

CHURCH WOODS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Charity Registration No: 1000279

Annual Report to 31st March 2022

Trustees

Mrs J A Watchorn (Chairman)

Mrs P A Bosley (Secretary)

Mr M W Stoneham (Treasurer)

Mr R Beale

Rev S Corry

Mr R A Hutchinson

Mrs M A Richards

Mr R Watchorn

Correspondence Address

139 Hever Avenue, West Kingsdown TN15 6DT

Independent Examiner

Mrs K Johnston

Bankers

HSBC plc, Dartford, Kent DA1 1DG

Introduction

The Trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the charity and give their time freely and receive no remuneration or other financial benefits.

The Trustees meet together as a committee six or more times a year and are responsible for all decisions taken in the relation to the management of the woods.

Management is undertaken in accordance with a Countryside Stewardship Agreement with the Dept. for Environment & Rural Affairs which runs until 31 December 2025. Its purpose is to support the Charity in the maintenance of the woodland to support biodiversity, access and landscape value. The charity receives a grant from the Rural Payments Agency to facilitate this and a grant is also received from the West Kingsdown Parish Council.

Chairman's report to the Annual General Meeting

Welcome and thank you all for coming to our Annual General Meeting.

This Committee was set up for the purpose of removing the conifers, planted in the 1960s by the Forestry Commission, and returning the wood to a native broadleaved woodland and I am happy to say that we are well on the way to doing just that.

It has been a busy year in which thinning and clearing and then re-planting has taken place. The work began well but in spite of putting up informative notices, anonymous hand written notes started to appear. At first, we and the contractors did not take them seriously but when they threatened the contractors with "final warning" South East Forest called the police and withdrew, saying they could not afford to risk the possible loss of their harvester.

They had completed approximately 90% of the work but unfortunately that 10% included half the area we were to replant so only 400 trees were planted in March instead of the 800 planned. They seem to be doing well.

Once more we have had a problem with motorbikes on the footpath near Westfield Cottages. Not satisfied with riding up and down they cut down a couple of small trees to make a turning circle and then started digging to make a ramp. After several calls to the police an officer rang to say she would visit the site the next day. In spite of the storm, she must have done so because they have not been back since.

In March we joined with the Parish Council in planting a tree in the burial ground in memory of David Diboll who passed away last year.

In April Bob Hutchinson kindly agreed to go on a chainsaw course, as David had done many years before. This has already proved useful as Bob was able to cut up some trees that had fallen across the path. Thank you, Bob, for going on the course and cutting up the trees.

Our stall at this year's Fete raised £80.30. Thanks to Margaret and Royce for their help.

Thanks to Katie Tennant who holds a licence, we are still taking part in the National Dormice Survey. In spite of a poor season last year, we finished on a high, finding 6 dormice on the last survey. This year we started well, finding 4 on the first survey but, somewhat disappointingly, we did not find any last month.

Weekly work parties continue. Tasks undertaken include path, pond and rubbish clearing and, of course, coppicing that took most of the winter months. Thanks go to Bob, Roger, Thelma, Martin, Margaret and Royce and to a new member of the group, Rei who joined us a couple of months ago.

I would like to thank Rev Sarah Corry for use of the Millennium Room, Pat Bosley for doing the Minutes and Kim Johnstone for auditing the accounts. Last but not least I would like to thank Martin Stoneham, our Treasurer for keeping the books and especially this year for drafting the report to the Charity Commissioners.



Mrs J A Watchorn
Chairman

Date 2/8/22

Church Woods Management Committee

Registered Charity Number 1000279

Receipts and Payments Account for the financial year ended 31 March 2022

	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>
Cash at beginning of year	1,680.19	2944.63
RECEIPTS		
Interest	0.64	1.42
Parish Council Grant	2,600.00	2600.00
Sundry Sales	0.00	30.00
Craft Stall at Church Fair	107.50	0.00
Reimbursement	0.00	0.00
RPA Grant	2,858.29	1000.00
SE Forestry income	21,938.16	0.00
Church Woods Trust [reimbursement]	0.00	1809.00
Donations	135.00	0.00
Total Income	<u>27,639.59</u>	5440.42
PAYMENTS		
Tree Surgery	0.00	3780.50
Pond works	0.00	0.00
Tree felling	0.00	0.00
Grass Cutting	615.00	275.00
Equipment	310.60	0.00
Insurance	636.25	634.36
Bank charges & other fees	17.80	1775.00
SD323 / Westfield Gate	0.00	0.00
Tree planting	522.75	0.00
Sundry Expenditure	1,231.70	0.00
Church Woods Trust [to be reimbursed]	0.00	240.00
Total Expenditure	3,334.10	6704.86
Cash at year end	<u>25,985.68</u>	<u>1680.19</u>
	<u>29,319.78</u>	<u>8385.05</u>
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I have examined the receipts and payments in the accounts together with the books, vouchers and bank statements as presented to me by the Treasurer. Having discussed my findings with the Treasurer in my opinion, the said accounts fairly state the financial transactions of the Church Woods Management Committee for the period ended 31 March 2022.

Mrs K Johnstone
Independent Examiner
April 2022

K Johnstone
21.04.22

M W Stoneham Hon FInstRE CIHM MCIPS MCFI
Treasurer

Mrs Josie Watchorn
Chairman

M. W. Stoneham *14/6/22*
J Watchorn *14/6/22*

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