



Meanwhile Gardens Community Association

Report of the Trustees

(Management Committee)

For the year ended 31 March 2025

1. Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Meanwhile Gardens Community Association (MGCA)

Charity Registration Number: 296921

Company Registration Number: 2134343

Registered Office and Operational Address:

156–158 Kensal Road, London W10 5BN

Members of the Management Committee (Trustees):

- **Tony Curzon-Price** – Chair
- **Rose Peel** – Co-Vice Chair
- **Simon Ryder** – Co-Vice Chair
- **Gary Lohan** – Honorary Treasurer
- Alex Bowling
- Keith Benton
- Susie Gretz (*resigned July 2024*)
- Julie Jones
- Rohan McCullough
- Dez O'Neill
- Kristian Parker

Senior Management Team:

Project Manager: Chandrika Dalpat

Independent Examiner:

The Accounting Equation (appointed to undertake the Independent Examination Review for this year)

Bankers:
Royal Bank of Scotland

2. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

MGCA is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 22 May 1987 and registered with the Charity Commission. It operates under its Memorandum and Articles of Association. In the event of winding up, members may be required to contribute up to £1.00.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected annually at the AGM and may stand for re-election. The Management Committee must consist of between 10 and 30 members, with no more than one third co-opted. MGCA seeks to recruit trustees who reflect the diversity, needs, and skills of the local community.

Induction and Training

New trustees receive an induction pack outlining MGCA's history, governance, policies, and responsibilities. MGCA encourages trustees to attend training to support their role. Strategic planning sessions are held periodically to review organisational aims and future plans.

Organisational Structure

MGCA is governed by a voluntary Management Committee made up of local residents, service users, and representatives from partner organisations. The Committee meets every eight weeks to review strategy, performance, and financial oversight. Sub-committees may be formed when required.

The Project Manager oversees day-to-day operations, manages staff, coordinates service delivery, and ensures MGCA meets its charitable objectives.

Risk Management

The Management Committee reviews key strategic, operational, financial, and external risks annually. Controls include:

- Clear financial processes and delegated authorities
- Regular review of health and safety (standing agenda item)
- Annual review of safeguarding arrangements
- Diversification of income streams to mitigate funding risks

MGCA has strengthened its financial oversight this year by transitioning to a new bookkeeping and independent examination arrangement to ensure accuracy, transparency, and timely compliance following issues with previous reporting. Risks are recorded in MGCA's risk register, which is reviewed annually by the Trustees.

3. Objectives and Activities

MGCA's mission: *"Meanwhile Gardens is an inspiring green space at the heart of our inner-city community."*

MGCA enhances the lives of residents in North Kensington and North Westminster by providing accessible open space, play, learning, volunteering, and community activities across its four-acre site. MGCA is committed to sustainable environmental practice and strong community partnerships.

Core Activities

- Management and maintenance of a four-acre community garden, including a free open-access skate park.
 - Operation of the Playhut, a Stay & Play centre for families with children up to age six.
 - Delivery of volunteering, horticulture, educational, and training programmes.
 - Community events and festivals, including the annual Notting Hill Carnival "Carnival Oasis".
-

4. Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and that MGCA's activities directly further its charitable purposes of providing leisure, learning, and wellbeing opportunities for local residents.

5. Achievements and Performance

Community Impact

MGCA continues to serve as a vital green space for thousands of residents. Volunteers and visitors consistently express appreciation for the tranquillity, beauty, and sense of connection the Gardens provide.

Awards and Recognition (2024)

MGCA was awarded **1st Prize** in the Brighter Kensington & Chelsea Summer Competition (Community Effort – Category 10). The charity also achieved **Level 5 “Outstanding”** in the RHS London in Bloom “It’s Your Neighbourhood” assessment.

These achievements reflect the dedication of MGCA staff, community gardeners, and volunteers.

Volunteering

MGCA benefits greatly from volunteer contributions across gardening, maintenance, events, and community sessions. Volunteers gain horticultural skills, confidence, social connection, and improved wellbeing. Their contribution is essential to the sustainability and impact of the Gardens. The trustees acknowledge with gratitude the significant contribution of volunteers, whose work materially enhances the charity’s impact.

Partnerships and Collaborations

MGCA works closely with a range of partners including:

- **Golborne Medical Centre** – delivering the “Golborne Hearted” public health programme focused on nature, exercise, creativity, and social connection.
- **Kensington & Chelsea MIND** – delivering horticultural therapy and training since 1994.
- **Floating Classroom** – providing outdoor environmental education for schools and community groups.
- **Metronomes Steel Band Orchestra** – a long-standing cultural partnership using MGCA’s factory building as a rehearsal space.
- **Natural History Museum** – supporting outdoor learning initiatives during redevelopment of their own Wildlife Garden.
- Local schools – regular use of the Gardens for environmental studies, fitness, and outdoor learning.

Projects, Events & Activities

- Weekly gardening, wellbeing and “Fork to Fork” kitchen garden sessions.
- The two-day **Carnival Oasis** event during Notting Hill Carnival, providing a family-friendly safe haven amid the festival.
- Ongoing relationship with local skaters, who actively help maintain the skate bowls and report issues.

The Playhut

The Playhut supports disadvantaged and isolated families with children under six. Staff provide early years play and learning activities, parenting support, and referrals to wider services. The timetable includes Stay & Play, Messy Play, Nature Explorers, and a community food hub supported by North Kensington Community Kitchen. The Stay & Eat warm space continues to be highly valued.

Ongoing Developments – Factory Site

MGCA is developing plans to transform the old factory building into a vibrant, community-driven asset, working with Metronomes Steel Band, Counterculture, IDK Architects, and RBKC. A feasibility study has been completed.

6. Financial Review

MGCA showed a surplus on unrestricted funds for the year of £178,903. At 31 March 2025 there were free reserves carried forward not tied up in fixed assets of £0 and restricted revenue funds of £19,509. The remaining restricted funds in the balance sheet of £1 comprise the net book value of the Playhut and equipment.

MGCA's principal funding sources include local authority support (particularly from RBKC), grant-making trusts, charitable foundations, earned income, and community donations.

MGCA continues to strengthen financial controls and reporting processes to ensure timely compliance and accuracy.

7. Reserves Policy

The Management Committee reviews the reserves policy annually. MGCA aims to hold free reserves equivalent to between three and six months of operating costs, in line with Charity Commission guidance. Based on total expenditure of £230,235 in 2024/25, this equates to a target range of £57,559 to £115,118. At 31 March 2025 unrestricted reserves totalled £178,903, which is above this target range. The trustees consider this level of reserves appropriate at present given the current funding environment, the timing of grant income and planned capital and service developments. Over the coming years the trustees expect reserves to reduce gradually towards the target range as funds are invested in delivering MGCA's strategic and capital plans.

8. Fundraising Statement

MGCA does not engage in high-volume public fundraising. All fundraising activity complies with the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice. MGCA received zero fundraising complaints during the year.

9. Plans for the Future

Strategic priorities for the coming year include:

- Securing a long-term lease for the Gardens and factory building.
 - Securing core funding to expand staff capacity and maintain the Gardens.
 - Increasing volunteering, wellbeing, and training opportunities.
 - Developing enhanced early years provision at the Playhut.
 - Expanding community initiatives, especially for marginalised and underserved groups.
 - Delivering a major capital works programme to renovate the Gardens and skate park.
-

10. Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The Management Committee reviews remuneration for key management personnel annually, taking into account sector benchmarks, responsibilities of the role, and the financial position of the charity.

11. Responsibilities of the Trustees

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities SORP (FRS 102). They must ensure:

- Appropriate accounting policies are selected and applied consistently.
 - Judgments and estimates are reasonable and prudent.
 - Financial statements are prepared on a going-concern basis.
 - Proper accounting records are kept and safeguarding measures are in place to prevent fraud and irregularities.
-

12. Independent Examination

The accounts are subject to an independent examination under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.

Approval

Approved by the Management Committee on **Friday 19 December 2025** and signed on its behalf by:

Gary Lohan
Honorary Treasurer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gary Lohan', written over a horizontal line.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MEANWHILE GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year end 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 8 to 14.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's trustees (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the company's accounts carried out under section 145 of Charities Act 2011 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 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceed £250,000.00 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in the section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Association of Accounting Technicians, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- The accounts do not accord with those records; or
- The accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examiner; or
- The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Laura Parfitt-Marr FMAAT
The Accounting Equation
First Floor Front Office
13-14 Market place
Penzance
TR18 2JB

Date: 27th November 2025

MEANWHILE GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Income					
Donations and Legacies	3	294,489	21,820	316,309	178,716
Charitable activities	4	34,051		34,051	105,498
Investments	5	1,715		1,715	736
Total		330,255	21,820	352,075	284,950
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	6&7	227,924	2,311	230,235	309,661
Total		227,924	2,311	230,235	309,661
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		102,331	19,509	121,840	24,711
Transfers between funds					-
Net movement in funds		102,331	19,509	121,840	(24,711)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		76,572		76,572	101,283
Total funds carried forward:		178,903	19,509	198,412	76,572

The Statement of Financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

MEANWHILE GARDENS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	9	1	3,484
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1</u>	<u>3,484</u>
Current Assets			
Debtors	10	20,706	21,659
Cash at bank and in hand		194,503	86,206
Total Current Assets		<u>215,209</u>	<u>107,865</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	11	(16,798)	(34,776)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>(16,798)</u>	<u>(34,776)</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>198,412</u>	<u>76,572</u>
Total Net Assets or Liabilities		<u>198,412</u>	<u>76,572</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted Funds		19,509	
Unrestricted Funds		178,903	76,572
Total Funds		<u>198,412</u>	<u>76,572</u>

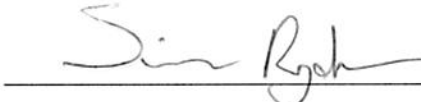
For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies for year ended 31 March 2025

No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies regime.

These accounts were approved by the Board on 19/12/2025

Signed  Signed



**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Accounting policies

Charity information

Meanwhile Gardens Community Association is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 156-158 Kensal Road, London W10 58N.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Unrestricted funds consist of donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation. Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.
Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Assets with a cost of £1,000 or more are capitalised. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Playhut	23 1/2 years over remainder of lease
Skatebowl and Gardens	10% pa straight line
Playgrounds	25% pa straight line
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Volunteers

No monetary value has been placed on the services of volunteers.

2. Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future

3 Income from donations and gifts

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Donations and Gifts	78,495.00	-	78,495.00	97,716.00
Grants	215,994.00	21,820.00	237,814.00	81,000.00
	294,489.00	21,820.00	316,309.00	178,716.00

4. Income from Charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Sale of Goods	34,051	-	34,051	12,255
Performance related grants (under grants above)				93,243
	34,051		34,051	105,498

5. Income from Investments

	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Interest receivable	1,715	736

6 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Wages & Salaries	147,863	1615	149,478	158,013
Depreciation	3483		3,483	6,939
Charitable expenditure	58839	696	59,535	27,903
Support Costs (see point 7)			-	116,806
Governance Cost (see point 7)			-	2,500
			-	
Total	210,185	2,311	212,496	312,161

7 Governance and Support Costs

Administration	15,239	15,239	112,139
Accounting Services	2,500	2,500	2,500
	17,739	17,739	114,639

8 Staff costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	149,478	158,012

The average numbers of employees was 14 (2024 - 5). No employee earned more than £60,000 p.a.

9 Fixed Assets

	Playhut £	Skatebowl and Gardens £	Playgrounds £	Fixtures, Fittings and equipment £	TOTAL £
Cost:					
As at 1 April 2024	163,076	977,700	38,828	68,953	1,248,557
Additions			-	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	163,076	977,700	38,828	68,953	1,248,557
Depreciation:					
As at 1 April 2024	159,593	977,700	38,828	68,952	1,245,073
Charge for the year	3,483		-		
As at 31 March 2025	163,076	977,700	38,828	68,952	1,245,073
Carrying Amount					
As at 31 March 2025	-	-	-	1	1
As at 31 March 2024	-	-	-	1	1

Meanwhile Gardens occupy land on a 25 year lease from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea at a peppercorn rent. The lease was signed on 1st October 1999 and with effect from that date. They also have a tenancy at will on the buildings. All the costs of the works, which were completed in 2001, are being depreciated over the remainder of the lease which is 23.5 years.

10 Debtors & prepayments

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade Debtors	20,095	21,659
Prepayments	611	-
	20,706	21,659

11 Creditors & accruals

	2025 £	2024 £
Other Taxation and social security	2,256	5,956
Deferred income	11,255	23,349
Accruals	2,500	5,471
Other creditors	787	
	16,798	34,776

12 Taxation

As a registered charity the association is normally exempt from taxation under S466 to 493 of CTA 2010

13 Trustees

None of the trustees were remunerated directly or indirectly during the year.

14 Deferred Income

	2025 £	2024 £
Arising from government grants	-	-
Other deferred income	11,255	-
	11,255	

15 Unrestricted Funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include

designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	Balance	Movement in funds			Balance
	01.04.2024	In year	Resources Expended	Transfers	31.03.25
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	76,572	330,255	(227,924)	-	178,903
Previous Year	01.04.2023				31.03.24
	£	£	£	£	£
General Funds	62,954	191,707	(159,848)	(18,241)	76,572

16 Analysis of net assets by fund

	Unrestricted 2025	Restricted 2025	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1	-	1	3484
Current Asset	178,903	19,509	198412	73088
	178904	19,509	198413	76572

17 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 -none)