

Registered Charity number 1200339

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The Wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 30 April 2025

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

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Year ended 30 April 2025**

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

Trustees Annual Report Year ended 30 April 2025

The Trustees present their Annual Report, together with the Financial Statements of the charity for the Year ended 30 April 2025.

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
Chair Dave Russell	31.05.25
Vice-chair Tony Clarke	31.05.26
Secretary Rosemary Roach [resigned 03.10.23]	
Treasurer Paul Tatton	31.05.27
Coleen Gill	31.05.27
Lesley Farrar	31.05.27
John Goodman	31.05.25
Mike Hewson	31.05.25
Nicola Kirk [Secretary from 07.11.23 to 04.06.24]	31.05.25
Neil Smales	31.05.27
Jane Thompson	31.05.25

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

Tony Clarke has indicated that he will resign as a Trustee with effect from the 16 May 2025. A resolution to reappoint Dave Russell, Nicola Kirk, John Goodman, Mike Hewson and Jane Thompson was passed at the AGM on 16 May 2025. Other applications will still be welcomed and there are several vacancies for Trustees or any other persons wishing to volunteer and support our work.

Sam Hartwell joined as Secretary, but not as a Trustee, on 02.07.24 but resigned on 01.10.24. The position of Secretary remains vacant

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.

Trustees Annual Report continued

Year ended 30 April 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objectives continued

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.

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 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.

2025 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 bat evening in the Reserve and two walks around the Reserve with a woodland expert, John Killingbeck. We also 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.

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 2025/24 were satisfactory with a small surplus of £58 [2024/23: surplus £1,133] resulting in our monetary assets increasing to £5,171 [2024/23: £5,113]. The deficit was partly due to lower membership numbers and higher expenses for the Reserve compared to previous years. This illustrates how tight our finances are.

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.

We have been fortunate to continue to be supported through a grant from Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council. 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.

All funds held are for the unrestricted use of WARCS. There are no Restricted funds.

WARCS now has around 50 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 3 June 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Dave Russell, Chair



Paul Tatton, Treasurer

The Wolds And Riverbank Countryside Society [WARCS] [Registered Charity number 12003]

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 2025, 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:

Judith Westerby
9/6/25

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

Income & Expenditure report

Year ended 30 April 2025

	2025	2024
Notes	Unrestricted	Unrestricted
	Funds & Total	Funds & Total
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Membership Fees	690	734
Monthly meetings	437	470
Grants	500	500
Donations	769	862
Other		95
	<u>2,396</u>	<u>2,661</u>
PAYMENTS		
Room Hire	443	443
Speakers fees	230	80
Insurance	438	424
Reserve expenses	970	341
Professional Fees		
Other	257	240
	<u>2,338</u>	<u>1,528</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	58	1,133
Cash & Bank balances brought forward	5,113	3,980
Cash & Bank balances carried forward	<u>5,171</u>	<u>5,113</u>

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

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Year ended 30 April 2025

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Elloughton-cum-Brough Town Council	500	500
	<u>500</u>	<u>500</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 2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	At 30 April 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	5,113	2,396	(2,338)	-	5,171
Discretionary Funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Total unrestricted funds	5,113	2,396	(2,338)	-	5,171
Restricted Funds:	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	5,113	2,396	(2,338)	-	5,171

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.