

Austwick Parish Hall Annual Report for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Austwick Parish Hall, Main Street, Austwick, Lancaster, North Yorkshire, LA2 8BN is constituted by a Deed of Trust dated 19th August 1936, and registered with the Charity Commission (charity no. 523477).

The Trustees during the year were :

Chair : Dr Karen Lindsey Smith

Treasurer : Robert Glen

Secretary : Angela Jupp

Other Trustees during and at the end of 2023 : Kevin Hale, Merna McVeigh, Alec Rigby, Barbara Tibbatts, Elise Wright, Margaret Barrington (appointed 6th February 2023), Graham Cleverly (appointed 6th February 2023), Ralph Court (appointed 6th February 2023).

Trustee resignations during 2023 : Dr Peter Russell (resigned 24th January 2023), Sue Dewhirst (resigned 6th February 2023), Trevor Brown (appointed 10th July 2023, resigned 24th October 2023).

The charitable objectives of the Trustees are to maintain Austwick Parish Hall for the inhabitants of the parish of Austwick and its immediate vicinity, for community activities and for the use by local groups for social, recreational and educational purposes.

The Parish Hall's accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been drawn up and independently reviewed. Copies of statements of (a) the financial assets (balance sheet) and (b) summary cash income receipts and expenditure payments are included at the end of this report. The accounts do not include the freehold property value of the Hall itself (currently valued for insurance purposes at a rebuilding cost of £896,000) as this asset which is also held in trust does not form part of the day-to-day financial activities of the charity.

The gradual process of return to normal levels of Hall usage after the Covid-19 pandemic continued throughout 2023. The special reduced hire rates introduced as a temporary measure during the pandemic were retained throughout the year in order to encourage local user groups back to using the Hall. The financial reserves of the Parish Hall at the end of 2023 remain strong.

The following were the main features of the year's finances :

- The financial assets of the charity increased substantially by **£51,132** from **£63,784** at the start of the year, to **£114,916** by the end of 2023.
- The unusually high increase in the value of the assets was attributable to a generous legacy of **£54,197** from the estate of Joan Crompton, a longstanding resident of Austwick, who passed away in January 2022. In 2023 the trustees approved the purchase of an improved audio-visual projection system in the hall, using a portion of this legacy. This was installed towards the end of the year, and payment will be made early in 2024, which is expected to result in the reduction of the charity's financial assets to a level back below £100,000. The equipment will be used for film night events, village user groups and other activities, and will substantially enhance the capabilities of the hall for hosting these community events.
- Overall, annual income from all sources (excluding the legacy referred to above) decreased slightly to **£26,646** in 2023 from **£28,049** in 2022. However, 2022 had benefitted from the receipt of **£2,667** of Covid-19 government grants which was not repeated in 2023.
- Income from Hall hirings increased slightly to **£3,777** in 2023 from **£3,559** in 2022, although this has remained relatively low when compared with pre-pandemic levels (2019 : £5,661). The process which started in 2022 of local groups gradually returning to their previous patterns of bookings continued through 2023 supported by the discounted hire tariff at special Covid-19 levels introduced in 2020. Hire tariffs were reviewed in 2023 and a new tariff structure has been introduced with effect from the start of 2024. The effect on hire income will be monitored in 2024.
- Annual fundraising and event income increased to **£18,492** in 2023 (2022 : 17,922). The Austwick Street Market and Cuckoo Festival was again the key fundraising event in 2023. This included a number of supporting activities in the early part of the year and culminated in the main event held at the end of May. A tremendous effort was made by volunteers across the community of Austwick and its surrounding area and as always, the event benefitted from the involvement of most village activity groups and businesses. The event raised income of **£16,526** (2022 : £17,026). After related event costs, the net surplus was **£11,855** (2022 : £12,829), of which half, being **£5,928** (2022 : £6,414) was retained by the Parish Hall. The event surplus is shared 50:50 with fellow local charity the Austwick Playing Fields Association. Other fundraising income included the summer plants stall, a restored full schedule of film nights and the introduction of popular quiz nights.

- Expenditure increased to **£29,711** in 2023 (2022 : £25,915). The increase of **£3,796** was driven principally by two items.
 - Costs of hall maintenance increased to **£10,563** (2022 : £7,518), attributable to a series of one-off electrical and weatherproofing repairs to the hall building.
 - Fundraising expenses increased to **£5,947** (2022 : £4,414), as a result of greater activity in fundraising activities compared with 2022, and higher expenses incurred by the Street Market.
- An amount of **£1,546** is held on behalf of Austwick Playing Fields Association, being 50% of the funds held in a former bank account (closed in 2022). Those funds represented monies held jointly with that Association for the purposes of providing working capital to launch each year's Street Market.
- The financial resources of the charity at the end of 2023 of **£114,916** were held principally as bank balances at HSBC, Skipton Building Society and National Savings, and provide a strong financial opening position for 2024.

The Trustees would like to extend their thanks to all those in and around Austwick who volunteered their time, energies and other resources for the benefit of the charity during the year.

Robert Glen,

Treasurer, Austwick Parish Hall.

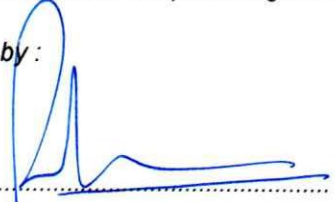
5th February 2024

AUSTWICK PARISH HALL COUNCIL
Registered Charity No. 523477
STATEMENT OF CASH ASSETS
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023


	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £
Balances as at 1 January	63,783.60 ✓	61,650.27	43,664.69
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	51,132.44 ✓	2,133.33	17,985.58
Balances as at 31 December	<u>114,916.04</u> ✓ ✓	<u>63,783.60</u>	<u>61,650.27</u>
Represented by:			
Refundable deposit held by Filmbank	150.00 ✓	150.00	150.00
Petty cash	895.56 ✓	823.86	812.19
Bank balances at HSBC, Settle (current accounts)	39,221.92 ✓	38,430.31	36,382.18
National Savings Investment Account	3,915.35 ✓	3,911.71	3,911.32
Skipton Building Society	70,733.21 ✓	20,467.72	20,394.58
Total	<u>114,916.04</u> ✓	<u>63,783.60</u>	<u>61,650.27</u>
Unbalanced difference	0.00 ✓	0.00	0.00

Note : At 31 December 2023, 2022 and 2021, balances at HSBC above included **£1,546.62** attributable to Austwick Playing Fields Association, representing a 50% share of £3,093.24 funds held for the joint "Street Market" event.

Completed by :


 Robert Glen
 Treasurer, Austwick Parish Hall
 Dated: 31 January 2024

I have examined these accounts and the books and records of Austwick Parish Hall Council and I am satisfied that they represent a correct statement of the Council's affairs as at the date stated.


 Andrew Lewis
 Independent Examiner
 Dated: 31 January 2024

AUSTWICK PARISH HALL COUNCIL
Registered Charity No. 523477
SUMMARY RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	To 31 December 2023		To 31 December 2022	
	£	£	£	£
<u>Income</u>				
Hall and equipment hire	3,777.25		3,559.75	
Fundraising and event income	18,492.39		17,922.39	
Rental income	669.96		579.14	
Reimbursement of costs	2,491.98		2,017.29	
Covid-19 Government grants	0.00		2,667.00	
Other grants	924.98		1,000.00	
Bank Interest received	269.13		73.53	
Donations	54,217.80		230.00	
		<u>80,843.49</u>		<u>28,049.10</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Business Rates and Insurance	1,274.54		1,167.81	
Utilities and Energy	4,587.93		4,251.93	
Repairs, maintenance and caretaking	10,563.37		7,518.36	
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	1,274.04		1,662.00	
Expenses of fundraising and events	5,947.45		4,414.52	
Miscellaneous, admin. and bank charges	135.72		486.15	
Playing Fields Assocn share of Fundraising	5,928.00		6,415.00	
		<u>29,711.05</u>		<u>25,915.77</u>
<u>Net surplus / (deficit)</u>		<u><u>51,132.44</u></u>		<u><u>2,133.33</u></u>