

Snailslynch Wood Community Project

Report and accounts

for the year to 31 March 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

for the year to 31st March 2024

Principal address

45 Bridgefield, Farnham , Surrey GU9 8AW

Trustees

Stephen Pallant

Simon Cryer

Stephen Linton

Geoff Shutler (resigned 12 December 2023)

Structure, governance and management

Snailslynch Wood Community Project is a Charitable Incorporate Organisation (CIO), charity number 1199983, formed under a constitution dated 29th July 2022.

Under the constitution, there must be at least three trustees. One-third, or the number closest to one-third, of the charity trustees retire at each AGM. The trustees to retire by rotation are those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the AGM. New trustees, including any vacancies not filled at the AGM, may be appointed at any time by the members or trustees provided the total number of trustees does not exceed twelve.

At the AGM, Stephen Linton will stand down as a trustee, but is willing to be re-elected, and the trustees recommend that Geoff Shutler is also elected, having resigned last year to avoid a conflict of interest related to the land purchase.

Objectives and activities

The objectives of the Project are to promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the flora and fauna of Snailslynch Wood in Farnham, Surrey, as a natural habitat in perpetuity for the benefit of the local community and users of the North Downs Way, which passes through the property, mainly but not exclusively by:

- a. The purchase of Snailslynch Wood
- b. Restoring and maintaining ease of access to the public right of way across the land and to enhance the enjoyment by the public of the natural environment.

Public benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The year to 31st March 2024 has been significant for the project. Through the generosity of donors we were able to raise enough funds to allow us, with the addition of Gift Aid, to purchase the two plots of land which make up Snailslynch Wood. This is a fantastic achievement and secures the future of the wood as a community asset and wildlife haven.

Having secured the future of the land through purchase, the trustees have considered options for the future management of the land. Initially we recommend minimal intervention, keeping the site safe, maintaining the footpath in usable condition and clearing some of the fallen wood.

Depending on the availability of funding, in the future we wish to make some additional improvements, including the cutting of a small drainage channel to allow some of the stagnant water to drain, removing non-native species and potentially clearing a small area to host occasional events.

There is the potential to manage the site more actively, by planting new trees and selling carbon credits to other businesses wishing to offset carbon emissions. This would constitute a longer-term commitment to managing the site and would require a baseline biodiversity survey, with associated costs. This has the advantage of providing an income to the project, but would require more work by the members over several decades to ensure that the conditions of any grants/ carbon credits were met. There would also be an attendant risk of incurring financial penalties if, for whatever reason, they weren't. At this stage we do not, therefore, recommend pursuing that source of income.

Even if we decide to proceed with minimal intervention, there will still be ongoing, annual costs, including the purchase of public liability insurance. We recommend an annual membership fee to cover this basic cost and a resolution will be brought to the AGM for a decision. We now have only a small cash reserve to cover other contingencies (e.g. a tree falling onto the North Downs Way and needing to be cleared promptly). The trustees are looking at possible grant applications, and at ways to increase our membership.

Financial review

Funds have principally come from donations from local residents and associated gift aid. There have been a number of smaller donations through online portals driven by articles and posts in local and professional media.

The project raised sufficient funds to complete the purchase of the plots of land which, after purchase price and professional service, leaves the project with a small cash reserve of £2,716. Due to the limited nature of the reserves, the trustees recommend minimal intervention and associated outlay at present. This approach will be revisited in future, but there will be at a minimum, an annual requirement to purchase public liability insurance for the site, with associated cost.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees



Stephen Pallant
Chair
03-Sep- 2024

Independent examiners report

for the year to 31 March 2024

Report to the trustees of Snailslynch Wood Community Project

on the accounts for the year to 31 March 2024 set out on page 5.

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year to 31 March 2024.

As the charity 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 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:

David Protheroe, FCA
14 Bridgefield, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8AN
03-Sep-2024

Receipts and payments*for the year to 31st March 2024*

	<i>Year to 31 March 2024 Period to 31st March 2023</i>	
Cash funds at the start of the year	35,988	-
Receipts		
Donations	28,736	35,951
Interest income	151	-
Other income	-	44
Total receipts	28,887	35,995
Payments		
Fundraising expenses	126	-
Bank Charges	30	7
	156	7
Asset purchases		
Land purchase cost	60,000	-
Legal and associated fees	2003	-
	62,159	-
Total payments	62,159	7
Net of receipts and payments	(33,272)	35,988
Cash funds at the end of the year	2,716	35,988

Statement of assets and liabilities*at 31 March 2024*

	31 March 2024	31st March 2023
Cash funds		
Cash at bank	2,716	35,988
Other monetary assets		
Debtors	800	8,925
Assets retained for the charity's own use		
Land	62,003	-
	65,519	44,913

Signed on behalf of the trustees by

Simon Cryer
Treasurer
03-Sep-2024