Avondale Community Transport Group (SCIO)

Scotland · Charity number SC028693

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	1999-02-18
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	97 Kirk Street Strathaven ML10 6ES

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended'

What the charity does: The charity operates a minibus for the benefit of the rural communities of Strathaven and surrounding villages. The bus is available free of charge to shoppers who are perhaps in poverty, ill, disabled or elderly who might make a small donation anyway. At a minimal charge based on mileage, the bus is available to local groups and organisations like the Girls' Brigade, the Strathaven Balloon Festival, the Bethany Group, various Guilds and the Outreach Church to help them pursue their activities. The bus is driven by volunteers.

Beneficiaries: 'Children or young people','Older People','Other defined groups','Other charities or voluntary bodies'

Objectives: The object of the group shall be to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Strathaven and it's environs by the provision and operation of transport services to assist the work of organisations and bodies engaged in the relief of poverty sickness and the disabilities of old age, the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation within the meaning of Section 7[2][i] of the Charities and Investment [Scotland] Act 2005 and any other charitable purpose so that conditions of life of the aforementioned inhabitants may be improved.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** South Lanarkshire
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£16,231	£11,402	-	0
2023-12-31	£21,578	£10,686	-	0
2022-12-31	£11,390	£9,469	-	0
2021-12-31	£12,837	£8,039	-	0
2020-12-31	£5,265	£5,266	-	0

Avondale Community Transport Group (SCIO)

Scotland - Charity number SC028693

Accounts

AVONDALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP (SCIO)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR TO 31 DECEMBER 2024

Scottish Charity number SC028693

[redacted]

Avondale Community Transport Group

Trustees' Annual Report

For the period ended 31st December 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year to 31st December 2024. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 16th July 2014.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable purposes

Our main purpose is to provide transport services to people in the form of a community bus to help them do their shopping. These people are caught in poverty, or suffering sickness or the disabilities that come with old age.

We also provide the bus and driver to clubs and organisations that are engaged in helping these people by getting them to their recreational activities. And we make it available to local youth and sports organisations in pursuance of their activities.

We operate from Strathaven and provide our service to Strathaven and the surrounding villages.

Activities

The bus is driven by local volunteers and used by residents for local shopping and by local organisations in pursuance of their sports and activities.

The drivers are not required to have a basic disclosure under section 112 of the Police Act 1997 because people are not vulnerable just because they are elderly and children are always accompanied by their clubs' leaders. Drivers do need a category D1 driving licence that allows them to drive a minibus with up to 16 seats as long as the driver is not for hire and getting no reward other than the personal satisfaction that they are making a difference. No medical examination is required until the driver reaches 70 years of age.

In terms of fundraising activity, the charity received small mileage-related government grants three times this year. Shoppers can use the bus free of charge but are inclined to make a small donation. Organisations are billed on a mileage basis. Local organisations will run fundraising activities and make charitable contributions to the group from the proceeds. We received no legacies this year (2023: £4,000).

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year to 31st December 2024

There has been no change to the Board of Trustees since 1 January 2024. Our Trustees are listed later in this report.

Customers

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, we provided an effective transport service to many individuals and local organisations in the last year. The daily shopping service is free of charge and almost exclusively used by the elderly and less physically able. We ran shuttle services from a remote car park for the Strathaven Hot Air Balloon Festival and a shuttle service from the centre of Strathaven to the field used for the Strathaven Agricultural Show. We ran another shuttle service from Stonehouse for the Glassford Gin Festival. We provided transport services to the Rugby Club, the Bethany Group, the Strathaven Striders and the Outreach church to name just a few.

There are new individuals and groups using our services like Strathaven & District Round Table, Strathaven Girls' Brigade and Climate Action Strathaven, and more frequently too. The trust we have established in the community is strong because we are reliable (and inexpensive) but we can still do more if asked.

Annual Accounts

A copy of these is attached for information. These independently examined accounts have been approved at the AGM.

Financial Review

Our main source of funding continues to be donations from shoppers and mileage fees charged to organisations hiring the bus. Income for the year is increasing but not enough to build the reserves needed to replace the bus in 2026. Most groups we service are regular customers but we still market the bus to others in the community. The demand from shoppers is as high as it ever was.

The group generated a surplus of £4,829 (2023: £10,892). Fuel price is a concern and we are trying to keep our prices as low as possible so that more of the community can benefit. The bus is costing more to maintain due to age despite the fact that minor jobs, safety checks, etc are done for us for free by local garages as their contribution to this valued service.

In this year, we received three mileage-related government grants amounting to £3,461 (2023: £4,337).

We have sufficient funds to provide a normal service, but we need to generate the funds to replace the bus we bought in 2021. Normally, we replace the bus every 5 years, but this is unlikely in 2026 given the increase in cost of new vehicles and the current emphasis on electric vehicles. We have said in previous reports that electric vehicles in their current state of development are not suitable for our operation. Nothing has changed. We would need some means of charging an electric vehicle independently as we cannot operate a service that relies on public charging points being available and working.

We are confident the Trust is a going concern but it is hard to increase the customer base in such a small, rural community.

Investment policy

The Trustees have no funds on deposit or otherwise invested. The funds available are required for working capital. There are no plans to deposit or invest anything.

Reserves policy

Although not specifically addressed in the Group's constitution, the Trustees ensure that proper financial planning and budgetary control is operated within the Group. The Trustees have considered the reserves required to meet their current and future liabilities. The Trustees aim to maintain all reserves in unrestricted funds at a level sufficient to meet a whole year's expenditure. Covid has compromised both that and our business model to ensure funds are in place for a brand new bus every five years. But with customers using our service regularly and with fresh enquiries, the Trustees confidently conclude that the Group has the financial strategy and sufficient reserves in place to continue as a going concern even if it can't replace the bus as often as it would like.

Future plans

There are no particular plans for fundraising, but grant applications may be required in the future to continue providing the essential service the area relies on.

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

The Charity is an incorporated association. It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 19 May 2014. The Charity has been granted charitable status by HMRC.

Appointment of Trustees

Any person over 16 years, an individual appointed by a local organisation or any corporate body can be a Trustee of the Group. Only Trustees are members of the Group. The Trustees form the Organising Committee.

To become a Trustee, you complete a written application which the Committee will consider at its next meeting. The Committee may refuse to admit any person, organisation or representative to Charity Trusteeship, but will notify the applicant of the outcome of the application.

The Trust requires a minimum of three and a maximum of five Trustees. Trustees retire at each AGM, but may be re-elected. The usual provisions for termination of office and maintaining the Register of Charity Trustees are in place.

From amongst the Trustees, a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary must be appointed. These are also annual appointments where they resign their posts at the AGM and are re-appointed if appropriate. The usual provisions regarding the obligations of the office bearers are in place.

The Trustees receive no remuneration and no expenses.

Management of the Community Bus and Risk

The Trustees are responsible for day-to-day management, strategic direction and governance of the Trust.

The Trustees and volunteers are aware of their responsibilities for health & safety. The Trustees are responsible for ensuring compliance with all relevant legislation including the Data Protection Act 2018.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name	Avondale Community Transport Group (SCIO)
Charity No	SC028693

[redacted]

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The charity does not have a website, but if it did, the Trustees would be responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included thereon. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other countries.

The report is approved by the Trustees on 29th. Sept 2025 and signed on their behalf by

[redacted]

Chairman **Treasurer**

Independent Examiner's Report

For the year ended 31 December 2024.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Avondale Community Transport Group

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the 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 audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements
    a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
    b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

[redacted]

29th. Sept 2025.

AVONDALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
	Notes	**2024**	**2023**
		£	**£**
Incoming resources			
Voluntary income	5	16,231	21,578
Resources expended			
Cost of providing the charity's service and generating the voluntary income	6	11,402	10,686
Net movement in funds		4,829	10,892
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		72,515	61,623
Total funds carried forward		**77,344**	**72,515**

All incoming resources and expended resources derive from continuing activities.

The charity has no recognised gains or losses for the year other than the results above.

AVONDALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Notes	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2024	2023
		£	**£**
Fixed assets			
Motor vehicle	3	42,732	46,586
Current assets			
Debtors	4	2,585	3,492
Cash at bank		32,546	22,522
		35,131	26,014
Current liabilities			
Trade creditors		519	85
Net current assets		**34,612**	**25,929**
Total net assets		**77,344**	**72,515**

Represented by the following:

Unrestricted funds			
At 1 January 2024		72,515	61,623
(Loss)/profit for the year		4,829	10,892
At 31 December 2024		**77,344**	**72,515**

AVONDALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes to the Accounts

For the year ended 31 December 2024

1. **Accounting Policies**

(a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

These accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting & Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities published on 14th July 2014, the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis.

The Trustees consider that there are no uncertainties about the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

(b) Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The Trustees maintain one bank account containing unrestricted funds for the proper management of the Group.

(c) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the Group has entitlement to the income, is certain of receipt and the amount to be received.

(d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Group to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

(e) Depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation less depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Motor vehicles	20% straight line

AVONDALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes to the Accounts continued

For the year ended 31 December 2024

2. Trustee remuneration and expenses

The Trustees and volunteers all give freely of their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in kind. No expenses were paid to them in the year.

3. Fixed assets

	Community bus
Cost	**£**
At 1 January 2024 and held at 31 December 2024	59,272
Accumulated Depreciation	
At 1 January 2024	12,686
Charge for the year	3,854
At 31 December 2024	16,540
Net Book Values	
At 31 December 2024	42,732
At 31 December 2023	46,586

	2024	2023
	£	**£**
4. Debtors		
Trade debtors	1,276	1,069
Govt grant receivable	577	1,542
Prepaid charges	727	849
VAT	5	32
	2,585	3,492

5. Incoming resources	**UNRESTRICTED FUNDS**	
Income from hires and shoppers	10,920	12,823
Government grants	3,461	4,337
Donations & legacies	1,850	4,418
	16,231	21,578

AVONDALE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT GROUP

Notes to the Accounts continued

For the year ended 31 December 2024

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	
	2024	2023
	£	£
6. Resources expended		
Vehicle maintenance	1,937	924
Fuel	3,134	3,669
Road tax	165	165
Total vehicle running costs	5,236	4,758
Bus and public liability insurance	1,679	1,582
Driver training	-	125
RAC membership	633	265
Depreciation	3,854	3,855
Compliance costs	-	101
	11,402	10,686

7. Controlling parties

The charity is controlled by the Trustees.