

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 01997072 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 517465**

**Report of the Trustees and  
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025  
for  
Rice Lane Community Association Limited**

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# **Rice Lane Community Association Limited**

## **Report of the Trustees**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The directors who are also trustees of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

##### **Objectives and aims**

The objectives of the Association are to advance the education and provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for the benefit for the residents of Liverpool, particularly the Walton and Fazakerley area and neighbourhoods. The Association has a programme of activities which is delivered from Rice Lane City Farm. Extensive use of outreach and service delivery for all people from school age children to senior citizens, including people with special needs.

##### **Public benefit statement**

In considering the objectives and activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit to ensure that the organisation is meeting its Public Benefit requirements, including the need to maintain funding to enable a sensible long term time scale to be maintained.

# **Rice Lane Community Association Limited**

## **Report of the Trustees**

### **for the year ended 31 March 2025**

The Trustees who were also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.


The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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) (effective 1 January 2019).

During the year 2024 -2025 there were changes both to the governance of the Charity and its staffing. Mrs A Anson joined as an additional trustee on 6th Dec 2024, bringing valuable experience from past involvement with far larger organisations than Rice Lane Community Association. Unfortunately, during this reporting period we also found it necessary to investigate and subsequently dismiss a member of staff who had occupied a position of significant trust and authority. The investigation identified multiple instances of the charities' funds being used to make payments for the benefit of that staff member or their family. The individual concerned offered no defence or mitigations to the findings of that investigation, nor at the disciplinary meeting that followed, nor at a subsequent appeal meeting, and on completion of due process was dismissed from our employment on 19th March 2025. The fraudulent use of the charities money in this way constitutes theft and this remains the subject of an ongoing investigation, the relevant crime reference numbers are NFRC250307243978 (for Action Fraud) and 25000245646 (for Merseyside Police).

While the Association is the victim of this fraud, the impact has gone far beyond the loss of the £1.4k that was taken before the issue was identified and acted upon, it has led to a significant reduction in our grant income, and in particular the suspension of our National Lottery funding. The extent of the damage done by this one event is immeasurable, and despite great effort on the part of the trustees and remaining staff, we are currently depleting our funds more rapidly than they can be restored. There is no doubt that 2025-26 and beyond will be very difficult for the association.

Against this backdrop, the services and benefits provided for our local community have been continued, with special events being run and significant numbers of adults and children visiting and taking part. Our Halloween "spooky Walk" was a particular success, becoming the most successful single fundraising event of the year, something we intend to build on in future. Limitations on the available time of trustees, particularly through their involvement in both the disciplinary and police investigations have meant that the conversion to a CIO has not been progressed and this remains as a management objective.

The Association now has 3 trustees and continues to seek additional members, and now employs 2 part-time staff who provide for the care of our animals and public access to the site 7-days per week.

.....

Jamie Dowling, Chair Trustees

Date 3/1/2026.....



# Rice Lane Community Association Limited

## Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2025

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Total Income in the year was £101299 compared to £90327 in 2023/24, of which £51600 was restricted for specific purposes. The majority of unrestricted income is from personal donations and monthly fund raising events.

Total expenditure during the year was £93464, compared to £108,534, leaving a surplus of £41560 compared to £33149 in 2023/24.

On March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 the Charity had a total of reserves of £41560 - made up of TSB £21290 CoOp £20270.15 of which £20500 were restricted. At the same time 2024/2025 the figure was restricted £3,755

**Reserves policy** - It is the policy of the charitable company to maintain unrestricted funds at a level to cover redundancy provision and one month's running costs should no further funding be received. As at the end of the financial year the unrestricted funds totalled £36240 compared to £28000 in 2023/24

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT** -The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 6<sup>th</sup> March 1986. (Company number 01997072) and registered as a charity on 28 May 1986 (Charity number 517465)

**Governing document** - The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company and is governed by its Articles of Association dated 6 March 1986

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees-** The trustees are normally appointed by the Board and one-third of the trustees will normally retire each year and are eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. No places on the Board are reserved for specific individuals or representatives of particular organizations. The trustees may also co-opt non-voting advisors to the Board or sub-committees throughout the year. In order to carry out the work of the Association the trustees abide by a variety of procedural documents.

### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

**Registered Company number** 01997072 (England and Wales)

**Registered Charity number** 517465

#### **Registered office**

No. 2 Lodge, City Farm, Rawcliffe Road, Walton, Liverpool Merseyside L9 1AW

#### **Trustees**

S Jarman (appointed 1 July 2019)

J Dowling (appointed 28 March 2023)

G Soul (appointed 15 December 2022 to 13 December 2023)

A Anson (appointed 6 December 2024)


#### **Company Secretary**

S. Jarman

#### **Independent Examiner**

Wendy Hine

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jamie Dowling, Chair Trustees

Date 3/1/2026

**.Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Rice Lane Community Association Limited**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Rice Lane Community Association Limited ('the Company')-** I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report** - As the charity's trustees of the Company (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 ('the 2006 Act').

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 your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

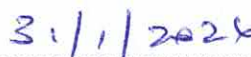
1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. 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 the 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 other than as below:

finalising accounts and highlighting any discrepancies due to ongoing fraud investigation - police reference number 25000245646



Wendy Hine



Date

**Rice Lane Community Association Limited**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	31.3.25 Total Funds £	31.3.24 Total Funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>				
Donations and legacies	1961	0	1961	38786
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Farm (inc refunds)	47738	51600	99338	51541
	49699	51600	101299	90327
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>				
<b>Charitable activities</b>				
Farm	62364	31100	93464	108534
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	-12665	20500	7835	-18534
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	33725	0	33725	51684
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	21060	20500	41560	33150

These notes form part of these financial statements



**Rice Lane Community Association Limited**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**31 March 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted Funds £	31.3.25 Total Funds £	31.3.24 Total Funds £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	5	-7698	0	-7698	-2,106
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	6	1130	0	1130	550
Debtors	7	170	0	170	310
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>21060</u>	<u>20500</u>	<u>41560</u>	<u>33150</u>
		14662	20500	35162	31904
<b>CREDITORS</b>					
Amounts falling due within one year	8	<u>-3784</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>-3784</u>	<u>(2950)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		10878	20500	31378	28954
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		21060	20500	41560	33150
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>21060</u>	<u>20500</u>	<u>41560</u>	<u>33150</u>
		=====	=====	=====	=====
<b>FUNDS</b>	9				
Unrestricted funds				21060	29395
Restricted funds				20500	<u>3755</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>				<u>41560</u>	<u>33150</u>
				=====	

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 28 December 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

 .....

Date 31/1/2026 .....

Chair Trustees

**Rice Lane Community Association Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Income**

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, 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 accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Improvements to property	- 10% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% on reducing balance

**Stocks**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

**Taxation**

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate



**Rice Lane Community Association Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**2 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**-Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.2025	31.3.2024
Depreciation – owned assets	4858	£4350

**3. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024

**Trustees' expenses** - There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024

**4 COMPARITIVES FOR THE STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and Legacies	1961	0	1961
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Farm	47738	51600	99338
<b>Total</b>	49699	51600	101299
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Farm	62364	31100	93464
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	-12665	20500	7835
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	33725	0	33725
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	21060	20500	41560
	<b>=====</b>		

**5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Improvements To property	Fixtures and fittings	Computer equipment	Totals
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	85,524	4900	2,473	92897
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 April 2024	81347	4727	2473	86,074
Charge for year	4276	582	0	4858
At 31 March 2025	77071	4145	2473	83689
	<b>=====</b>			
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>				
At 31 March 2025	(8453)	755	0	(7698)
	<b>=====</b>			
At 31 March 2024	(7883)	1093	0	(6,790)
	<b>=====</b>			

**Rice Lane Community Association Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

	31.03.2025 £	31.01.2024 £
<b>6. STOCK</b>		
Stocks	1130	510
<b>7. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
Trade debtors	177	nil
Prepayments	222	310
<b>8. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>		
Pension contributions	171	157
Accrued expenses	3784	2950
	<b>5477</b>	<b>3107</b>
	=====	=====

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1 4 2024 £	Net Movement in funds £	At 31 3 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	29395	-8335	21060
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Liverpool HAF, Sefton HAF + National Lottery	3755	16745	20500
	33150	8410	41560
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	33150	8410	41560
	=====	=====	=====

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund plus City of Liverpool + Postcode	49699	(62364)	-12665
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Liverpool HAF	11500	(11500)	0
Sefton HAF	1600	(1600)	0
National Lottery	38500	(18000)	20500
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	101299	(93464)	7835
	=====	=====	=====



**Rice Lane Community Association Limited**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

**9. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

Comparatives for movements in funds

	At 1 4 23 £	Net Movement in funds £	At 31 3 24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	46172	16737	29395
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Liverpool Charities	1712	2003	3755
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	47884	14735	33150
	=====		

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming Resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	63,669	(47,267)	16,401
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Merseyside Play Action Council	6,460	(6,460)	0
Liverpool Charities	42,552	(42,420)	132
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	112,680	(96,147)	16,533

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1 4 2023 £	Net Movement in funds £	At 31 3 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General fund	16401	8441	7960
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Liverpool HAF	0	11500	11500
Sefton HAF	0	1600	1600
National Lottery	132	20368	20500
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	16533	25027	41560
	=====		

**10. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025