

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
CHARITY COMMISSION REGISTERED NO. 1199199

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL REPORT

for the year ended

31 December 2024



THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND

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for the year ended 31 December 2024

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THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND

CHARITY INFORMATION

Registered Address

The Wisbech Masonic Centre
The Crescent
Wisbech
PE13 1EH

Correspondence Address

P Walter
Conkers
Fen Road
Newton in the Isle
Wisbech
Cambs.
PE13 5HT

Trustees

M J Humphrey	Chair
P Walter	Treasurer
D K M Coupland	
J R C Pallant	
A J Faulkner	
D Broker	
G P Aldrich	
S Button	

B Kett

Appointed 27 June 2024

R Cawston

Appointed 27 June 2024

J E Breeze

Retired 27 June 2024

J P T Jewson

Retired 27 June 2024

Ex Officio Officer

A M Clifton	Secretary
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Independent Examiner

K.J. Maggs B.A., F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant,
Spalding,
Lincs.,
PE11 3HE.

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
Bede House
11 Western Boulevard
Leicester
LE2 7EJ

Investment managers

CCLA Fund Managers Limited
One Angel Lane
London
EC4R 3AB

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The trustees present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund was constituted by Trust Deed dated 14 November 1983, which registered as a Charity on 24 October 1984 (Registered Charity Number 290352), before converting to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) on 7 June 2022 (Registered Charity Number 1199199).

Objectives and Activities

The charitable objects of The Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund are to provide, both directly and indirectly, relief of such poor and distressed Masons or their poor and distressed widows and children, or to, or for the benefit of such Masonic charities or other charitable institutions, societies and objects as they shall decide.

The policy of the charitable trust continues to be to seek additional finance and support from local masons to further its charitable objects. They aim to maintain and improve the property owned and used as Masonic meeting places, thereby enabling local freemasons to exercise the twin virtues of benevolence and charity through their donations to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association, individual Lodge Almoners and local charitable and worthy causes.

Each year the trustees review the charity's objects and activities to ensure that they continue to reflect its aims. In carrying out this review, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Trustees

The trustees named on page 1 served during the year.

Appointment of trustees is governed by the Trust Deed of the charity. The charity has a trustee board of 10 elected members, plus one or more ex officio officers.

Investment powers

The Trust Deed authorises the trustees to make and hold investments, but no such investments are presently held.

Public Benefit, achievements during the year and future developments

The trustees have given due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit, with the charity's objectives of the provision, both directly and indirectly, relief of such poor and distressed Masons or their poor and distressed widows and children or to, or for the benefit of such Masonic charities or other charitable institutions, societies and objects as they shall decide.

The trustees consider that the performance of the charity this year has been satisfactory and all objects have been met.

As approved by the members, the trustees have continued to pursue the opportunity to safeguard the future of Freemasonry in Wisbech through the long-term lease on the former Wisbech Courthouse Building. Good progress has been made in establishing an acceptable lease and understanding the cost of adapting the building to our needs.

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Financial Review

The results for the charity for the financial year are detailed on pages 6 to 12.

Income revenue is provided by:

- (a) Contributions from the Lodges who use the facilities;
- (b) The Profit from the Members Only bar;
- (c) Fundraising by a Sub-Committee;
- (d) Masonic donations;
- (e) Masonic grants; and
- (f) Interest earned on the Charity's cash deposits.

Overall, total reserves have increased from £207,502 last year to £223,601 this year.

The Administration Fund has a closing balance of £41,324. This represents an increase from the previous year of £9,553 and ensures that the Fund remains sufficient to fulfil the ongoing objects of the Charity in line with the Trustees Reserves Policy.

The Special Repairs Fund now stands at £152,565, having increased in the year by £8,244 due to beneficial interest rates and specific member contributions.

Advanced costs incurred during 2024, in pursuit of the Courthouse lease arrangement total £11,948. These cover Legal Fees £9,990, Structural Calculations £1,140, and a Change of Use application £818.

During 2024, charitable donations of £3,520 were made to the Arthur Rank Hospice Charity £2,700, and the Alan Hudson Treatment £820.

The Joint Lodge Social Committee (JLSC) fund raising activities raised £2,068 in 2024.

The trustees consider that the funds available are sufficient to permit the Trust to continue in the long term, given the continued support of the local Masonic lodges and brethren. The level of reserve in the Administration Fund and the Special Repairs Fund will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis in line with the Trustees Reserves Policy.

Reserves

It is the policy of the charity to maintain the Administration Fund at a level, which equates to at least 12 months 'Operating Costs' and to increase the amount held in the Special Repairs and Development Fund on a regular basis to provide sufficient funds for substantial items of repair and to contribute to the remodelling or replacement of its Grade 2 listed property within the next ten to fifteen years.

At 31 December 2024, the Administration Fund is showing a surplus £20,594, reflecting the inclusion of pre payments in respect of property on the balance sheet of £11,948. Additionally, fund raising by the JLSC in 2024 of £2,068 is yet to be dispensed to charities.

The other funds should be in surplus as they are accruing to establish the level of work which can be done, or which developments can be undertaken.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and, where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate those risks. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. Procedures are in place to assure compliance with Health and Safety regulations in respect of members, visitors and all third parties.

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
TRUSTEES REPORT (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Going concern

The trustees believe that the charity is a going concern and do not foresee any possible hinderance to this status currently.

Approval

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') and has been approved by the trustees on 10 April 2025 and signed on their behalf.



M J Humphrey
Chair



P Walker
Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE
THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 13.

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 charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 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.

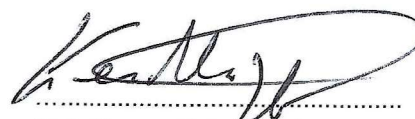
Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do 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.

Dated: 28 April 2025.


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K.J. Maggs B.A., F.C.A.
Chartered Accountant
Spalding

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024			2023
		Capital fund	Admin fund	Special Repairs fund	Unrestricted
		£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies					
General donations		-	3,520	850	5,526
Charitable activities					
Contributions	4	-	12,770	-	12,770
Social Activities		-	2,068	-	2,923
Trading activities					
Bar sales	5	-	11,825	-	10,999
Hire of Hall		-	100	-	-
Investment income					
Bank interest		-	-	7,394	5,524
TOTAL INCOME		-	30,283	8,244	37,742
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Charitable activities					
Donations	7	-	3,520	-	8,176
Trading activities					
Bar purchases	5	-	4,948	-	5,042
Support costs					
Premises and equipment	8	1,698	11,509	-	15,050
Administrative expenses	9	-	101	-	2,109
Governance costs					
Independent examination		-	400	-	400
Legal and professional fees		-	252	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,698	20,730	-	30,777
NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME		(1,698)	9,553	8,244	6,965
Fund balances as at:					
1 January 2024		31,410	31,771	144,321	200,537
31 December 2024		29,712	41,324	152,565	207,502

The notes on pages 8 to 13 form part of these accounts

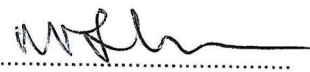
THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND

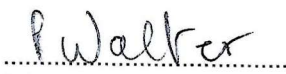
BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

		2024		2023	
	Note	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	10		<u>29,712</u>		<u>31,410</u>
			29,712		31,410
CURRENT ASSETS					
Bar stock	5	1,860		1,576	
Debtors		-		-	
Prepayments and accrued income		1,505		1,362	
Prepayments in respect of property		11,948		-	
Cash at bank	11	188,973		174,419	
Cash in hand	11	<u>251</u>		<u>645</u>	
		204,537		178,002	
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>10,648</u>		<u>1,910</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>193,889</u>		<u>176,092</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS LIABILITIES			<u>223,601</u>		<u>207,502</u>
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted:					
Capital fund		29,712		31,410	
Admin fund		41,324		31,771	
Special Repairs fund		<u>152,565</u>		<u>144,321</u>	
			<u>223,601</u>		<u>207,502</u>
			<u>223,601</u>		<u>207,502</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on **10 April 2025** and signed on their behalf by:


M J Humphrey
Chair


P Walter
Treasurer

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the Charity.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Donations receivable are allocated on the basis of the donors' wishes. If a purpose is specified then it is a restricted fund for that purpose. If a specific purpose is determined by the Trustees a Designated fund will be used.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Investment income is recognised in the accounts when the amount can be measured reliably and the Charity's right to receive payment is established.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102).

(d) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for gross on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category.

Charitable activities expenditure include all resources applied by the Charity in undertaking its charitable objectives as opposed to support costs.

Support costs are those that assist the work of the Charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs and governance costs.

Fund-raising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

(e) Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

(f) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows.

Freehold property - 50 years straight line

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 10 years straight line

Freehold land is not depreciated.

(g) Stock

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(h) Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements, which is sufficient with the level of reserves of the Charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

i) Taxation

Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the charity, and as such is included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

j) Liquid investments

Cash at bank includes short term investments which are highly liquid investments and are effectively cash, i.e. they include cash on deposit and cash equivalents with a maturity of less than one year.

2. Trustees Remuneration, Expenses and Control

There were no remuneration or expenses paid to any of the Trustees during the year (2023 - £nil). The Charity is controlled by the Trustees as a body. No individual Trustee has control over the Charity.

3. Related Party Transactions

There are no related party transactions during the year (2023 - £nil).

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

4. Contributions

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£
Lodge No 809	4,800	4,800
Lodge No 6125	4,800	4,800
Lodge of Instruction No 809	145	145
Lodge of Instruction No 6125	145	145
Chapter	720	720
Mark	720	720
Rose Croix	720	720
Royal Arc Mariners	720	720
	<u>12,770</u>	<u>12,770</u>

5. Bar account

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£
Sales	11,825	10,999
Cost of sales		
Purchases	5,232	5,365
Opening stock	<u>1,576</u>	<u>1,253</u>
	6,808	6,618
Closing stock	<u>(1,860)</u>	<u>(1,576)</u>
	<u>(4,948)</u>	<u>(5,042)</u>
	58.2%	54.2%
	<u>6,877</u>	<u>5,957</u>

6. Investment income

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£
COIF Account - Special repairs and improvements fund	<u>7,394</u>	<u>5,524</u>

7. Donations

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£
Arthur Rank Hospice Charity	2,700	1,500
Alan Hudson Treatment Centre	820	500
Wisbech Food Banks	-	2,000
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	1,676
3rd Wisbech Girl Guides	-	500
3rd Wisbech Scouts	-	500
Fenland Families and Baby Bank	-	500
Friends of Victoria Lodge	-	500
Peckover Primary School	-	250
Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association	-	100
Friends of Wisbech Park	-	100
Passageway George	-	50
	<u>3,520</u>	<u>8,176</u>

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

8. Premises and equipment

	2024 Unrestricted £	2023 Unrestricted £
Repairs and Maintenance	545	2,832
Insurance	4,978	3,654
Electric	1,909	1,984
Gas	318	377
Water	316	351
Rates	298	278
Cleaning	2,843	2,577
Fire Protection	110	153
Alarm Maintenance	192	267
Depreciation	1,698	2,577
	<u>13,207</u>	<u>15,050</u>

9. Administrative expenses

	2024 Unrestricted £	2023 Unrestricted £
Telephone	-	125
Licence Fees	79	6
Expenses relating to the Courthouse lease	11,948	-
Professional Fees	(11,948)	1,800
Sundry Expenses	22	178
	<u>101</u>	<u>2,109</u>

10. Fixed assets

	Land £	Hall and Dining Room £	Furniture etc £	Total £
Cost				
Brought forward at 1 January 2024, and carried forward at 31 December 2024	1,380	29,188	22,872	53,440
Depreciation				
Brought forward at 1 January 2024	-	5,840	16,190	22,030
Charge for the year	-	584	1,114	1,698
Carried forward at 31 December 2024	-	6,424	17,304	23,728
Net book value				
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,380</u>	<u>22,764</u>	<u>5,568</u>	<u>29,712</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,380</u>	<u>23,348</u>	<u>6,682</u>	<u>31,410</u>

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

11. Cash at bank and Cash in hand

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£
COIF Account	151,716	144,321
National Westminster Bank Account	32,224	27,527
Social Committee Account	5,033	2,571
Cash at bank	<u>188,973</u>	<u>174,419</u>
Social Committee	1	395
Bar float	<u>250</u>	<u>250</u>
Cash in hand	<u>251</u>	<u>645</u>

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	£	£
Trade Creditors	258	365
Accruals	9,990	1,000
Independent examiners fee	400	400
Deferred income	-	145
	<u>10,648</u>	<u>1,910</u>

13. Funds

The Administration Fund (**Admin Fund**) is at an unrestricted fund used to ensure that remaining funds in the charity are able to cover at least twelve months 'Operating Costs'.

The Special Repairs and Development Fund (**Special Repairs Fund**) relates to unrestricted funds retained for substantial items of repair and to provide funds to contribute to the remodelling of its Grade 2 listed property within the next ten to fifteen years.

The **Capital fund** relates to unrestricted funds used to acquire the fixed assets of the charity. It will retain any funds received for that specific purpose.

THE WISBECH MASONIC BENEVOLENT FUND
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

13. Funds (continued)

	Capital fund £	Admin fund £	Special Repairs fund £	Total £
2024				
Fixed assets	29,712	-	-	29,712
Current assets	-	15,313	-	15,313
Cash at bank and Cash in hand	-	36,659	152,565	189,224
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(10,648)	-	(10,648)
	<u>29,712</u>	<u>41,324</u>	<u>152,565</u>	<u>223,601</u>
2023				
Fixed assets	31,410	-	-	31,410
Current assets	-	2,938	-	2,938
Cash at bank and Cash in hand	-	30,743	144,321	175,064
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	-	(1,910)	-	(1,910)
	<u>31,410</u>	<u>31,771</u>	<u>144,321</u>	<u>207,502</u>

14. Comparative figures - year ended 31 December 2023

	Capital fund £	Admin fund £	Unrestricted funds Special Repairs fund £	Total £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies				
General donations	-	4,926	600	5,526
Charitable activities				
Contributions	-	12,770	-	12,770
Social Activities	-	2,923	-	2,923
Trading activities				
Bar sales	-	10,999	-	10,999
Investment income				
Interest	-	-	5,524	5,524
TOTAL INCOME	<u>-</u>	<u>31,618</u>	<u>6,124</u>	<u>37,742</u>
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Charitable activities				
Donations	-	8,176	-	8,176
Trading activities				
Bar purchases	-	5,042	-	5,042
Support costs				
<i>Premises and equipment</i>	2,577	12,473	-	15,050
<i>Administrative expenses</i>	-	2,109	-	2,109
Governance costs				
Independent examination	-	400	-	400
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>2,577</u>	<u>28,200</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,777</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME	<u>(2,577)</u>	<u>3,418</u>	<u>6,124</u>	<u>6,965</u>
Transfers between funds	-	50	(50)	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	<u>(2,577)</u>	<u>3,468</u>	<u>6,074</u>	<u>6,965</u>