

## The Ashington Centre

Ashington Community Centre Trust Foster Lane • Ashington • West Sussex • RH20 3PG

*Registered Charity: The Ashington Community Centre Trust*

*Reg No: 305340 Registered Office: 19 The Sands, Ashington, WestSussex RH20 3LQ*

[info@ashingtoncc.org.uk](mailto:info@ashingtoncc.org.uk)



### **Chair Report for May 2023**

Welcome to the 75<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Ashington Community Centre Trust.

I should perhaps start by recording my thanks to my fellow Trustees for voting me into the position of Chair last November, following John Howie's departure at very short notice, when I had only been a Trustee since May. It has been a very interesting experience from the outset, given that we were already in a degree of transition.

The ACCT had actually engaged the services of a strategy specialist to help the Trust review its modus operandi before I joined the Committee. The exercise was most productive and enabled us to review our operations and processes, with a particular emphasis on what the Trust should be delivering to the village and the fashion by which it should start to build for the future. More on this is to follow later in the report, but I would like to thank the team for their support and the manner by which they have all engaged on the proposition before us.

The Trust has had quite a challenging year given the on going aftershock of the pandemic with a number of regular users of the Trust's services and facilities either ceasing to operate or considerably reducing their business operations. However, the initiatives which have been taken during the course of the year should allow the Trust to re-position itself and take a more proactive approach to attracting more users of our facilities.

Laura White has continued in her role as the Trust Administrative Clerk, assisting Margaret Alford, our Secretary, and Sarah Mansfield-Osborne, as our accounts Bookkeeper. Michelle Simpson took over the role of Treasurer from John Morris who was kindly standing in for us for which we thank him.

Derek, our Caretaker and Katie, our cleaner have continued to deliver the highest service offerings to our customers which is reflected in the level of repeat bookings for which we extend our gratitude. Derek does an excellent job in ensuring that the Halls are available whenever required and mans the car park quite admirably, despite the occasional belligerent user who doesn't seem to realise that it is not a public car park. Katie just continues to be a star.

I would again like to record the ACCT's thanks to Robin Botting and Mark Adsett for continuing with all their hard work maintaining our recreation ground and playing fields to such a high standard despite the great usage. The football pitches have proved a particular challenge given the heavy rain which we have experienced this winter but they are now looking green and healthy.

Bookings have been fairly steady throughout the year, and we are grateful to the NHS and WSCC for their continued business as this provides a sound source of income into the ACCT. The lines of business and the initiatives to grow our services will no doubt be recorded by other parties. I am grateful to Michelle Simpson for the preparation and submission of the Annual Accounts and these are included in my report for inspection.

The financial situation which we are currently dealing with has precluded us from doing as much as we might have liked in terms of capital expenditure with two notable exceptions.

We finally received planning permission to commence the works on the extension of the car park which will provide the Trust with an additional nine spaces. The history here is that there was funding available to us in respect of unspent 106 funds held by the Horsham District Council. However, the monies could only be spent on an extension to the car park due to the premise by which the funds were originally assigned to us. The deadline by which we had to spend those funds had become very tight, but the work actually commenced on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May; it is being undertaken by J C Allfrey & Co and should be completed within four weeks.

In addition, thanks to the initiative taken forward by Michelle Simpson, we now have a dual EV charging system installed on the end wall of the main building. This, once, commissioned, will mean that the Trust can provide an electronic charging facility to residents of the village and visitors to the Halls. It has also enabled us to redesign the parking in that area of the grounds whereby we have converted one car park place into four, two of which will be specifically allocated for EV charging.

The Chanctonbury Storehouse food bank continues to provide a service to residents of the village using the small office at the end of the main hall and is well received by the neighbourhood. The Wardens continue to operate out of the other small office and provide a commendable service to the village for which we thank them.

Referring back to what I said earlier, the major step forward that the Trust has taken is to realign itself to provide a more focused operation. Four subgroups have been created to take responsibility for the four vertical areas of business operations.

These comprise the following each managed by one of the Trustees:-

**The Partnerships and Communications Group – Martin Jenkins**

**The Operations Group – Carl Smart**

**The Governance and Process Group – Linda Myles**

**The Business Performance Group – Michelle Simpson**

The groups are now up and running and each is operating under its agreed remit.

Each group has set out a 90 day planning outlined the aims of the group. Following this, longer term deliverables will be agreed within the confines of each group and they will drive the processes and procedures which are being implemented.

As part of this process, there have already been some significant achievements.

A good deal of work has gone in reviewing the licences of users of the facilities run by the Trust and we are grateful for the work that Michelle Simpson has put into this.

Thanks to the efforts of Martin Jenkins and Margaret Alford and the team, a new online booking system has been built and launched which we believe will very much streamline the whole booking process. This should eventually lead to increased utilization of the facilities that we have within the Trust and, thereby, increased revenues.

There are other initiatives that the groups are working with, and I would like to think that this will very much re-position the Trust in terms of its day-to-day operations and the create a more commercially focused operation which can improve the charitable aims of the Trust.

The Village Festival was as successful as ever, with Margaret and her team undertaking the challenge of organising and running this event in their normal inimitable fashion. As the winner of the wheelbarrow of booze, my wife highly endorses this event!! The other big success was the Coronation Picnic on the Rec. It was a bit of a shot in the dark in setting this up, and running it, as we were unsure of the weather, the numbers and the state of the ground. The insurance company created a number of barriers, but the stalwarts bashed on and, lo and behold, the sun shone and we have over 400 villagers and their friends picnicking with another 100 passing through, so I have to congratulate all those who provided us with such support. This includes ACCT Trustees, the Parish Council, the School, the Church, the Village Club, the Youth Club, the AFC, the Rovers, the Ashington Short Mat Bowls Club and the Ashington Nursery as well as a bunch of dedicated villagers.

Our current activities involve the following:

- Completing the extension of the existing car park with the inclusion of the further 9 spaces and marking out the EV charging places in addition to the two further spaces which have been identified.
- It was determined that it would not be commercially viable to create a larger office space at 1<sup>st</sup> floor level by utilizing the current unexploited area. However, on review, it was agreed that by improving the facilities in the top office, it could be hired out on a commercial basis instead. The Ashington Parish Church has expressed a need for additional office facilities from time to time whilst the proposed development at the Parish Yard is progressed, so this space could be most suitable as it may well be for other parties. Work is being progressed accordingly and a surveyor has been engaged to provide us with commercial estimates for letting these facilities.
- The initial refurbishment of the Pavilion Toilets, showers and changing rooms for use by the resident Cougars football club and the Rovers Club has been completed but there are other works to be conducted. The Operations Group continue with their conversation with The Sussex FA and Football Foundation to secure the appropriate grants. There are also further long-term opportunities with the Sussex FA and other parties to assist us with maintenance and improvement of our playing fields and the Recreation Ground as a whole.

- The company which we engaged last year, Play Safe, continue to inspect and advise on the condition of our play area. They will conduct essential specialist works in order to maintain compliance of safety regulations.
- As reported above, the two Electric Vehicle charging points have been installed and Michelle Simpson is now undertaking the task of commissioning these.
- The task of seeking grants to resurface the Youth Club, Pavilion and Scout Hall continues as does a new initiative of obtaining a grant to refurbish the whole Youth Club, as the roof, in particular, is in a sorry state of repair.

In summary, the primary objective through the past year has been to focus more on creating a structure that could target more on business development which would introduce us to a wider field by extolling the outstanding facilities we have to offer.

We are sad to lose Sam Ball as the Parish Council Representative as she has been very participative in the Trust and look forward to welcoming her replacement.

As John Howie stated last year and I very much endorse, a final thanks must go to our Trustees who have donated their personal time to assisting in the maintenance of our valued village assets. Their support and positivity is very much appreciated and the fine condition of our buildings and open spaces is a reflection and credit to them all.

Thank you,

Christopher Wood

Chair, Ashington Community Trust

30<sup>th</sup> May 2023

## Profit and Loss

Ashington Community Centre Trust  
For the year ended 31 March 2023

Account	2023	2022
<b>Turnover</b>		
Admin fee	680.00	0.00
Alcohol permit	10.00	0.00
Christmas fayre and tables	2,414.43	0.00
Cleaning fee	405.00	0.00
Full stage	125.00	0.00
Hire of large hall	32,684.34	0.00
Interest Income	29.37	1.18
License fees	83.34	0.00
Non invoiced receipts	204.00	11,756.88
Other Revenue	1,740.00	0.00
Pitch and outdoor court hire	2,857.25	0.00
Sales	585.96	41,041.73
Scout hut hire	9,079.11	0.00
Small hall hire	4,101.10	0.00
Sports pavillion	11,542.10	0.00
Tea Towel sales	160.00	0.00
<b>Total Turnover</b>	<b>66,701.00</b>	<b>52,799.79</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		
CJRS	0.00	280.80
Donations	71.75	75.00
Gain on investment	(1,777.99)	8,091.84
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>(1,706.24)</b>	<b>8,447.64</b>
<b>Total income</b>	<b>64,994.76</b>	<b>61,247.43</b>
<b>Cost of Sales</b>		
Direct Expenses	1,242.67	0.00
<b>Total Cost of Sales</b>	<b>1,242.67</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Gross Surplus</b>	<b>63,752.09</b>	<b>61,247.43</b>

**Administrative Costs**

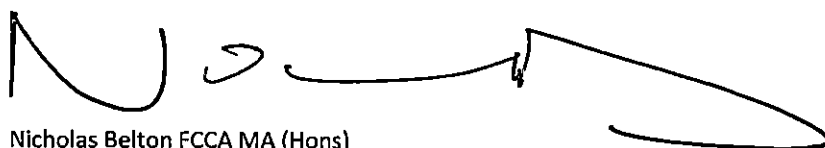
Advertising & Marketing	163.00	0.00
Audit & Accountancy fees	2,026.30	600.00
Bank Fees	20.00	30.00
Charitable and Political Donations	2,677.27	0.00
Cleaning	6,697.84	4,578.24
Computer	0.00	419.69
Depreciation Expense	2,655.60	2,718.50
General Expenses	404.48	123.97
Grants given	0.00	1,350.00
Grounds maintenance	6,107.99	5,120.00
Licences and Insurance	2,675.96	3,983.83
Light, Power, Heating	20,240.20	9,362.72
Postage, Freight & Courier	141.82	240.76
Printing & Stationery	514.25	0.00
Professional fees		40.00
Rates	2,276.34	1,838.42
Repairs & Maintenance	13,149.70	19,444.84
Salaries	11,866.59	5,160.41
Staff Training	72.00	0.00
Subscriptions	758.00	324.00
Telephone & Internet	1,017.79	1,088.09
Subsistence and travel	107.78	0.00
Water	1,058.56	623.40
<b>Total Administrative Costs</b>	<b>74,631.47</b>	<b>57,046.87</b>
<b>Operating deficit</b>	<b>(10,879.38)</b>	<b>4,200.56</b>

Surplus b/fwd	125,668.56	121,468.00
Surplus /(deficit) for year	(10,879.38)	4,200.56
Surplus c/fwd	<u>114,789.18</u>	<u>125,668.56</u>

## Represented by:

Bank	21,142.37	28,846.47
Savings	11,632.24	11,602.87
Cash	-	21.30
Investment	70,457.85	72,235.84
Fixed assets	8,815.90	11,272.50
Debtors	7,063.62	1,688.58
Rounding on above	1.00	1.00
Creditors	(4,323.80)	
	<u>114,789.18</u>	<u>125,668.56</u>

I am satisfied the Trust accounts are in accordance with the books and records and explanations given to me



Nicholas Belton FCCA MA (Hons)  
34 Rectory Close  
Ashington  
West Sussex  
RH20 3LP

19/05/2023

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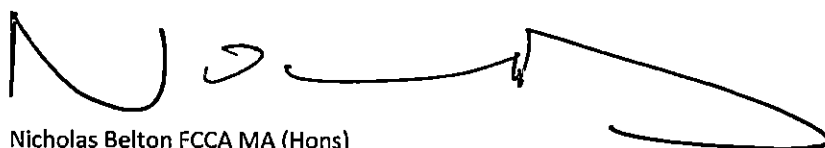
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