

*Jayne Woollam*

**Full name(s)**

Jayne Woollam

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Secretary

**Date. 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

1174037

## Receipts and payments accounts

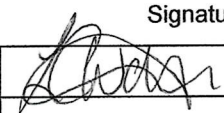
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For the period from	1st. July 2021	To	30th June 2022
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### Section A Receipts and payments

	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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees	176			176	441
Grants	-			-	15,230
Fund Raising & Sales	4,699			4,699	8,514
Parish Council	-			-	15,000
Donations	1,508			1,508	408
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>6,383</b>			<b>6,383</b>	<b>39,593</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>6,383</b>			<b>6,383</b>	
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	3,397			3,397	2,780
Improvements & Repairs	4,028			4,028	29,015
Equipment	2,236			2,236	6,848
Expenses	305			305	879
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,966</b>			<b>9,966</b>	<b>39,522</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>9,966</b>			<b>9,966</b>	<b>39,522</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>9,966</b>			<b>9,966</b>	<b>39,522</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 3,583</b>			<b>- 3,583</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>					
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>22,749</b>			<b>22,749</b>	<b>22,678</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>19,166</b>			<b>19,166</b>	<b>22,749</b>

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	19,166		
	Petty Cash Account	20		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>19,186</b>		
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error		
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	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
			LESLIE WALKER	9/8/2022

**GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174037

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# Accounts

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**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

Period start date                      Period end date  
From      01      07      2020                      To      30      06      2021

**Section A                      Reference and administration details**

**Charity name      GRIMSARGH WETLANDS TRUST**

**Other names charity is known by**      Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, Charity 1174037

**Registered charity number (if any)      1174037**

**Charity's principal address**

204 Preston Road,	
Grimsargh,	
Preston.	
<b>Postcode</b>	PR2 5JS

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	<b>Trustee name</b>	<b>Office (if any)</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for whole year</b>	<b>Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)</b>
1.	Jayne Woolam	Secretary		
2.	Lesley Walker	Treasurer		
3.	David Hindle	Chair		
4.	Geoff Carefoot			
5.	Phil Atkinson			
6.	Steve Whittam			
7.	Mike Fisher			
8.	Andy Small			
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				

**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 <i>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</i>	Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members, other than trustees.
How the charity is constituted <i>(eg. trust, association, company)</i>	Trust
Trustee selection methods <i>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</i>	A yearly re-election of a third of the trustees by the membership at the annual AGM. Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer should stand for re-election annually. Appointment of new trustees is open to anyone who is interested in furthering the Trust's purposes. The role of trustee should be advertised and potential new trustees should be invited to submit a short resume of his/her experience, relevant to the post advertised. A short interview may also take place. Grimsargh Parish Council selected the first trustees, following the submission of a letter of application and an interview.
<b>Additional governance issues (Optional information)</b>	

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.

**Section C**  
**Objectives and activities**

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

New trustees are advised to read the constitution, the handbook and various policy documents. The charity is a trust which abides by the constitution of a charitable incorporated organisation with voting rights by members. There are potentially 9 trustees. Currently we have 8 trustees, following the resignation of a trustee in 2019. On the 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 Grimsargh Wetlands Trust signed a lease relating to the land, reservoirs and buildings, with Grimsargh Parish Council for a peppercorn rent, for 25 years. Grimsargh Parish Council are the landlords of the site, and the lease does include various caveats, as agreed with Grimsargh Parish Council. Clearly, there are risks associated with managing this type of site. However, the trustees have public liability insurance, the trustees are insured individually and the trust liaises with United Utilities, the former owners of the site. The trustees have erected multiple signs around the site warning the public of hazards etc. Volunteers regularly repair or reinstate any damage caused by erosion or vandalism. Trustees risk assess the conditions prior to the volunteer days. Volunteer days occur on a fortnightly basis throughout the year, under normal circumstances. Prior to volunteer days, volunteers are advised via email and the new website, as to what to wear and the type of tools that will be required. Power tools are not allowed to be used on site by volunteers. Volunteers are given a talk at the start of each session regarding hazards and uneven ground. Volunteers are also asked to read and sign a volunteer declaration form stating that individuals are working at their own risk. Children under 16 are not allowed to volunteer unless accompanied by a responsible adult. This information, including a disclaimer, is not on our new website, where most of our volunteers can register their intention to volunteer on a particular day.

Mission statement – “The maintenance and enhancement of the biological status of Grimsargh Wetlands for the benefit of the local community”.

The charity is established to promote for the public benefit the conservation, protection and improvement of both the physical and natural environment in the area known as Grimsargh Wetlands, Grimsargh by promoting its biological diversity. At the same time, the charity promotes the provision of facilities for recreation for everyone, irrespective of age, infirmity, disability or social or economic need.

**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)**

Originally the site was made up of three disused reservoirs, largely neglected and largely inaccessible to the public, especially in winter, as there was no footpath or the footpath was in a terrible state of disrepair. In three years the trustees have constructed footpaths, mobility ramps and steps, erected gates, viewing screens and fences that have made this site accessible to all members of the public, including those with mobility issues, wheelchair users and families with pushchairs. The site is now fully accessible to all. The site is free. The trustees have established volunteering opportunities, educational walks and talks, as well as social activities. It is linking people, who would not otherwise come into contact, with each other and thus is creating a better sense of community.

The trustees are protecting and conserving the fauna and flora of the site, while simultaneously, encouraging the whole community to enjoy volunteering activities as well as being able to access the site irrespective of the season. The site is special in that it is really three sites in one. The Fen, the Island Lake and the Mere, each site attracting different flora and fauna, including buzzards, curlews, lapwings, barn owls, many species of ducks and geese, badgers, butterflies, hares, deer, primroses, wild orchids and much more. In these days of encroaching urbanisation, it provides an oasis for nature in an otherwise overdeveloped urban sprawl to the north of Preston.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

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

- policy on grantmaking;

While we have secured grants totalling £60,000.00 from the "Lancashire Environmental Fund" since 2018, including £10,980.00 January 2021, £3,000.00 from the "Alice and Harold Bridges Trust" March, 2020, and £1,250.00 from "SUEZ Recycling and Recovery Group", December, 2020, we continue to pursue grants from other organisations, for example, "Naturesave Trust". However, while we recognise that membership, legacies and fundraising are important sources of revenue, in order to secure the long-term viability of the Trust, we need to plan for its future sustainability. Long-term it is hoped to develop the site further by reinstating an existing building on site from which an income stream could be derived, if it were to be hired out to various groups. Alternatively, a new building could be erected on site for the same purpose. It is also hoped that gift aid and donations will form a realistic income stream. It is hoped that our new website will also attract new sponsors in the coming years.

## Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The pandemic has presented the trustees with several challenges this year, not least the suspension of volunteer days, which has resulted in the site becoming overgrown sadly, with the resultant loss of several species of plants and flowers. We have tried to hold several volunteer days during the year; however, as Preston was locked down for most of 2020/2021, our plans were thwarted and due to concerns over public health, the trustees cancelled the volunteer days in accordance with the law.

However, on June 19th June, 2021, we held our first volunteer day of the year, when small groups of socially distanced volunteers started work on clearing pathways and spillways. Following our Open Day, 21<sup>st</sup> August, we have plans to re-start fortnightly volunteer days during the Autumn.

Trustees have carried out urgent remedial work on the site during 2021. It is hoped, however, that with the easing of restrictions, the public will have the opportunity to volunteer regularly and safely on the site.

Due to concerns about social distancing, the trustees took the decision to postpone the AGM. In July 2020, and again in April 2021, the Secretary, contacted a representative of The Charities Commission who advised her that the AGM could be postponed if it was in the "interests of the trust". In April 2021, a representative from the Charities Commission said, "It is essential that members can see and hear the trustees at the AGM and if these conditions cannot be met safely, then the meeting can be postponed. If this is the case, all trustees and officers can remain in post until the next AGM." As several of our members do not have the technology to access Zoom, the decision was made to postpone the AGM in the interests of public safety and members were notified of the postponement. In addition, the trustees also took the decision to postpone membership fees until the next AGM. We are currently discussing whether or not it will be safe to hold a face-to face AGM in the Village Hall in the Autumn of 2021.

Despite the challenges we have faced, a record 15 individuals have become new members in 2021. Current membership stands at 47 and we have 63 volunteers on our register, although admittedly volunteers have had a long period of inactivity. Trustees voted to review membership subscriptions in 2020. The following are the new subscriptions: Individual, £20.00; Volunteer/Student, £10.00; Life, £250.00; Corporate Sponsor. £100.00. As the Corporate "Members" do not have voting rights at the AGM, it was agreed that they would be redesignated, "Sponsors" rather than "Members". We are currently also reviewing what our members receive for their membership. Currently, they receive: a membership card; a Grimsargh Wetlands Trust sticker; an exclusive guided walk; an invitation to the AGM with voting rights; a quarterly newsletter and this year, 2021, a calendar.

### Achievements of Grimsargh Wetlands Trust, 2020-2021

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, Grimsargh Wetlands has continued to thrive and while it has been a difficult year, much has been achieved:

#### 1. The Website – December 2020

The growth of our membership base this year, despite the lockdowns and closure of some of the site for part of the year, is due in no small part to our new revamped website. In September 2020, a member of

the Trust and a marketing professional, Hannah McGivern, volunteered to help the trustees revamp our website. We are indebted to Hannah for her tireless efforts to make our dream of a user-friendly website a reality. The trustees agreed a budget of £5000.00 and we received three quotes from several companies. A small sub-committee was established to oversee the website project. "ID Designs" was awarded the bid, and agreed to complete the project for £4,500.00. Mike Budd agreed to continue to host our website in order to keep on-going running costs of the website to a minimum. During the Autumn the sub-committee, Lesley Walker, Jayne Woollam and Mike Fisher, in conjunction with Hannah, worked hard to produce content for the website. The new website, launched in December 2020, providing information for visitors to the reserve, along with an on-line map showing the location of all the access points and viewing screens, together with a database of the wildlife likely to be seen at the Wetlands. There is also an on-line shop and membership of the Trust can be renewed on-line. Future events, from volunteer days to guided walks are also bookable online. The quarterly newsletter will also be available on-line. Previous newsletters are now archived on the website. The new website has already elicited more engagement from the local community and wider public and the trustees believe that it has been a significant achievement for the Trust.

**2. The Sluice – Phase 3 – September 2020**

In September 2020 a sluice was installed, funded by a generous grant of £3,000.00 from the Alice and Harold Bridges Trust. Subsequently, there was a controlled drop in the water levels and the sluice has allowed the trustees to control water levels across the whole site, thus improving the habitat and the breeding opportunities for wading birds.

**3. New Warden – May 2021**

In September 2020, the Secretary produced a job description for the Warden and Deputy Warden. In May 2021, the Deputy Warden, Neil Hartley, was appointed as Warden to help the trustees operate the site, following the resignation of the previous Warden. Neil has enthusiastically taken up his new role and the trustees are very pleased that he had accepted the appointment.

**4. Long-Term Goals – September 2020**

In September, 2020, Phil Atkinson, a trustee, presented the trustees with a list of long-term goals for the Trust. A small subcommittee subsequently was formed, whose objective was to formulate a long-term strategic plan for the site. The sub-committee is still working on this long-term management plan of the Wetlands. However, it was agreed by the trustees that in the absence of volunteer days and the huge task of maintaining the site, professional contractors should be employed four times a year to carry out remedial work on Wetlands.

**5. Reprofiling of Islands, Phase 3 – November 2020**

In November 2020 a local contractor was able to re-profile the islands on the Island Lake. This involved reducing the height of the islands (to make it easier for young birds to get into and out of the water) and

increasing the perimeter of each of the islands. By creating scrapes to clay level, a more diverse habitat has been created for the wading birds.

6. **Lancashire Environmental Fund - £10,980.00 Grant, Phase 4 – January 2021**

Following the completion of the work on the Island Lake, Geoff Carefoot, trustee, who has project managed Phases 2 and 3 of the development works, now rose to the challenge of project managing Phase 4. In January 2021, the Trust was delighted to learn that it had been awarded an additional £10,980.00 grant to help improve public access to the site and to install an additional access point and additional viewing screens. Geoff had also applied for this additional funding from the LEF. Work started in February and involved the creation of a new access point and viewing area overlooking The Fen. A clearing in front of the newly erected viewing screens, along with a small wildlife pond, were also created. In addition, two small viewing screens, overlooking the Island Lake, were also installed.

7. **SUEZ – Grant - £1,250.00, December, 2020**

The Trust received a £1,250.00 donation from “SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Group”.

8. **BBC Radio Lancashire – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

In March 2021, trustee Geoff Carefoot spoke about the work he had supervised/project managed to BBC Radio Lancashire, explaining how the funding from the LEF had been spent.

9. **The Container – Sept. 2021**

While planning permission for the storage container was granted in March 2020, the container itself was only placed on site in September 2020. The container is a very useful storage facility for our equipment, for example loppers, spades etc.

10. **February 2021 – New Marketing Committee**

A new marketing committee was needed to increase the on-line and wider profile of the Wetlands to the community. This sub-committee was launched in February 2021. Members include: David Hindle, Mike Fisher, Andy Small, Lesley Walker and Jayne Woollam. Hannah McGivern co-ordinates/leads the group.

11. **Tern Rafts – March 2021**

Geoff Carefoot acquired several empty cable drums from “Story Homes” to create tern rafts to be placed on the Mere. Cable drums make ideal tern rafts. He took delivery of the drums in August 2020 and has acquired additional drums since that date. Terns are migratory birds and only appear in the UK during the summer months. The Tern Rafts were installed, March, 2021. We are pleased to report that terns have since nested on the drums and have successfully reared young.

12. **Birdlife 2020-2021**

Although we have not been able to maintain the site over the last 18 months as well as we would have liked, development work, for example,

increasing the perimeter of each of the islands. By creating scrapes to clay level, a more diverse habitat has been created for the wading birds.

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12. Birdlife 2020-2021

Although we have not been able to maintain the site over the last 18 months as well as we would have liked, development work, for example,

Grimsargh Parish Council's newsletter.

**16. Grimsargh Parish Council**

The trustees continue to have an excellent working relationship with Grimsargh Parish Council. The clerk to the Parish Council is now invited to attend meetings, as she can update the trustees with relevant planning applications etc She receives agendas and minutes and is invited to each meeting. GPC is the freeholder of the site. Terry Cryer, a GPC councillor, continues to be GPC's representative to the Wetlands.

**17. Risk Assessment – December 2020**

In December 2020, Mike Fisher circulated several risk assessments from similar wildlife organisations to the trustees for their perusal and comment. Mike agreed to create a risk assessment for Grimsargh Wetlands. Once written, the risk assessment will be placed on the website for volunteers and visitors to read prior to volunteering/visiting.

**18. June 2021 – Police Cadets**

In June, 2021, the Chairman, David Hindle, confirmed that he had held a productive meeting with the Lancashire Police Force; potentially there is a pool of 150 police cadets willing to help on our volunteer days. We are hopeful, that going forward in the Autumn, we will be able to organise a group of no more than 20 police cadets at any one time, to help the volunteers maintain, protect and conserve the Wetlands.

**19. “Open Day” – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2021**

June 2021 saw the trustees planning an Open Day for the 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2021. In celebration of the funding received from the LEF, we are planning an Open Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August for the whole community. This will mark the formal opening of the viewing screens and access points and invitations to all our supporters, including a representative from the LEF, and our Patron, Lord Horam of Grimsargh, has been sent by the Secretary. The afternoon will be marked by the official opening of the screens and access points, the unveiling of a pebble art installation produced by local children, activity sheets for the children and guided walks around the Wetlands for the public.

**20. The Future**

While we have faced a challenging twelve months, the trustees have worked tirelessly to keep the Trust going. A lot has been achieved but we are under no illusion to the challenges that face us in 2021/2022. Ongoing maintenance continues to be a challenge but, hopefully, the re-established volunteer days, and the use of professional contractors, will help us to face this challenge successfully. We look forward to re-engaging with the public through our volunteer days and guided walks, and we look forward to relaunching and increasing our membership and our volunteers at the next AGM.

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

**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.

Lancashire Environmental Fund, SUEZ, sponsorship, donations, fundraising, membership, book stall, calendar and Christmas cards, click and collect service, sponsors.

1. A grant of £10,980.00 for Phase 4 work on The Fen – installation of viewing screens, ramp, excavation of ponds.
2. A donation of £1,250.00 from SUEZ Recycling – to support biodiversity on the site.

**Section F Other optional information**

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**Section G Declaration**

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

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

**Signature(s)**

Jayne Woollam *Jayne Woollam*

**Full name(s)**

Jayne Woollam

**Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)**

Secretary

**Date. August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

1174037

CC16a

## Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	1st. July 2020	To	30th June 2021
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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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership Fees	441			441	510
Grants	4,250	10,980		15,230	19,992
Fund Raising & Sales	8,514			8,514	2,929
Parish Council	15,000			15,000	20,000
Donations	408			408	880
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>28,613</b>	<b>10,980</b>		<b>39,593</b>	<b>44,311</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>					
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>28,613</b>	<b>10,980</b>		<b>39,593</b>	<b>44,311</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Insurance	2,780			2,780	2,610
Improvements & Repairs	18,035	10,980		29,015	22,699
Equipment	6,848			6,848	1,262
Expenses	879			879	266
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>28,542</b>	<b>10,980</b>		<b>39,522</b>	<b>26,837</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>28,542</b>	<b>10,980</b>		<b>39,522</b>	<b>26,837</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>28,542</b>	<b>10,980</b>		<b>39,522</b>	<b>26,837</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>nil</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>22,678</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>				<b>22,678</b>	<b>5,204</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>22,678</b>			<b>22,749</b>	<b>22,678</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>22,749</b>				

## 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 £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank Account	22,749		
	Petty Cash Account	20		
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>22,769</b>		
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error		

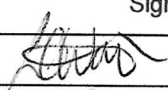
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	LESLEY WALKER.	21/8/21
Jayne Woollam	JAYNE WOOLLAM	21/8/21



# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Grimsargh Wetlands Trust

On accounts for the year  
ended

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Charity no  
(if any)

1174037

Set out on pages

One to two.

Respective responsibilities  
of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's 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,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent  
examiner's statement

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; and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities 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:

*Alex A Clements*

Date:

22<sup>nd</sup>. August 2021.

Name:

Rev'd. A. A. Clements

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body (if  
any):

Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners.  
15 Carleton Road, Great Knowley, Chorley PR6 8TQ

Empty box for additional information