

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 APRIL 2025

Charity registered number: 1185712

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
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KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity registration number

1185712

Principal Office

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Somerton

Somerset

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Email

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Website

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Kirkham Street Field Community Trust (the Trust) was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation by the Charity Commission in England and Wales on 9 October 2019.

The trustees present herewith their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 5 April 2025.

Objectives and activities

The Trust's objective, as stated in its constitution, is

To preserve Kirkham Street Field as an amenity green space located within the town, including its environmental benefits; in order to provide facilities for informal recreation and other leisure-time occupation in the interests of social welfare with the object of improving the conditions of life for the Community of Somerton

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Kirkham Street Field (the Field) is situated close to the conservation area in the old market town of Somerton, Somerset. The Field was used as a school playing field until spring 2021 when the school relocated to new premises in the west of the town. Prior to being a school playing field it was used as the town cricket ground and before that for travelling fairs. The Field covers about 1.5 acres and is owned by Somerset Council (SC) which had budgeted to sell it to developers.

It is now over four years since the school relocated and in that time the Field has not been used and there is no community access.

In February 2019, following a public consultation about the new school, Somerton Town Council (STC) received a letter from a member of the public asking whether it agreed that the Field represented 'the best, and possibly the last, chance to create a new public park in Somerton'. STC agreed and decided the project to save the Field for the community should be a community led project. A community action group was formed.

The action group arranged several well attended public meetings that established there was widespread support for saving the Field for the community. This was confirmed by a Public Consultation in April 2019.

Based on the Public Consultation the trustees consider the potential benefits of the Trust's objective to be

- Promotion of resident's physical and mental well-being and health
- Provision of informal quiet recreation and leisure facilities currently lacking in Somerton
- The creation and maintenance of varied habitats to help wildlife
- To help meet the challenges of climate change
- A meeting place for all generations
- A facility to promote the arts
- A venue for town events
- A facility through which educational experiences can be promoted
- A facility through which community volunteering can be encouraged

These benefits are sought for all the community and would be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 2010.

The Field was registered as an Asset of Community Value in April 2019 following an application by STC to South Somerset District Council (SSDC). In April 2023, as part of a local government re-organisation, the activities of SSDC were transferred to the new Unitary Authority – Somerset Council (SC). In April 2024 STC (with the support of the Trust) applied to SC for re-registration of the Field as an Asset of Community Value because the 2019 registration expired after five years. The 2024 application was rejected by SC, consequently the Field is no longer benefits from Asset of Community Value status.

In 2019, the action group entered discussions with SC about the possibility of purchasing the Field for the community. This resulted in SC setting a price of £750,000 for a community purchase. SC offered the community a period of a year to raise the purchase price. SC also required the purchaser to be a charity which led to formation of the Trust in October 2019. By 31 December 2020 the Trust had not raised sufficient funds to bid for a sufficiently large part of, or the whole of, the Field. SC declined to extend its offer beyond 31 December 2020.

In January 2021 the Trust was approached by Anna Anderson and Sam Hampson. Anna, who has family in Somerton, and Sam wanted to see the Field used for the community and to avoid the alternative of a commercial developer building as many houses as possible on the Field. Their proposal was to develop about a third of the Field to generate funds to cover the construction costs and the cost of buying the land from SC and to create a community park on the remaining two thirds of the Field.

Public meetings were held in February and May 2022 at which Anna, Sam and their architects presented their ideas to the community. These meetings were well attended. Subsequently, Anna and Sam established that the planners view their idea as acceptable in principle, subject to all the normal planning requirements. The next step was to negotiate the purchase of the field from SC. Sadly, over an extended period of time, SC made no response to Anna and Sam's attempts to open discussions with them.

In January 2025, due to the lack of response from SC, Anna and Sam decided to move on and are no longer pursuing their proposal. They bore the full cost of their professional advisers and the cost of the public meetings to discuss their proposals. The Trust supported their exploration of these ideas but did not make any financial contribution.

The trustees wish to thank Anna and Sam for putting four years of their time, energy and expense into trying to save two thirds of the Field for the community.

Following Anna and Sam's withdrawal the trustees are in contact with our two local SC councillors (who are both very supportive) in the hope that they may be able to persuade SC to recognise the need for community open space in this part of Somerton. We remain hopeful that it will prove possible to save a significant part of the field for community use.

Fundraising

The main fundraising activities took place from the end of 2019 until the end of 2020. Further fundraising was limited by Covid restrictions and uncertainty as to how Anna and Sam's proposals might be implemented. The Trust has undertaken to repay donations made for land purchase if it is unable to buy the Field.

Fundraising activities in previous years have been described in previous Annual reports. No fundraising took place in the years to 5 April 2025 or 5 April 2024 pending the outcome of Anna and Sam's proposals.

The Trust has a website, kirkhamstreetfield.org.uk, that was set up to provide details of the project, reach a wider audience and encourage donations. Locally, the Trust communicates with the public through the STC magazine that is distributed monthly to all households in Somerton, through local newspapers and in previous years through posters and leaflets at pick up points around the town.

The trustees remain grateful to those members of the community, STC and our SC councillors who have variously supported our campaign by attending meetings, contributing to discussions and making or promising donations.

Design

The Trust has prepared designs for a community park guided by the information obtained in the Public Consultation of April 2019 and with expert assistance. These were circulated to every household in the town and residents invited to discuss them at an exhibition event in September 2020. Broad support was expressed for the main design ideas. These ideas will be considered again if SC accepts that part of the field can be used by the community.

Financial review

At 5 April 2025 the Trust held £37,106 (2024: £36,129) of funds restricted to land purchase and £196 (2024: £618) of unrestricted funds. The restricted funds are held in an instant access deposit account and the unrestricted funds in a current account. Both accounts are with Unity Trust Bank. The Trust does not hold any investments.

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 5 April 2025

As explained above the Trust did not actively fundraise during the year. However, bank interest of £977 (2024: £932) was received in the year. No donations were received in the year (2024: £nil). If the Trust does not purchase the Field, it has undertaken to repay donations made for land purchase.

Independent examination

In previous years the financial statements have been subject to Independent Examination. The income of the Trust for the years ended 5 April 2025 and 5 April 2024 is less than £25,000 and consequently an Independent Examination is not required.

Structure, governance and management

The constitution of the Trust is the Charitable Incorporated Organisation 'Foundation' model under which the trustees and the members are the same people.

The Trust does not have any employees. The trustees have had assistance from volunteers at public events. Appropriate Public liability, Employee (which covers volunteers) and Trustee insurance is in place.

Due to reduced activity the trustees currently meet when required.

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 5 April 2025

Trustees are appointed for a fixed period. The initial trustees were appointed for fixed periods of different lengths. All subsequent trustee appointments are for a fixed period of two years. The following people served as trustees from the registration of the Trust on 9 October 2019 up to the date of this report:

	<i>Appointed</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Role</i>
John Dippie	1 January 2021, re-appointed 1 January 2023 and 1 January 2025		
Maureen Fletcher	Initial trustee, re-appointed 30 November 2022 and 30 November 2024		
Judith Hurley	Initial trustee, re-appointed 2 November 2023		Secretary
Gillian Locke	Initial trustee, re-appointed 9 October 2021 and 2 November 2023		Treasurer
Suzanne Standen	Initial trustee, re-appointed 30 November 2022 and 30 November 2024		
Margaret Chambers	Initial trustee	1 October 2021	Chairperson
Andrew Foyne	Initial trustee	31 December 2020	Deputy Chairperson
Jasmine Brain	Initial trustee	21 September 2021	

This Annual Report was approved by the trustees on 22 October 2025
and signed on its behalf by


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John Dippie
Trustee

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
Financial Statements
For the year ended 5 April 2025

Statement of receipts and payments for the year ended 5 April 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts				
Donations for land purchase	-	-	-	-
Donations for running costs	-	-	-	-
Bank interest received	-	977	977	932
Total receipts	-	977	977	932
Payments				
Insurance	176	-	176	197
Independent examiner's fees	-	-	-	210
Website costs	175	-	175	180
Events	-	-	-	-
Bank charges	71	-	71	72
Total payments	422	-	422	659
Net of receipts/(payments)	(422)	977	555	273
Cash funds at the start of the period	618	36,129	36,747	36,474
Cash funds at the end of the period	196	37,106	37,302	36,747

Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 5 April 2025

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Cash at bank	196	37,106	37,302	36,747

These financial statements were approved by the trustees on 21 October 2025

and signed on their behalf by:

Signature:

Name:

Gillian Locke

KIRKHAM STREET FIELD COMMUNITY TRUST
Financial Statements
For the year ended 5 April 2025

Notes on the Financial Statements

1. These financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.
2. Kirkham Street Field Community Trust ('the Trust') is not registered for VAT and accordingly costs include VAT where applicable.
3. The Trust has not given any guarantees nor granted any security over its assets.
4. The restricted funds represent amounts raised for the intended purchase of the Kirkham Street Field. Should the Trust be unable to purchase the Field it has undertaken to repay these donations.