

BIRCHWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1190206

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2020-07-01

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

Contact

Address Birchwood Youth & Community Centre
Delenty Drive
Birchwood
Warrington
Cheshire
WA3 6AN

Phone 07980813597

Email cllrdauidellis@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF BIRCHWOOD AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS. IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER: TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TO MAINTAIN OR MANAGE OR CO-OPERATE WITH ANY STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE CHARITY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.

Activities: To further or benefit the residents of Birchwood and neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of welfare for recreation and leisure.

Classification

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

Geography

- Warrington

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£36,154	£28,415	-	-
2024-03-31	£32,526	£23,111	-	-
2023-03-31	£18,542	£9,979	-	-
2022-03-31	£6,070	£5,496	-	-
2021-03-31	£1,255	£4,171	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr David Ellis	Chair	2018-09-07
Ian Lloyd		2018-09-07
Jacqueline Ann Whitby		2018-09-07
Julia Kay Ellis		2018-09-07
Paul Terrence Kenny		2023-04-06
Susan Jeanne Clark		2023-04-06

Accounts

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre
Delenty Drive, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6AN
Annual Report for 2024-2025

Introduction

Since our last annual report, we have been able to build further on our solid financial position for the community centre. This has allowed us to carry out further improvement work in the centre using our own internal funds. We were also successful in obtaining income from a variety of grants from different sources which have enabled us to further replace old furniture and to acquire materials to support our highly successful internally-run groups as well as providing the funding to be able to run these groups for a further 12 months. The activities we run are allowing residents to participate in our activities at very low or zero cost which means that, at a time of financial hardship for many families, cost is not a barrier to attending sessions. We have also been able to establish an excellent level of reserves which can now be kept in a sinking fund to pay for future building maintenance such as replacement of the gutters.

Trustees

During the year, two of our trustees, Mr Stewart Lever and Jennifer Lyons stepped down due to pressure of other commitments which was making it difficult for them to attend Trustee meetings. At year end there were 6 trustees in total. Both of the trustees who stepped down have continued to be active volunteers at the centre both at Repair Café and other activities. The trustees have carried out a skills and personal strengths audit of all the current trustees with a view to identifying any obvious gaps that would provide better insight into seeking a possible new member. A start has been made on looking at potential sources of new trustees.

Financial situation

For the 12 months from April 2024 to March 2025, our total income was £36,154, a small increase over the prior year figure of £32,525 and sustaining the large increase we saw in the prior year. Of this, £8734 came from hall hire, and £22,035 in the form of a series of grants. This was a small increase over the previous year. A significant proportion of the grants received were for the purchase of specific items or to pay for the operational costs of in-house operated groups. Our year

end balance increased from £24,624 to £32,363. This is a very positive and reassuring situation given that it is envisaged that grant monies may be more difficult to find in the coming year.

As well as income from grants, we were very grateful to receive a donation from The Friends of Birchwood Forest Park to help us continue to offer Little Lunch Club at the very low charge we make for a further period.

Towards the end of the financial year, we were approached by Lagan Airport Maintenance showing an interest in having the centre as their charity of the year. This was subsequently agreed and as well as direct financial support, the company is looking to support us in other ways as well. A number of possibilities have been discussed and are in planning.

Our basic operating costs include insurance, standing charges for gas and electricity, telephone/internet costs, TV licence, water bills and waste removal services. Other costs include the servicing of the fire extinguishers and fire alarm system and the annual check on our gas boiler with issue of a gas certificate, both of which are statutory requirements.

Buildings, Facilities and improvements

The centre's updated strategic plan continues to focus on the main areas below: –

1. ensuring that the buildings are safe, protected and renovated
2. Clearing old materials no longer needed as required
3. Improving the financial viability by reducing operating costs and increasing income
4. Making the centre work more effectively for the community

As required, the fire alarm and extinguishers are serviced/checked and any faults rectified and PAT testing of all electrical equipment carried out.

Following the award of grants and increased income from hall hire, we were able to purchase a range of new equipment for the centre as well as making improvements to the building, which has made a real difference to our activities. We were able to buy the following new items:

An outdoor shed was purchased during the year which was assembled by some of our volunteers. This is being used as a store for the outside toys used for our Little Lunch Club Mums and Tots group, as our garage storage area was becoming congested.

We were able to erect some very attractive ranch-style fencing at the back of the property to make it completely safe for young children to play.

At the end of the year, we purchased a large aluminium lean-to gazebo with a polycarbonate roof. This was to replace the old canvas awning which was at the end of its life. This area means that the outside patio can be used more effectively for our tots group and is an excellent area for repairing bikes at Repair Café during the summer months.

As planned in the previous year, we were able to find funding to replace the furniture in our lounge, which dates back to when the centre was opened in 1999 and was no longer fit for purpose as we require it to be more easily cleanable as young children use the room. The furniture purchased is in a bright turquoise and really changed the appearance of the room. We also purchased a new rug and plan to put up some artwork generated in house to finish it off.

At the very end of the financial year we suffered a major problem with our main foul sewer as a result of the collapse of the pipework resulting from tree roots. This was not allowing proper drainage and the system was backing up to the top of the manhole cover and was in danger of shutting the centre down. The repair required a substantial amount of digging and the laying of new pipework and ended up costing £6000. Birchwood Town Council took the view that the problem was caused by trees on their land and very kindly paid for the repair.

Cost reduction

In our report for 2023-24 we reported on the installation of our new lowered ceiling and insulation and the impact it had had on how quickly the hall could be heated. We now have more than 12 months of operational experience behind us and we are very pleased to report that our gas usage has reduced to less than 50% of what it was previously. This exceeds our expectations and has reduced our running costs by around £1000 per year, helping our sustainability, both environmentally and economically.

Activities

During the financial year we saw further increases in the activities at the centre mainly as a result of funding obtained through bids submitted. A large part of this success lies in the excellent relationship built up with Warrington Voluntary Action by trustee Jackie Whitby. The extra funding allowed us to add new exercise activities for both older and young people.

Birchwood Chats, continued to run very successfully throughout the year. These sessions are run at zero cost and provide free hot drinks, cakes and once a month, a hot soup and sandwich. As well as this, the sessions offer a range of activities from crafts to bingo and have included sessions aimed at helping individuals save energy at home. Film days have continued to be popular with showings of

recent films. The centre is very grateful to our trustees Jackie Whitby and Sue Clark for all the work they put in as well as several other volunteers who help make sure that the sessions run smoothly.

The “Flying Pin Cushions” have continued to operate very successfully from the centre on Mondays and have increasing numbers of members. While we charge a special community rate for hall hire, they still provide a source of valuable income to the centre while providing a low cost activity which has high demand.

Our in-house activity, Birchwood Creates has continued to operate successful sessions run by trustee Julia Ellis, who has continued to cover mainly linocut techniques and Gelli printing but several weekend workshops were also organised and were very popular, bringing in some new members. Sessions are charged at £3 for two hours, but the income isn't quite sufficient to cover costs and a new model of payment is being examined. The issue lies partly in the fact that although there is a significant number of attendees in total, attendance by some, and therefore income, is somewhat erratic.

Repair Café continued to operate during the year and continued to grow. Visitor numbers have consistently been around 50 to 60 per session. Following visits by interested parties from other areas of Warrington who were interested in setting up similar repair cafes in their areas, there are now two more – one in Lymm and another in Fairfield and Howley. Donations continue to more than cover running costs, and a decision made to purchase further PAT testing meters so that all electrical repairers could have access to one rather than a single person being responsible. All electrical repairers now complete PAT training. The turnover of repairers is exceptionally low as they all just love the atmosphere and the feel good factor of carrying out their role. Only a couple have moved on but were quickly replaced with new ones. We continue to have a total of 28 volunteers for Repair Café who act as repairers, work on reception, in the café etc.

The bicycle repair section of Repair Café has continued to repair old donated machines to provide to asylum seekers and refugees locally. One of these continues to be a valued member of our volunteer repair team. The number of bicycles received has reduced somewhat from the initial level.

In the previous financial year, we were able to set up a Mums and Tots group called “Little Lunch Club”. This continues to be run on Tuesdays from 12.00 to 13.30 and is highly successful. It is very busy and trustees Jackie Whitby and Sue Clark are always very busy setting up and running the group together with a couple of new and excellent volunteers.

Our men's social group on a Monday morning continues to operate throughout the year and gives an opportunity for debate and to have a hot crumpet and a cup of tea. This is held in our lounge and

typically attracts up to about 8-10 guests. Attendance is free but donations are always welcomed and the group covers its costs.

The new third party knitting group which started up during the previous year continues to operate on a regular basis. This is a good sized group which uses our newly furnished lounge.

We continue to host Warrington North Cavy Club which has guinea pig shows several times a year.

During the year, we started a chair pilates session for older adults which has been very popular and has run at capacity of around 20 people. This is excellent, as many of those taking part will have benefitted greatly from increased muscle strength and mobility. We also had a special session of pilates for parent and child, but this didn't attract many people.

A tots football session was started up and continues to operate.

Finally, Slimming World continue to use the hall but with significantly reduced hours. The numbers attending were badly affected by Covid and never recovered. Slimming World income was very critical to the centre some years ago, but the significant increase in activities in the centre has changed this situation.

Other

The centre has almost reached the limits of what the current volunteer group can run itself, although one of the trustees is looking at running some events in the centre where local people who have outstanding achievements would be interviewed and audiences would have the opportunity to ask questions. The idea is to not only entertain, but to inspire people as well.

As always, I would like to thank all our trustees as well as our many volunteers who have made such an important contribution to what we do for the community of Birchwood and surrounding areas. I would like to give special thanks to our trustees who are involved with running and promoting our in-house community groups. They work tirelessly for the benefit of others. We would also like to express our thanks to Birchwood Town Council who continue to provide support on a number of fronts, including general advice and in helping to maintain and improve the grounds on which the centre stands, both in terms of safety and appearance, and who generously paid for major sewer repairs that were needed.

Dr David Ellis – Chair of Trustees



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Birchwood Youth & Community Centre

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1190206

Set out on pages

3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

15/07/2025

Name:

Stuart Barr MAAT

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

AAT

Address:

WatkinsonBlack, 1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road
Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 3RB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

N/A

BIRCHWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE
ACCOUNTS 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025

Opening balance 01/04/2024 **24624**

Income **36154**

Grants	22035
Donation	875
Room Hire	8734
Community Lottery	214
Sessions/Workshops	4149
Interest	147

Expenditure **28415**

Subcontractors	7769
Office costs	842
Equipment	1693
Fixtures/fittings	9755
Insurance	771
Accountancy	270
Software	106
Internet	457
Gas/electric	2302
Water	470
Waste removal	840
Printing/stationery	145
Licensing/legal	470
Training	512
Travel	83
Materials	1374
Meals	150
Miscellaneous	406

Closing balance 31/03/2025 **32363**

Barclays Bank as at 31/03/2025 32080

Cash as at 31/03/2025 283

Total funds held as at 31/03/2025

WatkinsonBlack
1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road
Warrington
Cheshire, WA1 3RB
Tel: 01925 413210
Email: info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Birchwood Youth & Community Centre

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

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examiner's statement

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Signed:

Date:

15/07/2025

Name:

Stuart Barr MAAT

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
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AAT

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

N/A

BIRCHWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE
ACCOUNTS 01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025

Opening balance 01/04/2024 **24624**

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Accounts



Birchwood Youth & Community Centre
Delenty Drive, Birchwood, Warrington WA3 6AN
Annual Report for 2023-2024

Introduction

Since our last annual report, we have continued to build a very solid financial position for the community centre and accessed funding to enable us to add a number of new activities. A series of grants from different sources have enabled us to replace old furniture and to acquire materials and toys etc. to support our highly successful internally-run groups as well as providing the funding to be able to run these groups for a further 12 months. The activities we run are allowing residents to participate in our activities at very low or zero cost which means that, at a time of financial hardship for many families, cost is not a barrier to attending sessions. We have also been able to establish an excellent level of reserves which can now be kept in a sinking fund to pay for future building maintenance such as replacement of the gutters.

Trustees

During the year, one of our trustees, Mrs Sandra Gregory stepped down for personal reasons. The trustees decided that we would not immediately take on a new board member to replace her, but rather carry out a skills audit of all the current members with a view to identifying any obvious gaps that would provide better insight into seeking a possible new member.

Financial situation

Overall, our cash balance in the bank started the year at £15208 (including cash and balance in savings account), but we were able to finish the year at £24,623, an increase of 61.9 %. Our basic operating costs include insurance, standing charges for gas and electricity, telephone/internet costs, TV licence, water bills and waste removal services. Other costs include the servicing of the fire extinguishers and fire alarm system and the annual check on our gas boiler with issue of a gas

certificate, both of which are statutory requirements. With the continued increase in sessions being run at the centre, we changed our waste services to include both general waste and recycling.

For the 12 months from April 2023 to March 2024, our total income was £32,525, a substantial increase over the prior year figure of £18,542. Of this, £8335 came from hall hire, and £20,129 in the form of a series of grants. The latter represented almost double the figure for the prior year. A significant proportion of the grants received were for the purchase of specific items or to pay for the operational costs of our in-house operated groups.

Buildings, Facilities and improvements

The centre's updated strategic plan continues to focus on the main areas below: –

1. ensuring that the buildings are safe, protected and renovated
2. Clearing old materials no longer needed as required
3. Improving the financial viability by reducing operating costs and increasing income
4. Making the centre work more effectively for the community

As required, the fire alarm and extinguishers are serviced/checked and any faults rectified. We continued to carry out optimisation of our storage to improve safety and to make way for the new groups started in the centre. Old furniture was either disposed of or offered to the public on a local “before the tip” Facebook page. An old pool table base was disposed of as it was very heavy and deemed to be a health and safety risk.

Following the award of grants mentioned previously we were able to purchase a range of new equipment for the centre as well as making improvements to the building, which has made a real difference to our activities. We were able to buy the following new items:

A very wide range of toys for both indoor and outdoor use, to support our new Mums and Tots group. To store this, we were able to purchase and assemble some high quality steel shelving in the garage and an outdoor shed is planned. Trustee Paul Keny assembled this for us.

We were able to replace our main hall seating which had become very tatty. The chairs were originally donated to us by the local business park canteen, but were already quite old and showing signs of wear and tear. We now have bright modern chairs which are “wipe clean” and are a strong turquoise colour with chromes frames. These have really brightened up the appearance of the hall and are widely admired by our user groups. Our next objective will be to try to find funding to replace the furniture in our lounge, which dates back to when the centre was opened in 1999 and is

no longer fit for purpose as we require it to be more easily cleanable as young children use the room.

Last year we reported that we wanted to replace our gas boiler which was 24 years old and for which spares were no longer available. As reported below under “cost reduction”, we were able to do this.

During the year, we purchased a SumUp card reader to facilitate payments, especially in our café area and for Repair Café donations

Cost reduction

Following our application to Warrington Community Energy to install a new lowered ceiling and insulation, we were awarded the full cost of carrying out the work (£6K). Calculations suggested that we could save around 35% of our previous heating costs as well as making the hall much better from an acoustics point of view. It would also be much quicker to heat up as the system struggled in very cold weather. In the winter months it can take as long as 8 hours to heat the hall up to temperature. We were further awarded a grant to purchase a new higher efficiency gas boiler. Both projects were carried out around December 2023, and started to make a dramatic difference to our gas consumption which was reduced to a little under half, as well as dramatically improving the acoustics in the building. The typical time taken to heat the Hall reduced dramatically to one to two hours. As part of the new lowered ceiling, new LED panels were installed which had the effect of dramatically improving the light quality in the hall, making it easier for our users groups to see what they are doing, especially activities such as sewing, repair café and Arts and Crafts.

We have made a number of small improvements around the buildings, including the installation of a baby changing facility in the disabled toilet which trustee Paul Kenny put in for us.

Activities

The financial year saw a further significant increase in the activities at the centre mainly as a result of funding obtained through bids submitted. A large part of this success lies in the excellent relationship built up with Warrington Voluntary Action by trustee Jackie Whitby. They have also been able to see how effectively we have been able to use the funds received and have full confidence in the way we operate and, above all that we achieve excellent outcomes.

Birchwood Chats, continued to run very successfully throughout the year. These sessions are run at zero cost and provide free hot drinks, cakes and once a month, a hot soup and sandwich. As well as this, the sessions offer a range of activities from crafts to bingo. As well as this, we have now been

able to add a film day, with a showing of a recent film by joining a scheme (Lifetime) which supplies us with a new film each month. These have been very popular, with those attending being provided with free popcorn! There is a fair amount of work in running these and special thanks go to trustees Jackie Whitby and Sue Clark for all their efforts.

We reported last year that at the end of March 2023, we had a new third party group start up a sewing activity, which we were very pleased to be able to include in our programme. We had previously identified through a survey on local social media that there could be a considerable interest in such a group, as the only other one was in Warrington town centre and was very expensive. The group run a continuous session on Mondays from 12pm to 9pm, and it has proved to be very successful, attracting many new members and over the past year has continued to grow.

Our in-house activity, Birchwood Creates has continued to operate successful sessions run by trustee Julia Ellis, who has continued to cover mainly linocut techniques and Gelli printing but several weekend workshops were also organised and were very popular, bringing in new members. Several asylum seekers have also attended the sessions and find them very therapeutic – many have had very harrowing experiences in their countries of origin.

Repair Café continued to operate during the year and grow. Visitor numbers were substantial and additional services such as garden tool sharpening added to the range of things that could be looked at by our team of repairers. Social media posts prior to each session were critical to ensuring that we could get plenty of customers through the door and achieve our key objective of reducing items going to landfill. Our repair success rate continues to be typically around 60-70% . During the year, we had a number of visitors from other areas of Warrington and beyond who were interested in setting up similar repair cafes in their areas, and we look forward to seeing these progress.

Donations always cover running costs, and we were able to purchase a PAT testing meter. We have a total of 28 volunteers for this activity now who act as repairers, work on reception, in the café etc. It is very rewarding to see that our repairers are able to get a lot from it volunteering too – they all love the positive atmosphere of working together to solve repair problems.

The bicycle repair section of Repair Café has been expanded to repair old donated machines to provide to asylum seekers and refugees locally. The contacts established have led to a couple of these individuals becoming highly valued volunteers.

During the financial year, we were able to set up a Mums and Tots group as planned which is called “Little Lunch Club”. This is run on Tuesdays from 12.00 to 13.30 and was highly successful from the first day it opened, the new toys and lovely environment helping to make it very popular with those

attending. It is very busy and again trustees Jackie Whitby and Sue Clark are always very busy setting up and running the group together with a couple of new and excellent volunteers.

We started up a men's social group on a Monday morning which gives an opportunity for debate and to have a hot crumpet and a cup of tea. This is held in our lounge and typically attracts about 10 guests.

A new third party knitting group started up during the year and we hope that this will be successful.

We also host Warrington North Cavy Club which has guinea pig shows several times a year.

Finally, we expect to start up several groups involving exercise both for older people and for parents and toys during the coming year.

Other

As we move forwards, we will continue to increase the activities which we run ourselves for the benefit of the community. These have the benefit of being more stable, although it is always dependent on having sufficient volunteers and we are very conscious that we don't want them to end up burnt out. Third party activities often cease to exist, putting pressure on the centre's finances, so we believe we are in an exceptionally strong position to deliver our core objectives to our local community.

I would like to thank our trustees (both present and past) and significantly increased number of volunteers who have made such an important contribution to what we do for the community of Birchwood. I would like to give special thanks to our trustees who are involved with running and promoting our in-house community groups. They work tirelessly for the benefit of others. We would also like to express our thanks to Birchwood Town Council who continue to provide support on a number of fronts, including general advice and in helping to maintain and improve the grounds on which the centre stands, both in terms of safety and appearance .

Dr David Ellis – Chair of Trustees



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1190206

Set out on pages

3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

11/10/2024

Name:

Thomas Coyne FMAAT

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

AAT

Address:

1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 3RB

Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

Not Applicable.

BIRCHWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

Opening balance 01/04/23

Barclays	15174.59
Cash	27.27
Savings	6.83
	15208.69

Expenses

Buildings/Equipment/Consumables	13057.50
Gas/electricity	2763.69
Water	524.58
Central heating contract/repairs/new boiler	2492.00
Internet	412.20
Cleaning/caretaking	469.00
Licensing (TV, PRS)	313.80
Insurance	677.00
Waste removal	275.68
PAT testing	30.60
Ground rent	1.00
Maintenance (gutters, drains, electrics)	974.00
Road signage	707.64
Workshop	350.00
DBS checks	62.40
	23111.09

Income

Room rental	8335.00
Grants	20129.00
Donations (inc Repair Café)	3151.87
Community Lottery	218.50
Workshop's	430.00
Interest	.08
Refund (water)	261.49
	32525.94

	15208.69
-	23111.09
+	32525.94
	<u>24623.54</u>

As at 31/03/24:-

Barclays	24270.46
Cash	346.17
Savings	6.91

Closing balance 31/03/24

24623.54

WatkinsonBlack
1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road
Warrington
Cheshire, WA1 3RB
Tel: 01925 413210
Email: info@warringtonaccountants.co.uk



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31st March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1190206

Set out on pages

3

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

11/10/2024

Name:

Thomas Coyne FMAAT

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

AAT

Address:

1st Floor, 264 Manchester Road, Warrington, Cheshire, WA1 3RB

Section B	Disclosure
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Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

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

Not Applicable.

BIRCHWOOD YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

Opening balance 01/04/23

Barclays	15174.59
Cash	27.27
Savings	6.83
	15208.69

Expenses

Buildings/Equipment/Consumables	13057.50
Gas/electricity	2763.69
Water	524.58
Central heating contract/repairs/new boiler	2492.00
Internet	412.20
Cleaning/caretaking	469.00
Licensing (TV, PRS)	313.80
Insurance	677.00
Waste removal	275.68
PAT testing	30.60
Ground rent	1.00
Maintenance (gutters, drains, electrics)	974.00
Road signage	707.64
Workshop	350.00
DBS checks	62.40
	23111.09

Income

Room rental	8335.00
Grants	20129.00
Donations (inc Repair Café)	3151.87
Community Lottery	218.50
Workshop's	430.00
Interest	.08
Refund (water)	261.49
	32525.94

	15208.69
-	23111.09
+	32525.94
	<u>24623.54</u>

As at 31/03/24:-

Barclays	24270.46
Cash	346.17
Savings	6.91

Closing balance 31/03/24

24623.54

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Accounts

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre

Annual Report for 2022-2023

At the time of our last annual report, we stated that our key objective for the year was to try to stabilise our financial position so that our reserves were no longer reducing, and it is pleasing that this objective was very well achieved. During the year we started to build our own internal activities in the centre which have grown from strength to strength thanks to the help and support of a number of new volunteers and trustees. As well as this, we had a very successful year in terms of bids to help support our activities. It is very satisfying to be now in a healthy financial situation which is allowing us make purchases where necessary. What is more, the activities we run are allowing residents to participate in our activities at very low or zero cost.

Financial situation

Overall, our cash balance in the bank started the year at £6612, but we finished the year at £15174, an increase of 129%. Our basic operating costs include insurance, standing charges for gas and electricity, telephone/internet costs, TV licence and our water bills. Other costs include the servicing of the fire extinguishers and fire alarm system and the annual check on our gas boiler with issue of a gas certificate, both of which are statutory requirements. We continued to manage without bin collections during the financial year, but we started up the WBC bin service again immediately after the end of this year as it was becoming difficult to deal with as individuals. For the 12 months our total income was £18542, £5450 of which came from hall hire, £11,804 in the form of a series of grants and £400 as a donation from a trustee. A significant proportion of the grants received were for the purchase of specific items or to pay for the operational costs of our in-house operated groups. The replacement of all our fluorescent lights with LED lights led to a halving of our electricity costs. We also had a rebate of £448.38 from CEF for lighting units which had been sent and invoiced but not required. Total expenditure for the year was £9979. The charity has a policy of maintaining reserves of at least 6 months expenditure to ensure financial stability, a policy which was vitally important during the Covid pandemic.

Buildings, Facilities and improvements

The original strategic plan focused on several main areas as follows: –

1. ensuring that the buildings were safe, protected and renovated
2. Clearing old materials no longer needed
3. Improving the financial viability by reducing operating costs and increasing income
4. Making the centre work more effectively for the community
5. Widening the number of trustees and volunteers involved

As required, the fire alarm and extinguishers were serviced/checked and a fault on one of the emergency fire buttons fixed. We continued to carry out optimisation of our storage to improve safety and to make way for the new groups started in the centre.

Following the award of grants mentioned previously we were able to purchase a range of new equipment for the centre which has made a real difference to our activities. We were able to buy the following new items:

A freezer which has enabled us to keep a range of bread, crumpets, cakes and other items to cover a reasonable period of use. We were also able to receive donations of these kind of items from a local company.

A new under counter fridge which was getting quite old and not up to the standard needed.

A new large screen TV, which not only allows us to put on TV programmes, but also show YouTube videos for learning purposes including for arts and crafts as well as chair exercises for seniors.

A new cooker as our original one was very old and had a faulty oven door. It was also an old-fashioned electric model with solid iron rings which was very difficult to control.

A new microwave oven – our previous one was many years old and getting near end-of-life.

Last year we reported that in the latter part of the year, our gas boiler failed due to an issue with the printed circuit board. The boiler is now 20 years old and parts are not easy to obtain any longer. It is also not especially efficient, and a modern condensing boiler would be more economical. We have some spare parts which were obtained from Birchwood Town Council's identical boiler when it was replaced, but this only covers a part of the boiler. During the coming year, we will look to replace the

boiler, preferably through an application for a grant. This may be with a new condensing gas boiler or using air conditioning units, or possibly both.

Cost reduction

An application is to be submitted to Warrington Community Energy to install the lowered ceiling and electrical heating as mentioned in the section above. Calculations suggest that we can save around 35% of our current heating costs as well as making the hall much better from an acoustics point of view. It would also be much quicker to heat up as the current system struggles in very cold weather. In the winter months it can take as long as 8 hours to heat the hall up to temperature. We hope that this can be resolved before the end of the 2023-24 financial year. An alternative source of grant money was also identified and a request for a new gas boiler will also be submitted.

Activities

The financial year saw a significant increase in activities at the centre mainly as a result of funding obtained through bids submitted. We believe a large part of this success lies in the excellent relationship built up with Warrington Voluntary Action by trustee Jackie Whitby. They have been able to see how effectively we have been able to use the funds received and have full confidence in the way we operate.

This year saw the centre start up Birchwood Chats, a session designed to replace the independently run older people's groups which sadly closed their operations during the Covid pandemic. These sessions are run at zero cost and provide free hot drinks, cakes and once a month, a hot soup and sandwich. As well as this, the sessions offer a range of activities from crafts to bingo. Numbers attending this group have been gradually increasing, and we are also seeing employees from the local authority attend with help on energy reduction, benefits etc.

At the beginning of March 2023, we had a new third party group start up a sewing activity, which we were very pleased to be able to include in our programme. Back in 2019, we had carried out some survey work on local social media to try to understand if there could be an interest in a sewing group, as the only one we could locate in Warrington was very expensive. The response was overwhelmingly positive, so when this group – The Flying Pin Cushions - approached us, we were very keen for them to start. They run a continuous session on Mondays from 12pm to 9pm, and it has proved to be very successful, attracting many new members.

Our in-house activity, Birchwood Creates has continued to operate successful sessions run by trustee Julia Ellis, who has covered mainly linocut techniques and Gelli printing. A special workshop was also arranged on a weekend using an outside expert to do the teaching.

Repair Café successfully operated once again during the year. Visitor numbers which had been rather lower after Covid really started to increase quickly, mainly as a result of the extensive advertising campaign which was carried out on social media prior to each session. It is very satisfying to note that Repair Café has had as many as 40 items to look at and repair, with a success rate typically around 60-70% . It is also satisfying to note that there have been visitors from other areas in Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Cheshire who have come to look at how we operate and as a result have set up operations in their areas.

On the only negative note, Headway finally decided to call it a day and close their activity in the centre as a result of a large drop in numbers following COVID. Their users were people with brain injuries, and in many cases, quite vulnerable, and COVID had a serious impact. This does, however, provide an opportunity to better use the available time in the centre and has enabled some useful rationalisation of our storage facilities.

We look forward to being able to welcome further community activities to expand the scope of what we offer in the coming year. Our next project will be to look at the possibility of running a Mums and Tots group.

Other

As we move forwards, we will continue to increase the activities which we run ourselves for the benefit of the community. These have the benefit of being more stable, although it is always dependent on having sufficient volunteers. Third party activities often cease to exist, putting pressure on the centre's finances.

I would like to thank all our trustees (both present and past) and volunteers who have made an important contribution to what we do for the community of Birchwood. I would like to give special thanks to our trustees who are involved with running and promoting our in-house community groups. We would also like to express our thanks to Birchwood Town Council who continue to provide support on a number of fronts, including general advice and in helping to maintain and improve the grounds on which the centre stands, both in terms of safety and appearance .

Dr David Ellis – Chair of Trustees

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre - Accounts 2022-2023

	2021-2022	2022-2023	Var. %
Expenses	£	£	
Buildings/Equipment/Consumables	2307.50	3949.65	71.2
Furniture etc.	0.00	0.00	
Fire alarm contract/repairs	266.40	266.40	0.0
Water	595.76	1226.06	105.8
Gas/electricity	684.00	3000.00	338.6
Central heating contract/repairs	107.50	135.00	25.6
Telephone/Internet	343.17	400.80	16.8
Cleaning/Caretaking	228.00	0.00	-100.0
TV Licence	159.00	159.36	0.2
Insurance	733.20	766.51	4.5
To petty cash	50.00	50.00	0.0
Waste removal	0.00	0.00	
PAT Testing	21.60	24.60	13.9
Ground Rent	0.00	1.00	
Total expenses	5496.13	9979.38	81.6
Income			
Rentals	3997.00	5450.00	36.4
BYCC Session Income	0.00	439.50	
Fundraising/Donations	0.00	400.00	
Refunds	0.00	448.38	
Grants	2073.00	11804.00	469.4
Total Income	6070.00	18541.88	205.5
Balance brought forward	573.87	8562.50	1392.1
Petty Cash	26.34	27.27	3.5
Cash funds in bank at year start	6038.22	6612.09	9.5
Cash funds in bank at year end	6612.09	15174.59	129.5
Savings accounts	6.83	6.83	0.0
Total funds carried forward	6645.26	15208.69	128.9

Accounts

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre

Trustees Report for 2021-2022

At the last annual report, we reported that the steady progress that had been made in previous years was significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic which closed the centre in the spring of 2020. We had been very fortunate to have been able to build up significant reserves over the previous two years through a combination of cost saving measures and increasing use of the building. We also reported that our main concern was that several of our user groups had either ceased operations or were likely to. As it turned out, all user groups apart from Slimming World, Repair Café, Headway and Birchwood Acts closed their operations. Some of these groups were providing an important community benefit. In particular, Birchwood Seniors and Age UK were both providing activities for older residents mainly in their 70s and 80s. The committees of both groups decided that they could no longer continue due to ill-health and no-one else within the groups was able to take on the roles.

We were fortunate that we still had a reasonable level of reserves at the start of the year but it was clear that it would take some time to build back our activities to pre-covid levels and bring the level of added value which we would all like to see for the community. Our key objective for the year was to try to stabilise our financial position so that our reserves were no longer reducing.

Financial situation

Overall, our cash balance in the bank started the year at £6038.22, but we finished the year at £6612, an increase of 9.5% . Our fixed costs include insurance, standing charges for gas and electricity, telephone/internet costs, TV licence and our water bills. Other fixed costs include the servicing of the fire extinguishers and fire alarm system, which are statutory requirements. During the financial year, we continued to keep the WBC bin service on hold as a means of saving money. For the 12 months our total income was £6070, £3997 of which came from hall hire and £2073 in the form of a grant from Warrington Borough Council to facilitate the change of our lighting from

fluorescents to LED. This change is expected to reduce our electricity costs to roughly half. Total expenditure for the year was £5496.13.

Buildings, Facilities and improvements

The original strategic plan focused on several main areas as follows: –

1. ensuring that the buildings were safe, protected and renovated
2. Clearing old materials no longer needed
3. Improving the financial viability by reducing operating costs and increasing income
4. Making the centre work more effectively for the community
5. Widening the number of trustees and volunteers involved

The fire alarm and extinguishers were serviced/checked and several extinguishers replaced during the year which had reached their expiry date. The fact that several user groups had ceased to exist gave us a good opportunity to carry out some rationalisation in our store garage and reduce clutter in the process which is helpful in terms of safety.

The large awning which we have at the back of the building was cleaned and lubricated as it hadn't been used for many years. This is now fully functional.

Our successful bid for funds to replace all our lighting to LED lighting will have a number of benefits. Firstly, the electricity usage of the LED units will be roughly half of the current fluorescent units which will have a significant impact on our operating costs. Next, a number of the fluorescent units have quite a poor light output which contributes to a fairly dingy appearance of the rooms in spite of having been fully redecorated. Finally, the replacement of fluorescent tubes in our main hall lighting unit has always been problematic as they are exceptionally difficult to reach. This has often meant that tubes have not been replaced until a special stepladder could be borrowed, and the light output has been poor as a consequence. The life of the LED units now will be very much longer and the light output in lumens much greater. This is expected to make the whole facility look much more attractive to users, and it will be easier to maintain.

In the latter part of the year, our gas boiler failed due to an issue with the printed circuit board. The boiler is now 20 years old and parts are not easy to obtain any longer. It is also not especially efficient, and a modern condensing boiler would be more economical. It is our intention however to move towards electrical heating, if possible. It was not a good moment to think about replacement with a new gas boiler, and in the event, we were lucky to be able to source a second-hand circuit

board at low cost and have it replaced. It emphasises the need to look into how we will move forwards so that we can ensure that our heating costs are minimised and we can move forwards towards our net zero target.

Cost reduction

Warrington Community Energy looked at the building some time ago with a view to carrying out a more detailed study aimed at making recommendations on heat pumps, insulation and a PV panel/battery installation. Unfortunately this didn't happen, partly due to Covid, but also because the person involved had a family tragedy which meant he was unable to carry out further work. It is hoped that will take place next year.

As mentioned earlier, we looked into replacing our lights with LED alternatives. Following a visit from a contractor from City Electrical Factors we were provided with recommendations for changing our lighting to LED across the whole building, and we were able to use this information to apply for a grant from the Warrington Borough Council Neighbourhoods fund to cover most of the cost. Our application was successful and we were awarded £2073 to purchase all the light fittings needed in December 2022. Subsequently, Birchwood Park agreed to carry out the installation for us free of charge, but due to work schedule pressures, the completion of the job did not take place before year end.

Activities

An early task for trustees was to see what we might be able to do ourselves in the centre rather than be dependent on third parties. We also wanted to be able to operate these at either zero or minimal cost to those attending. Towards the end of the financial year, we were able to start up Birchwood Creates again. This is an art and crafts group run by Julia Ellis charging only £2 for a two hour session for attendees. Our first priority for running new sessions was to look at running a session for older people, but with the intention of starting up other groups as well once resources were available to do this. The key to doing this was to obtain some grant money, and a bid was submitted right at the end of the financial year to help us achieve this.

Birchwood Acts ran a number of sessions in the latter part of 2021, with a view to putting on a Christmas extravaganza similar to the one they did in 2019. In the event, the group had to abandon the idea as their numbers were just not sufficient to put the event on. This seemed to be due to

Covid fears in large part, and the group intend to look at starting up again once the Covid risk has significantly reduced.

Headway, a charity running sessions for those with brain injuries, continued to run sessions again during the year.

Repair Café successfully operated once again during the year, although the numbers of people attending were somewhat lower than pre-pandemic in spite of a lot of promotion on social media. This promotion will continue and it is hoped that numbers will slowly build back. We believe that once again, numbers are being affected by a reticence in members of the public to attend events with other people present.

We look forward to being able to welcome further community activities to help us get back to some sort of normality during the course of the coming year.

Other

As we finish the financial year, the challenges ahead will be to continue to try to reduce the centre's costs further. This will be especially important as a result of the reduced use of the centre. We will also want to increase the activities which we run ourselves for the benefit of the community. These should have the benefit of being more stable. Third party activities often cease to exist, putting pressure on the centre's finances.

I would like to thank all our trustees (both present and past) and volunteers who have made an important contribution to what we do for the community of Birchwood. We would also like to express our thanks to Birchwood Town Council who continue to provide support on a number of fronts, including general advice and in helping to maintain and improve the grounds on which the centre stands both in terms of safety and appearance .

The town council has been looking at the possibility of passing the ownership of the land on which the centre sits to the trustees. This has not happened at this point and has been a low priority for the town council.

Dr David Ellis – Chair of Trustees

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre - Accounts

	2020-2021	2021-2022	Var. %
Expenses	£	£	
Buildings/Equipment	0.00	2307.50	
Furniture etc.	0.00	0.00	
Fire alarm contract/repairs	263.40	266.40	1.1
Water	885.29	595.76	-32.7
Gas/electricity	1198.00	684.00	-42.9
Central heating contract/repairs	0.00	107.50	
Telephone/Internet	324.84	343.17	5.6
Cleaning/Caretaking	622.70	228.00	-63.4
TV Licence	156.99	159.00	1.3
Insurance	719.80	733.20	1.9
To petty cash	0.00	50.00	
Waste removal	0.00	0.00	
PAT Testing	0.00	21.60	
Total expenses	4171.02	5496.13	31.8
Income			
Rentals	1255.00	3997.00	218.5
Fundraising/Donations	0.00	0.00	
Grants	0.00	2073.00	
Total Income	1255.00	6070.00	383.7
Balance brought forward	-2916.02	573.87	-119.7
Petty Cash	11.61	26.34	126.9
Cash funds in bank at year start	8954.24	6038.22	-32.6
Cash funds in bank at year end	6038.22	6612.09	9.5
Savings accounts	6.83	6.83	0.0
Total funds carried forward	6056.66	6645.26	9.7

Accounts

Annual Report for 2020-2021

Since the last annual report, the steady progress that had been made in previous years has been significantly impacted by the Covid pandemic which closed the centre in the spring of 2020. We were very fortunate to have been able to build up significant reserves over the previous two years through a combination of cost saving measures and increasing use of the building. During the course of the financial period 2020-21, apart from a couple of one-off uses, the only group to use the centre was Slimming World, and this was for a limited period between lockdowns. The main concern now is that several of our user groups have either ceased operations or are likely to, in the near future. Some of these groups were providing an important community benefit, and we will have to consider how this can be addressed. We are fortunate that we still have a reasonable level of reserves which we didn't have when we started out with the new board of trustees, but it will take some time to build back our activities to pre-covid levels and bring the level of added value which we would all like to see for the community. One of the trustees' key objectives was to gain full charitable status to enable us to apply for a wider variety of grants in the future, and this was finally achieved after a lot of work and delays which were caused by the impact of Covid on the Charity Commission and other organisations from whom we required input. This will stand us in good stead as we move forwards and we look forward to getting back to some kind of normality.

Financial situation

Overall, our cash balance in the bank started the year at £8954.24 which was a 172% increase over the prior year, but finished the year at £6038.22 as a result of the pandemic. Our fixed costs with no occupancy include insurance, standing charges for gas and electricity, telephone/internet costs, TV licence and our water bills which were almost £100 per month even when no water was being consumed. This is because the biggest part of our charge is for surface water and drainage which is fixed and is charged based on the surface area. On gaining Charitable status, we were able to apply for a 50% reduction in this charge which involved much more work than it should have needed, but which was finally granted. This will save us approx. £400 per year. Other fixed costs include the servicing of the fire extinguishers and fire alarm system, which are statutory requirements. During the financial year, WBC bin service was stopped as a means of saving money. For the 12 months our

total income was £1255, all of which came from hall hire. Hall hire for the previous year was £7461
Expenditure for the year was £4171.02.

Buildings, Facilities and improvements

The original strategic plan focused on several main areas as follows: –

1. ensuring that the buildings were safe, protected and renovated
2. Clearing old materials no longer needed
3. Improving the financial viability by reducing operating costs and increasing income
4. Making the centre work more effectively for the community
5. Widening the number of trustees and volunteers involved

During the course of the 12 months, it was difficult to progress most of these due to the pandemic, but, a number of relevant actions were taken;

A comprehensive Covid risk assessment was carried out and added to the centre's risk assessment document. This was done alongside Slimming World to help them restart their activities during the summer of 2020. The centre was registered as a venue for Covid tracking purposes and has a QR code that people can scan.

The fire alarm and extinguishers were serviced/checked and several extinguishers replaced which had reached their expiry date.

During the pandemic, the number of people using the centre at any one time was limited to 25. For this reason, we had excessive chairs and these have been stored for the time being in the office, which has been kept locked.

We were donated some metal cupboards during the year and three of these have been added to the potential storage in the centre. Sadly, two others had to be disposed of as the mechanisms fell apart.

Cost reduction

The installation of the smart WiFi controller for the central heating during the previous year greatly facilitated keeping our heating costs down during the year, with the heating only being used to keep the temperature at a minimum of 10 degrees C to ensure that building was kept at a temperature where damp would not occur, and only heating to normal temperature for those days and hours when the building was in use. A potential reduction of around 20% -25% in gas usage could still be achievable with a modern condensing boiler. However, in line with local declarations of a climate emergency, the centre is considering other potential options such as an air source heat pump, so

that mains gas could be eliminated. Warrington Community Energy have looked at the building with a view to making recommendations on heat pumps, insulation and PV panel/battery installation.

We have also had a visit from a contractor from City Electrical Factors with recommendations for changing our lighting to LED across the whole building, and our next objective would be to seek possible grant money to enable us to carry out this change which would reduce electricity usage by about 50%.

Activities

As mentioned previously, there has been little activity in the centre apart from Slimming World during the summer of 2020. We are also aware of several groups which are no longer viable or may not be able to restart. These include: Tae Kwondo which has ceased operating locally, and the two older people's groups may well not start again. 18 months is a long time for groups like this to be out of operation, and most of the committee members are unwell or unable to continue with the organisation needed. As these were so important to the community, we will have to consider if there is some way that the centre can organise something that might take their place. Warrington Photographic will probably restart in January 2022, and Birchwood Acts will restart in the autumn of 2021. Other activities may start in the autumn as well.

We look forward to being able to welcome further community activities to help us get back to some sort of normality during the course of the coming year.

Other

As we finish the financial year, the challenges ahead will be to continue to keep the centre's costs down to a minimum while we have limited income due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

I would like to thank all our trustees (both present and past) and volunteers who have made an important contribution to what we do for the community of Birchwood. We would also like to express our thanks to Birchwood Town Council who continue to provide support on a number of fronts including general advice and in helping to maintain and improve the grounds on which the centre stands both in terms of safety and appearance .

The town council has been looking at the possibility of passing the ownership of the land on which the centre sits to the trustees. We were able to confirm that the lottery no longer has any interest in the building.

Dr David Ellis – Chair of Trustees

Birchwood Youth & Community Centre - Accounts

	2019-2020	2020-2021	Var. %
Expenses	£	£	
Buildings/Equipment	808.30	0	-100.0
Furniture etc.	0.00	0	
Fire alarm contract/repairs	350.04	263.4	-24.8
Water	1142.88	885.29	-22.5
Gas/electricity	1798.53	1198	-33.4
Central heating contract/repairs	75.00	0	-100.0
Telephone/Internet	314.37	324.84	3.3
Cleaning/Caretaking	1076.00	622.7	-42.1
TV Licence	153.39	156.99	2.3
Insurance	711.09	719.8	1.2
To petty cash	50.00	0	-100.0
Waste removal	205.25	0	-100.0
Total expenses	6684.85	4171.02	-37.6
Income			
Rentals	7461.10	1255.00	-83.2
Fundraising/Donations	575.00	0.00	-100.0
Grants	3330.00	0.00	-100.0
Other - Refund Daisy	382.01	0.00	-100.0
Total Income	11748.11	1255.00	-89.3
Balance brought forward	2501.56	-2916.02	-216.6
Petty Cash	11.61	-30.77	-365.0
Cash funds in bank at year start	3292.79	8954.24	171.9
Cash funds in bank at year end	8954.24	6038.22	-32.6
Savings accounts	6.83	6.83	0.0
Total funds carried forward	8972.68	6014.28	-33.0

