



Friends of Yeovil Country Park

"Supporting and helping to maintain Yeovil Country Park in conjunction with SSDC Countryside Team"

Reference: FOYCP14042021

Dated: 14 April 2021

Friends of Yeovil Country Park

Trustees Annual Report

for the Year ending

31 December 2020

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Reference and administrative information

The reference and administrative information forms part of this report.

Charity name

Friends of Yeovil Country Park CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

Registered Charity number

Charity No: 1185579 Registered 1 October 2019

Principal and Operational address

Yeovil Country Park, Brunswick Street, Yeovil. BA20 1QZ

Trustees

Trustees who served during the period from formation and up to the date of this report are as follows:

- Mr Gary Cashmore - Chairman;
- Mr Nicholas Hill - Treasurer;
- Ms Alison Suter;
- Mr James Fison;
- Mr Edward Sadler.

Constitution

Friends of Yeovil Country Park CIO was registered 1 October 2019, although already in existence (established January 2012) as a voluntary community group prior to this date. A Constitution for the Friends of Yeovil Country Park CIO was prepared and approved during the registration process as a CIO. Document issued on the 26 September 2019 at Issue 2 status, Document Reference: FoYCP28042019

Trustees Report

Friends of Yeovil Country Park report and financial statement as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) for the Charity's first period ended 31 December 2020.

Registration with the Charity Commission occurred 1 October 2019. Mention is given to the background of the Friends of Yeovil Country Park prior to registration for clarification and with the understanding that all of the assets belonging to the Friends of Yeovil Country Park would be transferred to the newly registered Charity in their entirety. This was ratified at a meeting of the Membership and Trustees. The accounts also reflect this position with a healthy balance of Funds for the newly formed Charity.

The decision to register the FoYCP as a Charity was discussed over several years and finally actioned in 2019. The principal reasoning behind the decision was that

it was becoming increasingly difficult to access funding streams without being a registered charity yet the Friends group had effectively been running as an unregistered charity since the group was first established. The Friends group relies entirely on voluntary time contribution from its Trustees, Membership and Volunteers in order to function.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) has had a severe impact on the group during the financial year with many events and activities cancelled or postponed and meetings disrupted. However, we have managed to carry out some tasks.

Friends of Yeovil Country Park remains an active going concern.

Accounts

The accounts were reviewed and approved by the Trustees.

Income and Spending

Accounting period 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2021 and the financial controls for the period for this report were reviewed.

The accounts include funds and commitments from the existing Friends organisation and these were transferred to the Charity 1 January 2020 totalling £9,104.57

Funds generated principal income;

Postcode Lottery Wyndham Hill Woodland funding, successful grant from money raised by @PostcodeLottery players. Friends have been awarded a grant of £7,000.00 received in June.

Tesco Bags of Help Programme funding of £1,166.00 (reduced as a result of COVID-19). Friends have committed to provide £1,500.00 from existing funds, together with the Tesco £1,166.00 will give a budget of £2,666.00

A donation of £200.00 was received for the Spring Trail and Halloween Trail, both of which had to be cancelled due to COVID-19. This will be carried over to subsequent years.

Park Yoga sponsorship income of £630.00 was received in February as a 50% contribution with the remainder of the sponsorship coming from the Friends existing funds.

Other sources of income were the sale of dog biscuits £140.00

Key spending was for;

This was limited to repair/replacement of signage in the Park due to vandalism £895.04 expenditure in February

Google domain name yearly expenditure of £10.00 and general expenses of £4.85

We had approximately 25 volunteers, excluding trustees, during the financial period.

Objectives and activities

Fundraising opportunities were severely restricted during the year due to the impact of COVID-19.

Submitted a proposal to Tesco Bags of Help for the preparation of trail leaflets and a marked walk in the Country Park. Our submission was successful and awarded £1,666.00 to which the Friends have added £1,500.00 from existing funds.

Submitted a proposal to Postcode Lottery to increase the woodland expanse at Yeovil Country Park improving biodiversity on poor grassland. Thanks to funding raised by @PostcodeLottery players, Friends have been awarded a grant of £7,000 to help us increase the area of woodland at Wyndham Hill by a third of a hectare and plant over 500 trees.

Summary of main achievements during the year

Implemented IT enhancements using Google G-Suite for non profits for the Friends with dedicated email addresses, common file storage for improved group communication. This will help public communication with the group.

Wildlife trail and Woodland tree planting project commenced November. An area in the park has been fenced off with gated access, over 500 trees have been planted. Over the coming years this will contribute to an improved environment and visitor area for the public.

Submission and continuation of Tesco Bags of Help project to produce trail leaflets which will become the mechanism to demonstrate to the community that the project funding is from Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme and Friends of Yeovil Country Park. Trail markers will be erected and family wildlife sessions delivered, all of which bring benefits to the community.

After vandalism to park signage a vandalism appeal was made to the general public via Just Giving to generate £895.04 which was spent on repair and new signage early in the year.

Key plans for the future

Public events Spring trail (Already cancelled due to COVID - 19)

Halloween trail

Establishing Friends website

Tesco Bags of help Wildlife trail project completion

Park yoga sponsorship

Exploring fundraising opportunities

Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is to retain a working capital to cover costs incurred prior to income being received (eg; Friends countryside calendar requires upfront expenditure before sales), cover unforeseen events, project overrun costs, etc. The amount is set at £2,500 unallocated reserves.

Risk

COVID-19 represents a challenge going forward in terms of the group carrying out some functions. Fundraising opportunities, public gatherings, events, volunteer assistance were severely impacted for 2020 with key fundraising activities cancelled. On this basis it remains a risk for some future activities to abide with the government guidelines and keep the public safe. Some future activities may have to be paused, delayed or rescheduled but the outlook remains positive that we will find a way through this.

DBS

We have contacted DBS for guidance 14 October 2019 and currently have no trustees, employees or volunteers who are in roles that are eligible. We will continue to review this for any new roles that we may undertake.

Report Approval

Report approved by all of the serving Trustees of Friends of Yeovil Country Park.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees;



G Cashmore

Position: Trustee - Chairman

Date: 25 May 2021



N Hill

Position: Trustee - Treasurer

Date: 25 May 2021



Friends of Yeovil Country Park

Charity No: 1185579

**Receipts and Payments Account and Statement of Balances
for the year ending 31st December 2020**

Receipts		Payments	
Grants	8,166.00	Purchases	0.00
Sales of Knitted/Handmade Items	0.00	SSDC Invoices	895.04
Sponsorship	200.00	Misc Expenses	4.85
Pencil Sales	0.00	Pencil Purchases	0.00
Public Donations	0.00	Calendar Printing	0.00
Spring Trail Receipts	0.00	Spring Trail Expenses	0.00
SSDC reimbursements	630.00	HLF Funding Contribution	0.00
Dog Biscuits Donations	140.00	Well Dressing Expenses	0.00
Super Saturday	0.00	Activities	0.00
Post Card Sales/Donations	0.00	Halloween Expenses	0.00
Halloween	0.00	Web Expenses	10.00
Calendar Sales	0.00		
Sale of Photographic Prints	0.00		
Total Receipts	9,136.00	Total Payments	909.89
-	-	Excess of Receipts over Payments	8,226.11
	9,136.00		9,136.00

RESERVE FUND

01/01/2020

Transfer of funds from Friends Group	9,104.57	REPRESENTED BY:	
		Balance at Bank 4/1/2021	
		Current Account	17,310.60
Excess of Receipts over Payments	8,226.11	Current No. 2 Account	0.00
		Deposit Account	0.08
-	-	Cash in hand of Treasurer (Café safe)	20.00
		Credits yet to be on statement	0.00
Balance to date	17,330.68	Cheques (and Debit Card) not on statement	0.00
			17,330.68

Notes to Accounts:-

1. This report covers the first period of the Charity Financial Year from 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2020
2. These accounts should be read in conjunction with FoYCP Trustee Annual Report Reference: FOYCP14042021

Nic Hill, Honorary Treasurer

Gary Cashmore, Chairman

Date of statement production 25/5/21