

Cholsey Volunteers Trust
Registered Charity No. 1197845
Trustees' Annual Report 2023

Chair : Mr Darren Evans
The Cottage 10, Amwell Place
Cholsey
Wallingford
Oxfordshire , OX10 9NZ

Names of Trustees

Mr. Darren Evans	Chair
Mr. John Wheeler	Treasurer
Mrs Louise McAlister	Secretary
Mrs Eve Evans	
Mrs Vicky Beardall-Richards (resigned 18 Sept 2023)	
Mr Christopher Fry	
Mrs. Helen Powis	
Mrs Lizzy Hay (appointed 18 September 2023)	

Bank

Lloyds Bank Newmarket Branch 48 High St, Newmarket CB8 8LF

Governance

Cholsey Volunteers Trust was established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 8 February 2022 and registered as charity no 1197845. This is our second Annual Report. The Trust was formed using the Foundation Model structure provided by the Charity Commission, and the seven founding trustees remained in post throughout the duration of the first year of operation.

Appointment of Trustees

The founding trustees were allocated fixed terms of office: two for one year, three for two years and two for three years. The first two, John Wheeler and Eve Evans, stood down at

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the annual general meeting in May 2023, and were re-elected for a new three year term. Minaz Beddall stood down early in the year, and Louise McAlister and Lizzy Hay joined the Trustees. Of the three scheduled to step down in 2024, Minaz has already stood down, and Chris Fry and Vicky Beardall Richards will stand down in May 2024, but may offer themselves for re-election.

Policies and Procedures

To guide the Trustees in exercising its duty of care, the following policy statements have been adopted:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Reserves Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Volunteer Drivers Policy
- Volunteers Policy

as well as a thorough range of employment policies

Copies of these policies are available to Trustees and other interested parties.

Risk Management

The Trustees recognise that they are under a legal obligation to protect service users and employees through adequate and appropriate insurance, and suitable cover has been arranged by Macbeth Chartered Insurance Brokers of Theale in respect of public liability, employers' liability, business interruption and legal assistance. The Trust also owns a vehicle which is covered by a different broker, Wrightsure of Fareham.

Objectives of the Charity

The objects clause in the constitution states that the charity has been set up for the public benefit, the relief of individuals in need, by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in Cholsey and the surrounding area through the provision of free and subsidised food and volunteer support services, including but not limited to, transport to appointments, assistance with collection of shopping and medication, befriending and advocacy

Principal Activities in Pursuit of Objectives

CVT has maintained the services which were outlined in the initial application, namely local transport, prescription deliveries, the delivery of meals on foot in association with the Day Centre. the running of the Food Bank, the development of the Community Larder in association with SOFEA, the development of an Advocacy and Support Hub with clearly defined terms of reference. It has also worked with COPA, the Cholsey Befriending Group, to ensure that it continues to provide a welcome outlet for people who enjoy intermittent events like community meals, the Sunday afternoon teas and 'music and memory' days which are 'special events' within the current elderly persons provision.

Funding Strategy

It is the strategy of the Trustees to manage the revenue budget on a self-financing basis. This has largely been achieved In 2023 by donations from the public, fundraising and a number of small grants in addition to a surplus carried down from the year before.

The Trustees are aware that the relatively healthy financial position which saw generous grants freely available through the various lockdowns is now well past, and will now seek to expand the funding base by approaching local businesses and seeking wider community support through regular donations.

Volunteers' Effort

The CVT Development Officer, the sole paid employee, has done a tremendous job maintaining the volunteer database over the first year of operation, and has been able to match the aspirations of volunteers with the opportunities available. This has led to the creation of a set of dedicated teams for the Community Larder and Food Bank which operate as almost autonomous units with little need for supervision.

The Trust has also been the prime mover in establishing Cholsey Warm Space, a dedicated facility making use of the existing heated space in Cholsey Pavilion. This has provided regular puzzle and meeting days throughout the year, as well as a Slow Cooker project funded through grants from South Oxfordshire Housing Association. As the year ended the Trust has managed to secure two more grants to be able to run the scheme in early 2024.

A key aspect of the volunteer effort, however, has been to ensure that volunteers are not taking on tasks which properly belong to statutory authorities or which lie outside the limits of competence. The Trustees are aware of the risks of over-reaching and substitution.

The figures arising from this year's efforts summarise just how well we have done better than any number of words. We have given 390 lifts to hospitals and doctors in the last 12 months, compared to 284 lifts the year, representing a 37% increase. We are also averaging 42 lifts a week to and from the day centre, compared to 26 in the same time last year, a 61% increase. We have delivered around 2,600 meals, 1560 treat bags and 1,976 food boxes, a 46% increase on last year. On top of this we have seen our community larder grow to 151 members, which is a 50% increase on last year.

Reserves Policy

The charity was fortunate insofar as another village charity, Cholsey Relief In Need was winding up its affairs at the time when the application for charitable status was being prepared, and the transfer of CRIN's reserve of almost £21,000 enabled the Trust to set aside £20,000 as an agreed reserve for the long term. The aim remains to maintain this, with provision for inflation, over the next five years

Future Plans

2023 has largely been spent consolidating the existing provision while the Trust has secured its financial position and done a great deal to raise its local profile. For an organisation with such a relatively brief history it has become in very short order a recognised and valued part of the local community.

Next year the Trust will look to secure a more widespread funding base and continue to integrate its work with Cholsey Pavilion, Cholsey Day Centre and other village organisations in providing a sustaining network of support for the village.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Darren Evans

Full name Mr Darren Evans

Position Chair

Date 20 May 2024

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees and members of Cholsey Volunteers Trust
for the year ended 31st December 2023

The charity's trustees consider that the audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act)) and that an independent examination is needed.

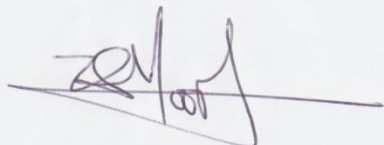
An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the trustees have not met the requirements to ensure that:

- Proper accounting records are kept; and
- Accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



JOHN MOORE A.C.M.A

Date: 18th April 2024

Cholsey Volunteers Trust
Registered Charity No.1197845
Receipts and Payments Account 1 Jan 2023 - 31 Dec 2023

	2023	2022	
INCOME			
Grants	14500.00	45406	
Fundraising	5326.34	6037.4	
Donations	6100.65	5769.99	
Food Bank	7650.00	2885	
Sales	82.00	577.2	
Other	731.50	2592.87	
Warm Hub	0.00	8523	
	34390.49		
EXPENDITURE			71791.46
Staff	21897.52	16539.12	
Pensions	1255.80	1121.03	
Vehicle	1701.88	1332.93	
Web Hosting	337.89	201.6	
Telephone	139.65	80.55	
Supplies	1112.74	1906.41	
Insurance	488.27	382.28	
Premises	0.00	0	
Food Bank	6021.87	976.65	
Other	3619.42	1596.89	
Community Larder	9.47	208.76	
Warm Space	5282.59	2057.02	
	41867.10		26403.24
Closing balance	37911.61		45388.22