

Registered Charity number 1200339

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The Wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 30 April 2024

The Wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society [WARCS] [Registered Charity number 1200339]

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**Trustees Annual Report
Year ended 30 April 2024**

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the Financial Statements of the charity for the Year ended 30 April 2024.

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Working name: WARCS

Principal address: Correspondance should be addressed to WARCS care of:
25 Park Road, Welton, Brough HU15 1NW

Trustees:	The Trustees throughout the period [unless otherwise stated] are as follows:	Appointed to
<i>Chair</i>	Dave Russell	31.05.25
<i>Vice-chair</i>	Tony Clarke	31.05.26
<i>Secretary</i>	Rosemary Roach [resigned 03.10.23]	
<i>Secretary</i>	Nicola Kirk [Secretary from 07.11.23]	31.05.25
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Tatton	31.05.24
	Coleen Gill	31.05.24
	Lesley Farrar	31.05.24
	John Goodman	31.05.25
	Mike Hewson	31.05.25
	Neil Smales	31.05.24
	Jane Thompson	31.05.25

The above were all first Trustees of WARCS upon its creation as a CIO.

A resolution to reappoint Paul Tatton, Coleen Gill, Lesley Farrar and Neil Smales was passed at the AGM on 17 May 2024.

Bankers HSBC Bank
3-4 Jameson Street, Hull HU1 3JX

Independent examiner Judith Westerby

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document and Governing Body

WARCS is a charity is governed by its Constitution which was adopted on 6 September 2022 and is registered with the Charity Commission

WARCS is governed by Trustees who act together as a management committee. It is their responsibility to ensure appropriate governance and manage the charity in line with its objects.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Constitution. There must be no more than thirteen Trustees and no less than three. Trustees are appointed for three years and may stand for reelection at the AGM immediately before their office ends. When a vacancy exists the Trustees may co-opt additional Trustees.

The Trustees are always pleased to welcome anyone to the team who can use their skills and experience whether they become a Trustee or not. Please contact any of the Trustees if you feel you could contribute in some way. Volunteers and Trustees only need to contribute a few hours a month on average.

OBJECTIVES

The **objects** of the charity are to:

- [1] promote for the benefit of the public the conservation protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment in 'the area of benefit' including by promoting biological diversity;
- [2] advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment.

The **area of benefit** is four ten-kilometre squares from OS grid reference SE800400 to 800200. south of a line drawn from Holme on Spalding Moor to Bishop Burton. This will not exclude CIO events taking place outside that area. There is no geographical limit upon membership of the CIO.

The Society shall not distribute profits and shall apply all of its income to the furtherance of the objectives above.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the CIO for the purposes which are not charitable.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty, under Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011, to have due regard to the guidance on **public benefit** issued by the Charity Commission. A public benefit is created by providing information and education for people in our area and a resource where they can enjoy a natural environment together with the physical and mental welfare benefits that brings.

Trustees Annual Report continued
Year ended 30 April 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

History

WARCS began as an unincorporated group of people [the Society] interested in wildlife and caring for the countryside whose first meeting was on 3 May 1996. This evolved into regular monthly meetings, usually with talks on a variety of topics.

In 2005 the opportunity arose to acquire, with support from Enventure Northern Limited and Elloughton-cum-Brough Town

In April 2023 the committee of the Society determined to transfer all the activities, assets and liabilities of the society to

WARCS, in accordance with the decision of the members at an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 24 June 2022, with effect from 1 May 2023.

2023 Achievements

WARCS continued to maintain and develop the reserve on Brantingham Road, Elloughton, with several working parties to keep the woods tidy, maintain the paths and add new plants to the wild flower meadow. We also spent time improving the local area by litter picking.

WARCS held eight talks open to members and non-members on a wide variety of subjects, mostly with local connections. We were also able to arrange a mothing evening in the Reserve and held our traditional Christmas Quiz.

The Trustees would like in particular to thank John Goodman and Paul Tatton for their particular efforts in maintaining the Reserve and growing the wild flowers for planting. They would also like to give very special thanks to **Rosemary Roach** who reluctantly decided to retire during the year as a Trustee after many years as a committee member and Secretary of WARCS.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial regulations

The Financial Statements have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with Charity Commission Guidance. The Accounting Policies applied are set out in Note 1 to the Financial statements and comply with WARCS' constitution.

Financial Results

The results for 2023/24 were satisfactory with a net surplus of £1,133 [2022/23: deficit £4,172] resulting in our monetary assets increasing to £5,113 [2022/23: £3,980]. The Trustees recognise that they needed to build up funds to ensure that the work of WARCS, in particular the maintenance of the Reserve, can continue if income fell significantly in the future giving the Trustees time to find new funding without the condition of the Reserve deteriorating. The Trustees target is to hold £6,000, so we are still short of this.

In 2023/24 we were especially indebted to Tony Clarke, one of our Trustees, who made a significant donation which accounted for most of the surplus. We were also fortunate to continue to be supported through a grant from Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council. Our result was also better than the previous financial year as we did not have to spend over £2,000 on the Reserve. 2022/23 was also adversely affected by the professional fees incurred but those were one-off cost to secure the future of WARCS and will not need to be repeated.

All funds held are for the unrestricted use of WARCS. There are no Restricted funds.
WARCS has around 75 members.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Charity law requires trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair picture of the transactions that have occurred in relation to the charity. The Trustees have prepared their accounts on the Receipts and Payments basis which is an acceptable format for a charity which is not a company and income below £250,000.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of WARCS and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charity Act 2011.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of WARCS and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 4 June 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Dave Russell, Chair



Paul Tatton, Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of The wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society

I report on the accounts of The Wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society for the year ended 30 April 2024, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 [the **Charities Act**] and that an independent examination is not required but is desirable.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act;
- to follow the procedure laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145 (5)(b) of the Charities Act; and;
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. 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 a consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as 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 opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with sections 130 and 131 of the Charities Act;
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act;have not been met.
- (2) No matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Judith Westerby

Date: 2/5/24

The Wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society [WARCS] [Registered Charity number 1200339]

Income & Expenditure report Year ended 30 April 2024

	2024	2023
Notes	Unrestricted Funds & Total	Unrestricted Funds & Total
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Membership Fees	734	324
Monthly meetings	470	447
Grants	500	1,000
Donations	862	-
Other	95	20
	<u>2,661</u>	<u>1,791</u>
PAYMENTS		
Room Hire	443	377
Speakers fees	80	170
Insurance	424	421
Reserve expenses	341	2,660
Professional Fees		2,171
Other	240	164
	<u>1,528</u>	<u>5,963</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	1,133	(4,172)
Cash & Bank balances brought forward	3,980	8,152
Cash & Bank balances carried forward	<u>5,113</u>	<u>3,980</u>

NOTE: As WARCS did not commence operations as a charity until 31 May 2023 the 2023 numbers should all be zero. However the results for that year for the previous Society are shown to provide an appropriate comparison.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Year ended 30 April 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis, in line with the Charity Commission guidance for a charity of this size.

Land

WARCS owns a piece of land at the edge of Elloughton along the Brantingham Road, referred to as the Reserve and is made up of the Woods and the Meadow. No value is placed on it as it cannot be disposed of by the WARCS except in exceptional conditions and then only in order to meet its charitable objectives. Consequently no value is played on it.

Equipment

Equipment acquired by WARCS is only shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities where it is in regular use, has a life-span over one year and costs more than £100.

2 GRANTS RECEIVED

All grants received were unrestricted

Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council

	2024	2023
	£	£
	500	1,000
	<u>500</u>	<u>1,000</u>

3 STAFF COSTS AND TRUSTEES REMUNERATION

No staff were employed during the year

No Trustees received any remuneration during the year.

Trustees were reimbursed for directly incurred expenses on behalf of WARCS. No Trustees were reimbursed for any travel expenses during the year.

4 FUNDS

	At 1 May 2023	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	At 30 April 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	3,980	2,661	(1,528)	-	5,113
Discretionary Funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	3,980	2,661	(1,528)	-	5,113
Restricted Funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	3,980	2,661	(1,528)	-	5,113

5 TAXATION

In accordance with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010, WARCS is a charity for tax purposes and is generally exempt from Income tax and Capital Gains Tax, but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.