

# PLAY@COTHERSTONE

England & Wales - Charity number 1174041

## 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** Pensbury  
Cotherstone  
Barnard Castle  
DL12 9PQ

**Phone** 07872987003

**Email** [anna.urbanowicz@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anna.urbanowicz@hotmail.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF COTHERSTONE AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, THE PROVISION OF RECREATIONAL AND SPORTING FACILITIES FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF COTHERSTONE.

**Activities:** To promote for the benefit of inhabitants of Cotherstone and the surrounding area, the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the entire community in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of Cotherstone.

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space
- **What:** Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

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- Durham

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£41,791	£51,552	-	-
2024-03-31	£19,730	£13,116	-	-
2023-03-31	£20,769	£13,003	-	-
2022-03-31	£8,354	£8,277	-	-
2021-03-31	£8,271	£11,675	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>JOHN MARK WINDLE</b>	Chair	2017-07-31
ANNA URBANOWICZ		2017-07-31
DREDA AMELIA RIDER FORSTER		2017-07-31
EMMA LOUISE ROWELL		2017-07-31
EMMA WILSON		2017-07-31
JONATHAN SMITH		2017-07-31
SHAUN ROGERS		2017-07-31
YVONNE URSULA BUTTERFIELD		2017-07-31

**PLAY@COTHERSTONE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174041

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# Accounts

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**PLAY @ COTHERSTONE**  
**(Registered charity number 1174041)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr M Windle</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Mr J Smith</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms A Urbanowicz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms E Wilson</b>

**Charity Trustees:**

Mrs Y Butterfield  
Mrs DAR Forster  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms E Rowell  
Mr J Smith  
Ms A Urbanowicz  
Ms E Wilson  
Mr M Windle

play @ cotherstone's contact address with the Charity Commission is:

play @ cotherstone c/o  
Pensbury  
Cotherstone  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 9PQ

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Governance**

Play@cotherstone operates as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which provides protection for the charity, trustees and volunteers and helps the group be sustainable.

The objects of the charity are:

*“To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cotherstone and the surrounding area, the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the entire community in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of Cotherstone.”*

The charity is administered and managed by 8 trustees. There have been no changes to the trustees during the year. We continue to look for new trustees to be appointed to the charity and be actively involved.

In addition there is a host of people who help throughout the year with maintenance, events and administration. Without the help of all these volunteers, the charity would not be able to operate. We very much welcome new volunteers to bring new ideas, drive and energy to help with maintenance, as well as holding Park and fundraising events.

play @ cotherstone has continued to operate a bank account with the CO-OP Bank. In keeping with our Bank Mandate, the bank account requires two signatures for all cheque payments and no electronic payments have been made during the period. The small holding of petty cash is held secure and requires a full audit trail.

In terms of governance, the charity operates under its Principles and Statement of Banking and Accounting Controls approved by the trustees in April 2023.

### **Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on a cash receipts and payments basis and cover the year 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

As well as cash, other assets held by the charity as at 31st March 2025 include; all the land on which the Park operates including the land under the Park barn, play equipment, trim trail, maintenance tools and event equipment. A register of play equipment is maintained but in terms of accounting value is written off as soon as installed. A note regarding the purchase of land during the year is noted below.

All grants with restricted terms are shown separately in these account. To assist the reader of these accounts, a summary statement of movement of reserves is included on the final page of these accounts.

For prudence, the charity had built up a separately identified unrestricted reserve up to 1st April 2024 of £1,500. This was to cover legal costs relating to the existing lease renewal or cessation, which would have arisen in the next 7 years. However, as the land was successfully purchased on 7th June 2024 the reserves policy has been updated at 31st March 2025. The trustees have agreed to hold at minimum one years maintenance, insurance, inspection and critical repair costs currently estimated at £3,000 per year

as a separate unrestricted, but identified reserve. Whilst the general purpose reserve is a fully unrestricted reserve and available for essential works and events, the trustees feel it prudent to separately identify a contingency reserve (unrestricted) in the event of being unable to undertake local fundraising events or secure grants during one year. The policy and amount will be reviewed annually.

In order to reflect the true operating position of the charity, it is also reported here that during the year the charity has also benefited from the following non-cash transactions noted as 'in-kind' value:

- The generous donation of 1 acre of land from Mr John Birkett, independently valued at £15,000. This was an enabler to secure matched funding from the Leveling Up Community Ownership Fund (COF) of £24,000 and from Durham County Council, Teesdale Action Partnership of £10,000. This enabled the charity to purchase the other two and half acres of land on which the Park is located for a sum of £24,000. The donation of £15,000 is shown as value received and value applied in the Receipts & Payments account to 31st March 2025. It is a material one-off sum for the charity, was instrumental in purchasing the land and was independently valued.
- As is normal practice we also report in the Treasurers Report that we have in total received other smaller gifts-in-kind totalling £419 and also benefited from a tremendous 576 volunteer hours during the year.

### **Fund raising, grants and donations**

A key part of the sustainability of Cotherstone Village Park relies on ensuring there is a suitable general reserve built up to continue operating even in difficult and unexpected conditions. Over the years, the Covid19 epidemic and rising material costs have proven this to be essential. Therefore, there is a constant need to fundraise to keep the Park open.

As noted above, the charity needs to raise around £3,000 per year to simply keep on top of essential maintenance and every day running costs such as the grass cutting as well as the annual insurance and inspection. This is over and beyond any capital additions or replacements.

We were delighted to have held the November 2024 Bonfire Fundraising Party which was a great evening and benefited from excellent weather this year and resulted in a significant number of people attending. This is a very weather dependent event and the surplus each year varies considerably. This year we are very pleased to report a surplus of £3,303 was created which was a very successful year and we pass on our appreciations to all the volunteers including the local fire service who came along to support the event. (November 2023 Bonfire Fundraising Party comparative £1,466).

We are particularly grateful to Mr Dent for the loan of the field used for the village bonfire and for the advance cash donations which provided assurance that the party could go ahead. In addition, of particular note was corporate support by way of a £250 donation from the GSK Care GSK Employees charity. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to plan, conduct and clear up the 2024 Bonfire Party and to all who donated cash, prizes and food on the day. This is a whole village event and it is brilliant to see the huge effort put in by volunteers to ensure we raise much needed funds.

During the year, other donations were provided by:

Cotherstone Fun Weekend Committee towards general running costs	£250
Cotherstone Parish Council towards general running costs	£500

The Fun Weekend Committee work incredibly hard to raise funds each year for our community and we are extremely grateful for their support during 2024/25 and past years.

In addition to the above, during the year, we were very pleased to have received the following grants:

Community Ownership Fund (COF) Department of Leveling Up towards land purchase	£20,000
Asda Foundation – for new swing bars	£1,000

All fundraising, grants and donations, together with payments during the year can be seen in detail in the accounts.

In terms of sustainability, we have embarked on a number of mini projects to strengthen the infrastructure, paths and boundaries and these will continue throughout 2025/2026.

Grass and weed control services were outsourced for the 2024 season and continue to be for 2025. We yet again, continue to thank Richard Toward for his valuable help.

### **Major Celebratory Event in the year**

The purchase of the land co-incided with 20 years of the Park being open and we held a celebratory event kindly hosted by Cotherstone Village Hall. We were pleased to see great coverage over a number of weeks in the Teesdale Mercury which highlighted the generous support from Mr John Birkett as well as publicity for our key funders the Community Ownership Fund (COF) and the Durham County Councillors, Teesdale Action Partnership (DCC TAP). Both John Birkett and our local councillor Richard Bell attended along with past trustees, many local volunteers and users of the Park. A commemorative boulder and plaque was installed in the Park. For those newer to the village it provided a lovely opportunity to look at old photos and understand how this has been a hugely successful village project, run by local villagers for the whole community.

Money from CPF and DCC TAP not only allowed the purchase of the land but it facilitated work to improve the boundaries, the installation of a disabled access gate, Park furniture improvements and general infrastructure works. All of which, maintain the appearance of the Park and help sustainability.

### **The Future**

We are extremely grateful to the many funders and private donors who continue to support the charity.

Our year end closing general cash reserve sits at £9,211 and our contingency reserve is £3,000. In addition we also hold the Asda restricted fund already committed to contributing to new swing bars expected this summer. We will continue to work with funders but understand that the risks surrounding the UK economy will make this increasingly difficult and therefore local fundraising will need to continue in order to keep the Park open.

The charity is grateful for the existing trustees to continue in post, however the execution of a trustee succession plan will be key to the sustainability of the charity and Park. Any person interested in becoming a trustee is most welcome to come and find out more about this vital work and should contact any member.

**Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Prepared by:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 21st May 2025.

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Mark Windle, Chair)

The charity is grateful for the existing trustees to continue in post, however the execution of a trustee succession plan will be key to the sustainability of the charity and Park. Any person interested in becoming a trustee is most welcome to come and find out more about this vital work and should contact any member.

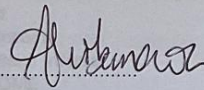
**Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Prepared by:

Dated:

10/6/25

Signed:



(Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

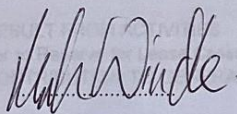
These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 21st May 2025.

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated:

10th June 2025

Signed:



(Mark Windle, Chair)

Receipts and Payments Account	2025
Balance b/fwd	€
Donations from individuals to running costs	50.00
Donations from sales of stock or loan of equipment	10.00
Prepared by: & Fireworks donations November 2024	4739.59
Gift Aid	240.00
Donations towards general costs	250.00
CPC - general	500.00
Other income	1.29
Investment	0.00
Transfer	6790.88
These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 21st May 2025.	42.69
Sum Posited	80.00
Income and Expenditure	230.40
Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:	98.25
Centre 2024 expenses	1436.36
Donations towards general costs - 2025	1000.00
Annual	585.14
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1461.83
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	2339.69
Transfer to Reserve or Reserve	-1500.00
	839.69
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	6372.20
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>9211.25</u>
Contingency Reserve - Unrestricted Funds (renamed from the cessation or renewal reserve)	2025
Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	1500.00
TOTAL INCOME	1500.00
Outgoing reserve transfers or payments	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1500.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>3000.00</u>

# play @ cotherstone

Registered 1174041 incorporated 31 July 17

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### General Purpose Fund from activity in the period - Unrestricted Funds

Receipts and Payments Account **2025**

	<b>£</b>
Income received	
Donations from individuals to running costs	50.00
Donations from sales of stock or loan of equipment	10.00
Bonfire & Firework donations November 2024	4739.59
Euro Football Sweep	240.00
Fun Weekend Grant February 2025 towards general costs	250.00
CPC - general donation to running costs	500.00
Minor refund	1.29
Investment Income	
Bank Interest	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	5790.88
 Expenditure	
Repairs & Maintenance	
general	42.68
Euro Football Sweep prizes	80.00
Playground and Park inspection - ROSPA	230.40
New Signage for Park	99.25
Bonfire 2024 expenses	1436.36
Grass maintenance and strimming services - R Toward 2023 season	1000.00
Annual Insurance Jan 2025	563.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3451.83
 NET RESULT FROM ACTIVITIES	2339.05
Transfer to Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal	-1500.00
NET CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESERVES	839.05
 BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	8372.20
 BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	9211.25

### Contingency Reserve - Unrestricted Funds (renamed from the cessation or renewal reserve)

	<b>2025</b>
Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	1500.00
 TOTAL INCOME	1500.00

Outgoing reserve transfers or payments

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1500.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>3000.00</u>

**Restricted Funds - Asda Grant for Swing Bars**

Receipts and Payments Account

**2025**

Income received	£
Grant received	1000.00
TOTAL INCOME	1000.00
Expenditure	
Purchase of equipment	0.00
Materials to fix and secure	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1000.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1000.00</u>

**John Birkett - donation of one acre of land estimated value**

Non-cash, but in-kind, donation, valued independently. The donation was the enabler to access other cash grants to complete the full transaction

**2025**

Value received	£
One acre of land donation - valuation	15000.00
Value applied	
Non-cash contribution to purchase of land	15000.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Department for Leveling up COF Capital Grant - sustainability project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	2025
Income received	£
Grant awarded	20000.00
Expenditure	
Contribution to purchase of land	20000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	20000.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Department for Leveling up COF Revenue Grant - sustainability project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	2025
Income received	£
Grant awarded	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
Support for grass cutting	500.00
Legal fees and charges - land purchase and barn title	1112.40
Fencing and boundry works	525.66
Engraved brass for boulder & contribution to boulder	961.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3100.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-3100.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	3100.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Durham CC - Teesdale Action Partnership - sustainability project**  
**Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2025</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant awarded	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
Contributions to 20 year and land purchase event inc to the boulder	457.96
New Signage in the Park	56.75
Fencing and boundary works including new gates	2620.58
Pathways and new furniture plus safety surface clean	2641.52
Land Purchase contribution	4000.00
Equipment for refurbishment and new installations by volunteers	223.19
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10000.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-10000.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	10000.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Cash at bank as at 1 April 2024 brought forward

Petty Cash held	67.75
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	22904.45

Plus total gross income for the year of activity 41790.88

Less total expenditure for the year of activity 51551.83

Cash at bank as at 31 March 2025

Petty Cash held for events	100.23
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	13111.02

**TOTAL ASSETS** 13211.25

### **Unrestricted Funds**

General Purpose Fund arising from activities	9211.25
Contingency Reserve (renamed from lease cessation or renewal)	3000.00

### **Restricted Funds**

Asda Grant for Swing Bars	1000.00
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**TOTAL FUNDS** 13211.25



**PLAY @ COTHERSTONE**  
**(Registered charity number 1174041)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr M Windle</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Mr J Smith</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms A Urbanowicz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms E Wilson</b>

**Charity Trustees:**

Mrs Y Butterfield  
Mrs DAR Forster  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms E Rowell  
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play @ cotherstone's contact address with the Charity Commission is:

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## **Treasurer's Report**

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The charity is grateful for the existing trustees to continue in post, however the execution of a trustee succession plan will be key to the sustainability of the charity and Park. Any person interested in becoming a trustee is most welcome to come and find out more about this vital work and should contact any member.

**Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025**

Prepared by:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 21st May 2025.

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Mark Windle, Chair)

The charity is grateful for the existing trustees to continue in post, however the execution of a trustee succession plan will be key to the sustainability of the charity and Park. Any person interested in becoming a trustee is most welcome to come and find out more about this vital work and should contact any member.

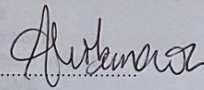
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Prepared by:

Dated:

10/6/25

Signed:



(Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

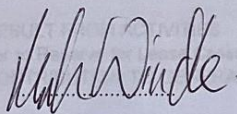
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Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated:

10th June 2025

Signed:



(Mark Windle, Chair)

Receipts and Payments Account	2025
Balance b/fwd	€
Donations from individuals to running costs	50.00
Donations from sales of stock or loan of equipment	10.00
Prepared by: & Fireworks donations November 2024	4739.59
Gift Aid	240.00
Donations towards general costs	250.00
CPC - general	500.00
Other income	1.29
Investment	0.00
Transfer	6790.88
These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 21st May 2025.	42.69
Sum Posited	80.00
Income and Expenditure	230.40
Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:	95.25
Centre 2024 expenses	1436.36
Donations towards general costs - 2025	1000.00
Annual	585.14
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1461.83
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	2339.69
Transfer to Reserve	-1500.00
Transfer	839.69
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	6372.20
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>9211.25</u>
Contingency Reserve - Unrestricted Funds (renamed from the cessation or renewal reserve)	2025
Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	1500.00
TOTAL INCOME	1500.00
Outgoing reserve transfers or payments	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1500.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>3000.00</u>

# play @ cotherstone

Registered 1174041 incorporated 31 July 17

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

### General Purpose Fund from activity in the period - Unrestricted Funds

Receipts and Payments Account **2025**

	<b>£</b>
Income received	
Donations from individuals to running costs	50.00
Donations from sales of stock or loan of equipment	10.00
Bonfire & Firework donations November 2024	4739.59
Euro Football Sweep	240.00
Fun Weekend Grant February 2025 towards general costs	250.00
CPC - general donation to running costs	500.00
Minor refund	1.29
Investment Income	
Bank Interest	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	5790.88
Expenditure	
Repairs & Maintenance	
general	42.68
Euro Football Sweep prizes	80.00
Playground and Park inspection - ROSPA	230.40
New Signage for Park	99.25
Bonfire 2024 expenses	1436.36
Grass maintenance and strimming services - R Toward 2023 season	1000.00
Annual Insurance Jan 2025	563.14
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3451.83
NET RESULT FROM ACTIVITIES	2339.05
Transfer to Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal	-1500.00
NET CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESERVES	839.05
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	8372.20
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>9211.25</u>

### Contingency Reserve - Unrestricted Funds (renamed from the cessation or renewal reserve)

**2025**

Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	1500.00
TOTAL INCOME	1500.00

Outgoing reserve transfers or payments

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1500.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>3000.00</u>

**Restricted Funds - Asda Grant for Swing Bars**

Receipts and Payments Account

**2025**

Income received	£
Grant received	1000.00
TOTAL INCOME	1000.00
Expenditure	
Purchase of equipment	0.00
Materials to fix and secure	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	1000.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1000.00</u>

**John Birkett - donation of one acre of land estimated value**

Non-cash, but in-kind, donation, valued independently. The donation was the enabler to access other cash grants to complete the full transaction

**2025**

Value received	£
One acre of land donation - valuation	15000.00
Value applied	
Non-cash contribution to purchase of land	15000.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Department for Leveling up COF Capital Grant - sustainability project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2025</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant awarded	20000.00
Expenditure	
Contribution to purchase of land	20000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	20000.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Department for Leveling up COF Revenue Grant - sustainability project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2025</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant awarded	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
Support for grass cutting	500.00
Legal fees and charges - land purchase and barn title	1112.40
Fencing and boundry works	525.66
Engraved brass for boulder & contribution to boulder	961.94
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3100.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-3100.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	3100.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Durham CC - Teesdale Action Partnership - sustainability project**  
**Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2025</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant awarded	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
Contributions to 20 year and land purchase event inc to the boulder	457.96
New Signage in the Park	56.75
Fencing and boundary works including new gates	2620.58
Pathways and new furniture plus safety surface clean	2641.52
Land Purchase contribution	4000.00
Equipment for refurbishment and new installations by volunteers	223.19
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	10000.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-10000.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	10000.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Cash at bank as at 1 April 2024 brought forward

Petty Cash held	67.75
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	22904.45

Plus total gross income for the year of activity 41790.88

Less total expenditure for the year of activity 51551.83

Cash at bank as at 31 March 2025

Petty Cash held for events	100.23
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	13111.02

**TOTAL ASSETS** 13211.25

### **Unrestricted Funds**

General Purpose Fund arising from activities	9211.25
Contingency Reserve (renamed from lease cessation or renewal)	3000.00

### **Restricted Funds**

Asda Grant for Swing Bars	1000.00
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**TOTAL FUNDS** 13211.25





# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A

### Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name  
play @ cotherstone

On accounts for the year ended

31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

Charity no (if any)

1174041

Set out on pages

(Examiner to complete the page numbers of accounts statements)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

It is my responsibility to: 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.

- 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 (other than that disclosed below)

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 Acthave 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed: T.W.L. Date: 21/5/25

Name: TERESA WILCOX

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): RETIRED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address: ROMNEY COTTAGE  
COTTERSTONE  
DL12 9PG

**Section B Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

**PLAY@COTHERSTONE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174041

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# Accounts

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**PLAY @ COTHERSTONE**  
**(Registered charity number 1174041)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr M Windle</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Mr J Smith</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms A Urbanowicz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms E Wilson</b>

**Charity Trustees:**

Mrs Y Butterfield  
Mrs DAR Forster  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms E Rowell  
Mr J Smith  
Ms A Urbanowicz  
Ms E Wilson  
Mr M Windle

play @ cotherstone's registered address with the Charity Commission is:

play @ cotherstone c/o Cotherstone Village Hall  
Moor Road  
Cotherstone  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 9PH

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Governance**

Play@cotherstone continues to manage Cotherstone Village Park, the land for which has been leased from Mr J Birkett on a 25 lease with an expiration date of 2031.

The charity operates as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which provides protection for the charity, trustees and volunteers and helps the group be sustainable.

The objects of the charity are:

*“To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cotherstone and the surrounding area, the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the entire community in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of Cotherstone.”*

The charity is administered and managed by 8 trustees. There have been no changes to the trustees during the year. We continue to look for new trustees to be appointed to the charity and be actively involved.

In addition there is a host of people who help throughout the year with maintenance, events and administration. Without the help of all these volunteers, the charity would not be able to operate. We very much welcome new volunteers to bring new ideas, drive and energy to help with maintenance, as well as holding Park and fundraising events.

In order to reflect the true operating position of the charity, it is also reported here that the charity has benefited from 548 volunteer hours during the year. In addition some, £540 of gifts-in-kind were received and of particular note, is the £250 bike rack donated by Durham County Council which using a small sum from reserves, has been secured at the front of the Park.

play @ cotherstone has continued to operate a bank account with the CO-OP Bank. In keeping with our Bank Mandate, the bank account requires two signatures for all cheque payments and no electronic payments have been made during the period. The small holding of petty cash is held secure and requires a full audit trail.

In terms of governance, in April 2023, we note that we updated our Principles and Statement of Banking and Accounting Controls and this was approved by the trustees.

### **Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on a cash receipts and payments basis and cover the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

As well as cash, other assets held by the charity are the Park barn, land under and around the barn, play equipment, trim trail, maintenance tools and event equipment.

All grants with restricted terms are shown separately in these account. To assist the reader, a summary statement of movement of reserves is included within these accounts.

For prudence, the charity continues to build up an unrestricted reserve in the final 10 years of the lease towards future legal costs. At the end of the accounting year to 31 March 2024, a further £500 was transferred into this fund from the general reserve to give a carrying balance set aside of £1,500.

### **Fund raising, grants and donations**

A key part of the sustainability of Cotherstone Village Park relies on ensuring there is a suitable general reserve built up to continue operating even in difficult and unexpected conditions. Over the years, the Covid19 epidemic and rising material costs have proven this to be essential. Therefore, there is a constant need to fundraise to keep the Park open.

The charity needs to raise around £3k per year to simply keep on top of essential maintenance and every day running costs such as the grass cutting and the annual insurance. This is over and beyond any capital additions or replacements.

Despite the weather, we were delighted to hold the November 2023 Bonfire Fundraising Party which was a great evening despite the rain and mud. The numbers attending were much lower than in recent years which was then reflected in a drop in the surplus arising from this event to £1.4k. Given the weather, we were pleased to still hold the event and bring in a surplus and it was excellent to see the local fire service come along to support the event.

We are particularly grateful to Mr Dent for the loan of the field used for the village bonfire and for the advance cash donations which provided assurance that the party could go ahead. In addition, of particular note was corporate support by way of a £50 donation from the GSK Care charity and gifts-in-kind of an estimated £40 from Farrans. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to plan, conduct and clear up the 2023 Bonfire Party and to all who donated cash, prizes and food on the day. This is a whole village event and it is brilliant to see the effort put in by volunteers and ensure we raise much needed funds.

During the year, other donations were provided by:

Cotherstone Fun Weekend Committee – donation to the new infant unit	£500
Cotherstone Fun Weekend Committee – donation to running costs	£500

The Fun Weekend Committee work incredibly hard to raise funds each year for our community and we are extremely grateful for their support during 2023/24 and past years.

In addition to the above, during the year, we were very pleased to have received the following grants:

Cotherstone Parish Council (50% of a £1.4k grant towards the new infant unit; having already received £700 in 2022/23)	£700
Durham County Council Teesdale Action Partnership Neighbourhood Fund – for sustainability	£10,000
Community Ownership Fund (COF) Department of Leveling up and Communities (DLUC) - for sustainability	£4,000

All fundraising, grants and donations, together with payments during the year can be seen in detail in the accounts.

In terms of sustainability, we have embarked on a number of mini projects to strengthen the infrastructure, paths and boundaries and these will continue throughout 2024/25.

Grass and weed control services were outsourced for the 2023 season and continue to be for 2024. We yet again, continue to thank Richard Toward for his valuable help.

Just after the year end we received a further grant of £500 from Cotherstone Parish Council (CPC) which is not reflected in these accounts but will appear in the 2024/25 future accounts. However, we acknowledge this receipt and many thanks to CPC for their continued support.

### **Major project in the year**

During the year we delivered a major project as part of our replacement and sustainability drive. We were very pleased to remove the original 2004 infant unit and instal the eagerly awaited new version. This was possible due to the hard labour of our volunteers as well as grants and donations. Our final project cash costs spread across both 2023/23 and 2023/24 are shown below.

<b>Funding source for Infant Replacement Unit</b>	<b>£</b>
Durham County Council TAP grant	13,000
Cotherstone Parish Council grant	1,400
Fun Weekend Committee donation	500
Utilisation of general reserves inc Eurovision sweep	111
<b>Total cost of project</b>	<b>15,011</b>

This is a flagship part of the Park and the new infant unit was opened with fanfare in May 2023 and it was great to see such good coverage in the Teesdale Mercury to highlight the generous support from funders, as well as the obvious enthusiasom of the children.

In addition benches and picnic tables continue to be replaced both for the enjoyment of users and to support the appearance.

### **The Future**

We are extremely grateful to the many funders and private donors who continue to support the charity.

Our year end closing general cash reserve sits at £8k and our set aside renewal of lease fund, at £1.5k. In addition we also hold restricted funds already committed to our sustainability project and we continue to work with funders.

The work above forms part of the Sustainability Project to secure use of the land to continue to provide Park facilities, refurbish/replace play equipment and upgrade its infrastructure and boundaries in order to provide the Park for future generations. The Sustainability Project started in 2021 and will continue into 2024/25. It is a milestone phase in the life of Cotherstone Village Park. This is an exciting time to take part in the redesign and enhancements in the Park. However, this new vision for the Park requires

new trustees, new volunteers, new ideas for fundraising and a team to deliver it, as well as capital grants. The trustees are working hard to make this happen and go into 2024/25 with optimism and a sound financial operating base.

The charity is grateful for the existing trustees to continue in post until the successful execution of a succession plan.

**Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024**

Prepared by:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 14th May 2024.

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Mark Windle, Chair)

# play @ cotherstone

Registered 1174041 incorporated 31 July 17

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

### General Purpose Fund from activity in the period - Unrestricted Funds

Receipts and Payments Account	2024
Income received	£
Prize donations returned	15.00
Donations for the load of equipment to others	20.00
Bonfire & Firework donations November 2023	2836.11
Fun Weekend Grant April 2023 new infant replacement unit	500.00
Fun Weekend Grant February 2024 towards general costs	500.00
Write back of rent for 2023	200.00
Investment Income	
Bank Interest	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>4071.11</b>
Expenditure	
Bike Rack - free bars but costs of fixing	118.08
Repairs & Maintenance general	59.71
Use of general reserves towards new infant unit replacement	110.71
Fun Weekend grant utilised towards new infant unit replacement	500.00
Use of general reserves towards new Asda picnic table	18.33
Bonfire 2023 expenses	1370.74
Grass maintenance and strimming services - R Toward 2023 season	1500.00
Annual Insurance Jan 2024	545.45
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>4223.02</b>
<b>NET RESULT FROM ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-151.91</b>
<b>Transfer to Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>NET CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESERVES</b>	<b>-651.91</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>9024.11</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u><u>8372.20</u></u></b>

**Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal - Unrestricted Funds**

	<b>2024</b>
Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	500.00
Outgoing reserve transfers or payments	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1000.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>1500.00</u></u>

**Restricted Funds - Asda Grant for Picnic Tables**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2024</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received	959.00
TOTAL INCOME	959.00
Expenditure	
Purchase of equipment	792.00
Materials to fix and secure	167.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	959.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

**Durham County Council - Teesdale Action Partnership - Replacement Infant Unit  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2024</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
Final payment for equipment - utilisation of funds	5633.75
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5633.75
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-5633.75
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	5633.75
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Cotherstone Parish Council - Replacement Infant Unit  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2024</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant Received - second tranche of £1,400 received 50%	700.00
TOTAL INCOME	700.00
Expenditure	
Final payment for equipment - utilisation of funds	1400.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1400.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-700.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	700.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**COF Revenue Grant - sustainability project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	2024
Income received	£
Grant awarded	4000.00
TOTAL INCOME	4000.00
Expenditure	
Valuation fee	540.00
Search fees	360.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	900.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	3100.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>3100.00</u>

**Durham CC - Teesdale Action Partnership - sustainability project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	2024
Income received	£
Grant awarded	10000.00
TOTAL INCOME	10000.00
Expenditure	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	10000.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>10000.00</u>

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

Cash at bank as at 1 April 2023 brought forward

Petty Cash held	381.33
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	15976.53

Plus total gross income for the year of activity 19730.11

Less total expenditure for the year of activity 13115.77

Cash at bank as at 31 March 2024

Petty Cash held for events	67.75
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	22904.45

**TOTAL ASSETS** 22972.20

### **Unrestricted Funds**

General Purpose Fund arising from activities	8372.20
Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal	1500.00

### **Restricted Funds**

COF Revenue Grant - sustainability	3100.00
Durham CC Teesdale Action Partnership - sustainability	10000.00

**TOTAL FUNDS** 22972.20

**PLAY@COTHERSTONE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174041

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# Accounts

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**PLAY @ COTHERSTONE**  
**(Registered charity number 1174041)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr M Windle</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms A Urbanowicz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms E Wilson</b>

**Charity Trustees:**

Mrs Y Butterfield  
Mrs DAR Forster  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms E Rowell  
Mr J Smith  
Ms A Urbanowicz  
Ms E Wilson  
Mr M Windle

play @ cotherstone's registered address with the Charity Commission is:

play @ cotherstone c/o Cotherstone Village Hall  
Moor Road  
Cotherstone  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 9PH

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Governance**

Play@cotherstone continues to manage Cotherstone Village Park, the land for which is leased from Mr J Birkett on a 25 lease expiring in 2031.

The charity operates as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which provides protection for the charity, trustees and volunteers and helps the group be sustainable.

The objects of the charity are:

*“To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cotherstone and the surrounding area, the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the entire community in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of Cotherstone.”*

The charity is administered and managed by 8 trustees. During 2022/23, we saw the resignation of Vice Chair Mr Sam Forsyth, Sam had been one of the original founder members of the charity in 2004 and the charity expresses sincere thanks for all his hard work and wishes him well with his future. We continue to look for new trustees to come onto the charity and be actively involved.

In addition there are a host of people who help throughout the year with maintenance, events and administration. Without the help of all these volunteers, the charity would not be able to operate. Therefore in order to reflect the true operating position of the charity, it is also reported here that the charity has benefited from 506 volunteer hours and £1,190 of gifts-in-kind during the year. New volunteers to help with maintenance and holding events are always welcome.

play @ cotherstone has operated a bank account at HSBC Bank plc since the launch of the original charity in 2004. However, with the introduction of significant bank charges on the charity bank account, the trustees made the decision to move banking arrangements to the Co-Op Bank plc who currently offer free banking. At the year end, 31st March 2023, this new Co-Op Bank account is now the only current account and during the year the HSBC Bank account balances were transferred to the Co-Op and the HSBC account, subsequently closed down.

In keeping with our Bank Mandate, the Co-Op bank accounts requires two signatures for all cheque payments. The small holding of petty cash is held secure and requires a full audit trail.

In terms of governance, in April 2023, we note that we updated our Principles and Statement of Banking and Accounting Controls and this was approved by the trustees.

### **Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on a cash receipts and payments basis and cover the year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

As well as cash, other assets held by the charity are the Park barn, land under and around the barn, play equipment, trim trail, maintenance tools and event equipment.

All grants with restricted terms are shown separately in these account. To assist the reader, a summary statement of movement of reserves is included within these accounts.

The lease has 8 years to run until 2031 and the trustees continue to monitor the situation and are engaged with the landowner to discuss extension to the lease and at this stage, see no evidence to suggest this will not be successfully agreed. As part of this process, a separate fund has been established within the unrestricted reserves to anticipate future legal costs. At the end of the accounting year to 31 March 2023, a further £500 was transferred into this fund from the general reserve to give a carrying balance of £1,000.

### **Fund raising, grants and donations**

A key part of the sustainability of Cotherstone Village Park relies on ensuring there is a suitable reserve built up to continue operating even in difficult and unexpected conditions. Therefore, there is a constant need to fundraise to keep the Park open. The charity needs to raise around £3k per year to simply keep on top of maintenance and every day running costs such as the grass cutting and the annual insurance. This is over and beyond any capital additions or replacements.

During 2022/23, we were able to host within the Park, part of the Village Fun Weekend. This raised surplus funds of £314 towards our general reserves. Many thanks to St Cuthberts Church for continuing to sponsor the 2022 Fun Run.

Later in the year, there was a private Bonfire Party which was a great evening and generous donations from this party led to another £2.7k surplus being added to our general reserves. We are particularly grateful to Mr Dent for the loan of the field and for all the early personal donations which provided assurance that the party could be planned in advance.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to plan, conduct and clear up these two events and to all who donated cash, prizes and food on the day.

Alongside these, donations were provided by:

Cotherstone Fun Weekend Committee	£500
Cotherstone Parish Council – towards general maintenance	£500

In addition to the above, during the year, we were very pleased to have received the following grants:

Teesdale Action Partnership Neighbourhood Budget – new infant unit	£13,000
Cotherstone Parish Council (50% of a £1.4k grant towards the new infant unit)	£700
Durham County Council – vintage bench project	£545

All fundraising, grants and donations, together with payments during the year can be seen in detail in the accounts.

Grass and weed control services were outsourced for the 2022 season and continue to be for 2023. We thank Richard Toward for his help.

## **The Future**

Overall, we are very pleased to report a closing general cash reserve of £9k.

At the year end, we also hold funds already committed or allocated to various projects the largest being £7k to complete the new infant unit (which was fully installed and open to the public in May 2023).

We are extremely grateful to the many funders and private donors who continue to support the charity.

The Park has been open since 2006 and we continue with our refurbishment plan commenced 3 years ago. Whilst repairs are the first approach, some of the play equipment and Park furniture is coming to the end of its useful life it needs to be removed. We hope to replace with similar items as endorsed by our Park Users survey in 2022. Where grants are not available, the general reserves will be appropriately utilised but only within the restraints of holding a sufficient liquidity buffer to meet essential costs in order to keep the Park open.

The new lease discussions and refurbishment is a milestone in the life of Cotherstone Park and it is exciting to be molding and enhancing the Park for the next stage of its life. This new vision for the Park requires new trustees, volunteers and capital grants and the current trustees are working hard to make this happen and go into 2023/24 with optimism with a sound financial operating base.

The charity is grateful for the existing trustees to continue in post until the successful execution of a succession plan.

### **Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023**

Prepared by:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 24th June 2023.

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Mark Windle, Chair)

# play @ cotherstone

Registered 1174041 incorporated 31 July 17

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

### General Purpose Fund from activity in the period - Unrestricted Funds

Receipts and Payments Account	2023
Income received	£
Donations for stock after events	30.00
World Cup Sweep - donations	320.00
Eurovision Sweep - donations	370.00
Early Donations to Bonfire 2022	245.00
CPC - Annual maintenance donation	500.00
Fun Weekend 2022 Donations & Takings	667.49
Donations from individuals and other groups for the use of equipment	180.00
Donation from the Fun Weekend to the Bonfire 2022	500.00
Bonfire 2022 Donations & Takings	3708.73
Refund of postage from Jupiter	3.50
Investment Income	
Bank Interest	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	6524.72
Expenditure	
New gate for Fitzhugh and fixings	59.80
Maintenance - materials	466.33
Fun Weekend 2022 expenses	353.70
Meadow Cutting & hedges - Mr Gill (outside grant)	156.00
Bonfire 2022 expenses	1026.32
Annual Rent 2022	200.00
World Cup Sweep - prizes	120.00
Eurovision Sweep - prizes set aside for May 23	170.00
Grass maintenance and strimming services - R Toward	1500.00
Vingage Benches - costs not covered by grant	305.79
ROSPA inspection	275.00
Annual Insurance Jan 2023	454.32
HSBC bank charges deducted from final transfer cheque	5.40
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5092.66
NET RESULT FROM ACTIVITIES	1432.06
<b>Transfer to Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal</b>	<b>500.00</b>
NET CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESERVES	932.06
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	8092.05
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u><u>9024.11</u></u>

**Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal - Unrestricted Funds**

	<b>2023</b>
Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	500.00
Outgoing reserve transfers or payments	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	500.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1000.00</u>

**Durham County Council - Vintage Bench Project  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2023</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received	545.00
TOTAL INCOME	545.00
Expenditure	
Materials to upgrade and install vintage benches	545.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	545.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Durham County Council - Replacement Infant Unit  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2023</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received	13000.00
TOTAL INCOME	13000.00
Expenditure	
Deposit to supplier to order main equipment	7366.25
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7366.25
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	5633.75
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	0.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>5633.75</u>



**PLAY@COTHERSTONE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174041

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# Accounts

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# play @ cotherstone

Registered 1174041 incorporated 31 July 17

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

### General Purpose Fund from activity in the period - Unrestricted Funds

Receipts and Payments Account

2022

Income received

£

Mrs R Dinsmore - charity coin box for children	59.00
Ms S Blackburn - loan of marquee for private event	20.00
East Briscoe Farm Cottages - donation for Fun Weekend 2021	110.00
Red Lion Holiday Cottage - donation for Fun Weekend 2021	70.00
Anonymous donation - to bring 2021 firework display to 15 minutes	170.00
CPC - Annual maintenance donation	150.00
Fun Weekend 2021 Donations & Takings	856.91
St Cuthberts Church for 2022 Fun Run Medals in advance	57.75
St Cuthberts Church for 2021 Fun Run Medals	71.65
Misc donations for goods left over after events	40.00
Mr G Franks - donation for filing cabinet	20.00
Fun Weekend Committee donation to 2021 fireworks display	350.00
Compensation for damaged equipment	10.00
Coin found	1.00
Bonfire 2021 Donations & Takings	3086.97
Mr P Coulson - donation for old goal set	25.00
Transfer of funds prepaid for picnic tables (S106 refund)	1428.00
Investment Income	0.00
Bank Interest	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>6526.28</b>

Expenditure

Equipment for use at events; electric extension, H&S, jugs & trays	133.51
New table tennis bats & balls to replace worn or broken	20.00
Fun Weekend 2021 expenses	406.42
Meadow Cutting & hedges - Mr Gill (outside grant)	122.93
Bonfire 2021 expenses	793.01
Annual Rent 2022	200.00
Recorded delivery - bank application for the new Co Op account	7.65
Supplier brochure underpaid postage	3.50
Medals for Fun Run 2022 purchased in advance	57.75
East Briscoe - donation for Fun Weekend 2021; utilised	110.00
Red Lion Cottage - donation for Fun Weekend 2021; utilised	70.00
Anon donation - to bring 2021 firework display to 15 minutes; utilised	170.00
Installation of picnic benches materials not covered by grant	12.75
Bank charges at HSBC	35.91

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE** 2143.43

**NET RESULT FROM ACTIVITIES** 4382.85

Transfer to Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal 500.00

**NET CONTRIBUTION TO GENERAL RESERVES** 3882.85

**BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD** 4209.20

**BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD** 8092.05

**Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal - Unrestricted Funds**

	<b>2022</b>
Incoming reserve transfers or income	
Transfer from General Reserve	500.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>500.00</b>
Outgoing reserve transfers or payments	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>500.00</u></u>

**County Durham Community Foundation - Covid19 support for insurance - revenue grant  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2022</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Expenditure	
Annual Insurance 2021/22 support	226.14
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>226.14</b>
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>-226.14</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>226.14</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

**DCC Small Grants - Covid19 support for general maintenance - revenue grant  
Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2022</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>0.00</b>
Expenditure	
Annual insurance 2021/22 not covered by CDCF grant	208.93
Meadow Cutting & hedges - Mr Gill - support	141.07
Annual safety inspection for 2021	250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>600.00</b>
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>-600.00</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>600.00</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

**DCC Neighbourhood Budget for replacement rockers - capital grant****Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	2022
Income received	£
Grant received	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
New rockers - horse & tractor for infant playground	1980.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1980.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-1980.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1980.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**The Big Lottery - AFA - Covid19 support for grass cutting 2021****Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	2022
Income received	£
Grant received	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	0.00
Expenditure	
Grass cutting	1500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1500.00
NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD	-1500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	1500.00
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**DCC S106 funding for new picnic tables****Restricted Funds**

Receipts and Payments Account	<b>2022</b>
Income received	<b>£</b>
Grant received (retrospective of paying for picnic tables)	1828.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1828.00</b>
Expenditure	
Installation costs of picnic tables	400.00
Transfer to general reserves (prior year paid picnic benches)	1428.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1828.00</b>
<b>NET RESULT FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>0.00</u></u>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2022****Cash at bank as at 1 April 2021 brought forward**

Petty Cash held	243.38
HSBC Bank plc - current account	8039.95
HSBC Bank plc - deposit account	232.01
Plus total gross income for the year of activity	8354.28
Less total expenditure for the year of activity	8277.57

**Cash at bank as at 31 March 2022**

Petty Cash held for events	150.08
HSBC Bank plc - current account	8344.21
HSBC Bank plc - deposit account	0.01
Co-Op Bank plc - current account	97.75

**TOTAL ASSETS** 8592.05

**Funds held at 31 March 2022****Unrestricted Funds**

General Purpose Fund arising from activities	8092.05
Reserve for Lease Cessation or Renewal	500.00

**Restricted Funds**

None

**TOTAL FUNDS** 8592.05

£ £

**PLAY @ COTHERSTONE**  
**(Registered charity number 1174041)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr M Windle</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Mr S Forsyth</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms A Urbanowicz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms E Wilson</b>

**Charity Trustees:**

Mrs Y Butterfield  
Mrs DAR Forster  
Mr S Forsyth  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms E Rowell  
Mr J Smith  
Ms A Urbanowicz  
Ms E Wilson  
Mr M Windle

play @ cotherstone's registered address with the Charity Commission is:

play @ cotherstone c/o Cotherstone Village Hall  
Moor Road  
Cotherstone  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 9PH

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Governance**

Play@cotherstone continues to manage Cotherstone Village Park, the land for which is leased from Mr J Birkett on a 25 lease expiring in 2031.

The charity operates as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which provides protection for the charity, trustees and volunteers and helps the group be sustainable.

The objects of the charity are:

*"To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cotherstone and the surrounding area, the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the entire community in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of Cotherstone."*

The charity is administered and managed by 9 trustees.

In addition there are a host of people who help throughout the year with maintenance, events and administration. Without the help of all these volunteers, the charity would not be able to operate. Therefore in order to reflect the true operating position of the charity, it is also reported here that the charity has benefited from 388 volunteer hours and £730 of gifts-in-kind during the year. New volunteers to help with maintenance and holding events are always welcome.

play @ cotherstone has operated a bank account at HSBC Bank plc since the launch of the original charity in 2004. However, with the introduction of significant bank charges on the charity bank account, the trustees made the decision to move banking arrangements to the Co-Op Bank plc who currently offer free banking. At the year end, 31st March 2022, this new Co-Op Bank account is now operational. To prepare for the final transfer, the HSBC deposit account was transferred to the HSBC current account during the year and early in the new accounting year, all final monies will be transferred from HSBC to the Co-Op and the HSBC bank account closed.

In keeping with our Bank Mandate, the Co-Op and HSBC bank accounts both require two signatures for all cheque payments. The small holding of petty cash is held secure and requires a full audit trail.

In terms of governance, we also update on our response to the Covid19 pandemic. The trustees had formulated an initial documented risk assessment in 2020, which has been periodically reviewed as the pandemic has progressed. The trustees monitor the UK Government announcements and pass on the relevant extracts to the Park users via physical notices in the Park and on

social media to promote sensible safe use of the Park. However, it is noted that the Park is a public outdoor space and whilst best endeavours are made by the charity it is the personal responsibility of members of the public to comply with the appropriate current UK Government regulations and supervise their children. At the time of writing, most restrictions have now been lifted and we now look to encourage the use of the Park to promote healthy physical and mental well being.

## **Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on a cash receipts and payments basis and cover the year 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

As well as cash, other assets held by the charity are the Park barn, land under and around the barn, play equipment, trim trail, maintenance tools and event equipment.

All grants with restricted terms are shown separately in these account. To assist the reader, a summary statement of movement of reserves is included within these accounts.

The lease has 9 years to run until 2031 and the trustees have started to consider the options available to ensure the sustainability of the Park. As part of this process, a separate fund has been established within the unrestricted reserves to anticipate future costs. At the end of the accounting year, £500 was transferred into this fund from the general reserve.

## **Fund raising, grants and donations**

A key part of the sustainability of Cotherstone Village Park relies on ensuring there is a suitable reserve built up to continue operating even in difficult and unexpected conditions. Therefore, there is a constant need to fundraise to keep the Park open. The charity needs to raise around £3k per year to simply keep on top of maintenance and every day running costs such as the grass cutting and the annual insurance. This is over and beyond any capital additions or replacements.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, we were really pleased that in July 2021 we were able to host within the Park, part of the Village Fun Weekend. This raised surplus funds of £450 towards our general reserves. Many thanks to St Cuthberts Church for continuing to sponsor the Fun Run.

Later in the year, there was a private Bonfire Party which was a great evening and generous donations from this party led to another £2.3k surplus being added

to our general reserves. We are particularly grateful to Mr Dent for the loan of the field and for all the early personal donations which provided assurance that the party could be planned in advance. Alongside these, donations were provided by:

Cotherstone Fun Weekend Committee	£350
East Briscoe Farm Cottages	£110
Red Lion Holiday Cottage	£70

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped to plan, conduct and clear up these two events and to all who donated cash, prizes and food on the day.

In addition to the above, during the year, we were very pleased to have received the following grant:

DCC S106 Funding for new picnic tables	£1,828
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All fundraising, grants and donations, together with payments during the year can be seen in detail in the accounts.

Grass and weed control services were outsourced for the 2021 season and continue to be for 2022. We thank Richard Toward for his help.

## **The Future**

Overall, we are very pleased to report a closing general reserve of £8k. We are extremely grateful to the many funders who supported the charity in the prior year (2020/21) with specific Covid19 support grants which helped carry the organisation through what was a very difficult time. We hope that the majority of restrictions are now behind us, however, we continue to keep a cautious eye on both the pandemic and economic conditions.

We now look to generate a future vision for the Park. Many of the items of playground equipment are now starting to come to the end of their accepted life and we will need capital grants to undergo a suitable replacement programme.

In addition, a survey has been undertaken of both local residents and tourists to invite comment on thoughts and aspirations for the future of the Park. The initial results have already been reported back.

It is an exciting time in the life of the Park and we go into the 2022/23 period, optimistic and with sound day-to-day finances.

**Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022**

Prepared by:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 2nd May 2022.

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated: .....

Signed: ..... (Mark Windle, Chair)

**PLAY@COTHERSTONE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1174041

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# Accounts

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# play @ cotherstone

Registered 1174041 incorporated 31 July 17

## ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### General Purpose Fund - Unrestricted Funds

Receipts and Payments Account

2021

Income received

£

Rotary Club - donation to new goal post project	150.00
CPC - Covid19 Support donation to maintenance	200.00
CPC - Annual maintenance donation	150.00
GSK Good Deeds - maintenance donation	500.00
Sale of barn stocks as Covid19 restrictions introduced	82.50
Donations from villagers in lieu of community support	55.00
	0.00
Investment Income	
Bank Interest	0.03

TOTAL INCOME 1137.53

Expenditure

Contribution to vintage bench (utilise CPC Covid19 grant)	156.21
Contribution towards new goals (utilise CPC Covid19 grant)	19.62
Contribution to mole control (utilise CPC Covid19 grant)	24.17
Meadow Cutting & hedges - Mr Gill	264.00
Two new picnic tables/installation (to be recovered via S106)	1428.00
Annual Rent 2020	200.00
Contribution to new permanent goal posts (utilise Rotary)	150.00
Phase 2 vintage bench project materials	512.66
Pitch enhancements ahead of new goals	183.95
Pest Control (moles & rabbits)	154.83
Installation of basket swing incidentals	12.84
Replacement 'no dog' signs for entrances	7.30
Replacement table tennis bats & balls	14.99
Fuel for equipment	19.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 3147.57

NET OUTGOINGS FOR THE PERIOD -2010.04

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 6219.24

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 4209.20

### TAP Grant - Basket Swing replacement - capital grant

Receipts and Payments Account

2021

Income received

£

Grant received 0.00

TOTAL INCOME 0.00

Expenditure

Purchase & Installation of basket swing 5700.00

TOTAL EXPENDITURE 5700.00

NET OUTGOINGS FOR THE PERIOD -5700.00

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD 5700.00

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 0.00

**Sports England Covid19 Support for grass cutting 2020 - revenue grant**

Receipts and Payments Account	2021
Income received	£
Grant received	1000.00
TOTAL INCOME	1000.00
Expenditure	
Grass cutting season 2020	1000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1000.00
NET OUTCOME FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**TAP/DCC Covid19 Support for grass cutting 2020 - revenue grant**

Receipts and Payments Account	2021
Income received	£
Grant received	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	500.00
Expenditure	
Grass cutting season 2020	500.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	500.00
NET OUTCOME FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**Hadrians Trust - Covid19 Support for sustainability - revenue grant**

Receipts and Payments Account	2021
Income received	£
Grant received	500.00
TOTAL INCOME	500.00
Expenditure	
Football pitch upgrade with new goals	130.00
Restoration of vintage bench	370.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	500.00
NET OUTCOME FOR THE PERIOD	0.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>

**County Durham Community Foundation - Covid19 support for insurance - revenue grant**  
Receipts and Payments Account **2021**

Income received	£
Grant received	650.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>650.00</b>
Expenditure	
Annual Insurance 2020/21	423.86
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>423.86</b>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>226.14</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>226.14</u></b>

**DCC Small Grants - Covid19 support for general maintenance - revenue grant**  
Receipts and Payments Account **2021**

Income received	£
Grant received	600.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>600.00</b>
Expenditure	
	0.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>600.00</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>600.00</u></b>

**S106 - Basket Swing Project - capital grant**  
Receipts and Payments Account **2021**

Income received	£
Grant received	404.40
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>404.40</b>
Expenditure	
Wet pour kits for safety surface repairs post installation	404.40
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>404.40</b>
<b>NET OUTCOME FOR THE PERIOD</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

**DCC Neighbourhood Budget for replacement rockers - capital grant**

Receipts and Payments Account	2021
Income received	£
Grant received	1980.00
TOTAL INCOME	1980.00
Expenditure	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	1980.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1980.00</u>

**The Big Lottery - AFA - Covid19 support for grass cutting 2021**

Receipts and Payments Account	2021
Income received	£
Grant received	1500.00
TOTAL INCOME	1500.00
Expenditure	0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	0.00
NET INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	1500.00
BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	<u>0.00</u>
BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	<u>1500.00</u>

In the year to 31 March 2021, the charity also received other donations in terms of £678 of gifts in kind and 276 volunteer hours.

# play@cotherstone

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	£	£
Cash at bank as at 1 April 2020 brought forward		
Petty Cash held		215.63
HSBC Bank plc - current account		11471.63
HSBC Bank plc - deposit account		231.98
Plus total gross income for the year of activity		8271.93
Less total expenditure for the year of activity		11675.83
Cash at bank as at 31 March 2021		
Petty Cash held for events		243.38
HSBC Bank plc - current account		8039.95
HSBC Bank plc - deposit account		232.01
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>8515.34</b>
	£	£
<b>Funds held at 31 March 2021</b>		
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>		
General Purpose Fund		4209.20
<b>Restricted Funds</b>		
CDCF - Covid support for insurance (revenue)		226.14
DCC Small Grants - Covid Support for maintenance (revenue)		600.00
DCC Neighbourhood Budget - Rockers (capital)		1980.00
Big Lottery - AFA - Covid support grass cutting (revenue)		1500.00
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>8515.34</b>

**PLAY @ COTHERSTONE**  
**(Registered charity number 1174041)**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Mr M Windle</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>Mr S Forsyth</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ms A Urbanowicz</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Ms E Wilson</b>

**Charity Trustees:**

Mrs Y Butterfield  
Mrs DAR Forster  
Mr S Forsyth  
Mr S Rogers  
Ms E Rowell  
Mr J Smith  
Ms A Urbanowicz  
Ms E Wilson  
Mr M Windle

play @ cotherstone's registered address with the Charity Commission is:

play @ cotherstone c/o Cotherstone Village Hall  
Moor Road  
Cotherstone  
Barnard Castle  
County Durham  
DL12 9PH

## Treasurer's Report

### Governance

Play@cotherstone continue to manage Cotherstone Village Park, the land for which is leased from Mr J Birkett on a 25 lease expiring in 2031.

The charity operates as a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO) which provides protection for the charity, trustees and volunteers and helps the group be sustainable.

The objects of the charity are:

*“To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Cotherstone and the surrounding area, the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the entire community in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the residents of Cotherstone.”*

The charity is administered and managed by the 9 trustees.

In addition there are a host of people who help throughout the year with maintenance and administration. Without the help of all these volunteers, the charity would not be able to operate. Therefore in order to reflect the true operating position of the charity, it is also reported here that the charity has benefited from 276 volunteer hours and £678 of gifts-in-kind during the year. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact the secretary for more information about being a trustee, joining the Management Committee, or if you are just simply interested in offering help with one-off events or special projects. A little, or a lot; all help is valued.

play @ cotherstone continues to operate both a current and deposit account with HSBC Bank plc. Two signatures are required for all cheque payments and the small holding of petty cash is held secure and requires a full audit trail.

In terms of governance, we also report our response to the Covid19 pandemic. To help control the virus, the UK Government announced the closure of all playground equipment from 23rd March 2020 to 3rd July 2020. Whilst the playgrounds were closed, we were pleased that the rest of the Park was permitted to remain open to enable safe outdoor exercise in compliance with changing public social restrictions throughout the year and which are still ongoing. The charity worked hard to keep the Park grounds open and well maintained throughout the year. The trustees formulated an initial risk assessment which has been documented and continues to be reviewed. The trustees monitor the UK Government announcements and pass on the relevant extracts to the Park users via physical notices in the Park and on social media to promote sensible safe use of the Park. However, it is noted that the Park is a public outdoor space and whilst best endeavours are made by the charity to use hazard tape and warning notices as and when required, it is the personal responsibility of members of the public to comply with the current UK

Government regulations and supervise their children. Hence regretablely whilst the pandemic is ongoing and the complexity of social groupings and activity restrictions from the Government are in place, we have had no option but to stipulate that no unaccompanied children are allowed in the Park at any time since 23rd March 2020. Parents are reminded periodically that this restriction exists and their responsibility in respect of adherence.

Sadly due to the impact of Covid19 we were unable to hold any fund raising events this year such as the Village Fun Weekend or the Bonfire Party but we are grateful for the spirit and enthusaisam of the community in keeping litter under control and identifying any issues promptly as they arise.

### **Accounting**

These accounts have been prepared on a cash receipts and payments basis and cover the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

As well as cash, other assets held by the charity are the Park Barn, land under and around the Park Barn, play equipment, trim trail and maintenance tools.

All grants with restricted terms are shown separately in these annual accounts.

### **Fund raising, grants and donations**

When the pandemic took hold in the UK and the country went into lockdown in March 2020, it became immediately clear that this was going to be a difficult year to do local fund raising activities with the village community. However, most did not realise of course that these restrictions would continue so deeply and for so long. As a result we were unable to do any local fundraising activities with the community during the April 2020 to March 2021 period. We are therefore very appreciative of the donations of cash (no matter how small) and other benefit-in-kind and volunteer time from our local community during this difficult period. At the time of writing, it is still not certain if any social activities can take place during April 2021 to March 2022 but we remain optimistic and eager to return to holding events in, or on behalf of the Park, at the earliest safe opportunity.

The charity needs to raise around £3k per year to simply keep on top of maintenance and every day running costs such as the annual insurance. This is over and beyond any capital additions or replacements.

Prior to April 2020, the charity had built up a general purpose fund of £6k as a prudent appraoch to ensure running expenses could be met for a period of at least 18 months should fundraising difficulties arise. Like many organisations, we did not anticipate a global pandemic. As the pandemic hit, deepened and lengthened, the charity began to have grave concerns over the ability of this to be a sufficient buffer. Therefore, in April 2020, the charity began to liaise with a number of contacts in local, regional and national

agencies to seek out grants and donations to help with revenue costs in these exceptional circumstances. We were very relieved with the magnificent response and will be eternally grateful for the support of the following funders who helped keep the Park open with revenue grants which enabled the charity to: cut the grass, upgrade the pitch, instal new goals and help restore and instal new vintage style seating. Keeping the Park looking good is not only a health & safety issue, but is critical to reduce any instances of vandalism and anti-social behaviour. This year, a lot of attention has been paid to the Park furniture in our desire to encourage parents and cross generational users to come into the Park which we believe is especially important during the pandemic.

As we emerge out of the social restrictions we look to encourage the use of the Park to promote healthy physical and mental well being.

The specific Covid19 support is summarised below, with the full financial detail on spend shown in these accounts:

• Sports England	£1000
• County Durham Community Foundation	£650
• GSK	£500
• TAP/Durham County Councillors	£500
• Hadrians Trust	£500
• Cotherstone Parish Council	£200

In addition, grants received before March 2021 year end but for the coming maintenance and growing season are held on account, namely the Big Lottery (Awards for All) £1,500 and DCC £600.

The grants and donations above enabled us to ‘protect’ the general purpose fund for future years and maintain the charity’s ability to sustain the Park in the coming years. Whilst it stands at £2k lower than last year closing at £4,209 at the end of this financial year, we awaited reimbursement of £1,428 from a S106 claim with Durham County Council for the two new picnic benches which was subsequently received after year end. Hence we still go into the 2022/22 year in a good position.

In terms of other grants and donations:

- TAP/DCC kindly provided £5,700 towards the replacement of the Basket Swing which is shown separately as restricted funds in the prior year and was eventually installed in the Autumn of 2020 once Covid restrictions together with £404 of support from S106 to amend the safety surface for this piece of equipment;
- Durham County Councillors funding the replacement of two aged and dilapidated toddler rockers for which the cash was received in March 2021 and these were installed in May 2021;
- The Rotary Club of Barnard Castle, £150 towards the new goals which with other support and benefit-in-kind donations were opened at the beginning of August 2020; and,

- We continue to give thanks to Cotherstone Parish Council for their traditional (not guaranteed) annual contribution to general funds of £150.

All fundraising, grants and donations, together with payments during the year can be seen in detail in the accounts.

Grass and weed control services were outsourced for the 2020 season and continue to be for 2021. We thank Richard Toward for his help. The grants from Sports England, TAP/DCC and the Big Lottery for both these years were utilised to pay for this necessary service, thus enabling the Park to stay open.

Overall, it has been a very challenging financial and maintenance year for the charity. However, with the support of some brilliant grant bodies, funders and our local supporters we have emerged in good shape. However, we continue to keep a cautious eye on changes in the Covid19 social restrictions and our resulting ability to raise funds each year to keep the Park well maintained and open.

Thank you to all.

**Play @ cotherstone accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021**

Prepared by:

Dated: 7th July 2021

Signed: *AUrbanowicz* (Anna Urbanowicz, Treasurer)

These accounts were independently reviewed by Mrs T Wilcox on 22nd June 2021

Accepted and approved on behalf of the Trustees:

Dated: 7th July 2021

Signed: *Mark Windle* (Mark Windle, Chair)