

VOLK'S ELECTRIC RAILWAY ASSOCIATION
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1186970

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 16th DECEMBER 2019 – 5th APRIL 2021

The granting of Charitable status to the Volk's Electric Railway Association (VERA) on 16th December 2019. Potentially becoming a charity was mentioned in the original Constitution of 16th September 1995, the date VERA was formed. The new constitution of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was adopted by the online and postal voting of members of the pre-existing non-charitable Association, after the cancellation of a planned Special General Meeting in early 2020. We now seek to marginally amend the new constitution in the light of our first 18 months experience.

Membership is open to all those who have an interest in the works of Magnus Volk and in particular, the Volk's Electric Railway, which runs along the seafront in Brighton from the Aquarium to Black Rock, a distance of one mile. The railway is of significant importance as it is the oldest operating electric railway in the world, having started service in 1883.

Trustees oversee the day-to-day running of VERA and liaise closely with Brighton & Hove City Council, the owner and operator of the railway, in all matters affecting the well-being of the railway and its infrastructure. Regular meetings are held with the Council's Railway Management team to determine ways in which VERA can be of benefit, by providing volunteers and activities for our members and the wider public. The trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission.

Our aims and objectives, as set out in our Governing Document, are to advance the education of the public through the conservation of Volk's Electric Railway and to acquire, preserve and restore items in connection with the works of Magnus Volk and his railway. In pursuing those aims, we are grateful to the many hours that our member volunteers have contributed, both in practical terms at the railway and in the various administrative tasks that form an essential part of our operation.

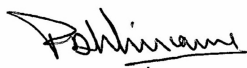
2020 was to be a special year, being the 25th anniversary of the formation of VERA and plans had been made to celebrate with special events at the railway. The onset of the COVID-19 virus abruptly stopped those plans and we found ourselves unable to continue operating in our normal face-to-face style for the whole of that year. However, we very quickly adapted to using the latest online technology to hold regular weekly meetings for members and our Winter programme of illustrated talks was able to continue, for the wider benefit of interested persons. In addition, we were able to maintain the publication of our quarterly journal, Volk's News.

Since becoming a charity, we have strengthened and documented our Membership, Volunteering and Financial Management procedures in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines. The Association also became registered with HMRC for Gift Aid recovery for donations and negotiated their acceptance that membership fees are also eligible.

During 2020, trustee Adrian Richards resigned and Les Kenward was appointed. Initial trustees who remained in place for the period were Peter Williams, Sarah Luxford, Tim Steven, David Cowstick, Ian Gledhill and Barrie McFarlane.

At the start of the financial period, the CIO inherited £16,652.29 from the pre-existing Association. Cash at the bank on 5th April 2021 was £18,629.63, of which £4,814.28 is restricted. The value of assets held by VERA was £47,000, these all being tangible historical artefacts at their market values. Our financial reserves, allocated for restoration and improvement projects, have not significantly been applied during the period due to restrictions from the virus pandemic.

Should the easing of COVID-19 restrictions go ahead according to the Government timetable, we hope next year to resume activity at the railway and be in a position to organise events that can further our aims.



Signed:

(Chairman)

(On behalf of the Trustees)



Signed:

(Secretary)



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Volk's Electric Railway Association

No (if any)
1186970

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
16/12/2019

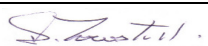
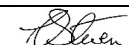
To

Period end date
05/04/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Transfer from previous non-charitable Association	2,368	14,284	-	16,652	-
Membership Fees	2,700	-	-	2,700	-
Unrestricted Donations	1,387	-	-	1,387	-
Restricted Donations	-	197	-	197	-
Miscellaneous income received	107	-	-	107	-
Fund raising activities	83	-	-	83	-
Interest	19	-	-	19	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	6,664	14,481	-	21,145	
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
None	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	6,664	14,481	-	21,145	-
A3 Payments					
Meeting expenses	30	-	-	30	-
Volk's News magazine production & distribution	1,606	-	-	1,606	-
Insurance policy	266	-	-	266	-
Restoration	-	100	-	100	-
Administrative Expenses	300	-	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	2,202	100	-	2,302	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Computer equipment	214	-	-	214	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	214	-	-	214	-
Total payments	2,416	100	-	2,516	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,248	14,381	-	18,629	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	4,248	14,381	-	18,629	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash floats	291	-	-
	Bank Account funds for Council projects		4,814	-
	Bank Account funds for other restoration		9,567	-
	Bank Account funds-Working capital	3,957	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,248	14,381	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	None	-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	None		-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Southend Railway Car No. 9	Unrestricted Funds	-	25,000
	Museum Models	Unrestricted Funds	-	4,700
	Heritage Artefacts	Unrestricted Funds	-	16,500
	Miscellaneous	Unrestricted Funds	-	200
	Office Equipment	Unrestricted Funds	-	400
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	None		-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		DC COWSTICK	18/08/2021	
		TC STEVEN	18/08/2021	