

Strouden Park Community Association

Registered Charity Number 1003737

**ACCOUNTS
and
TRUSTEES REPORT**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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Charity Information

Names of the Charity Trustees who manage the charity:

Brenda Moore - Chair

David Stokes - Vice Chair

Ann Mertens - Treasurer

Rebecca Godber - Trustee

Helen Tate - Trustee

Susan Craft - Secretary

Charity Number: 1003737

Charity Address: 31 Vanguard Rd, Bournemouth BH8 9NU.

Independent Examiner: Louise Parker
Parker Business Support
Leybourne Ave, Bournemouth BH10

Bankers: Lloyds Bank
321-323 Wimborne Road
Winton
Bournemouth
BH9 2AF

Structure, Governance and Management

Strouden Park Community Association (SPCA) was established as a charity in March 1986. It is an unincorporated association registered with the Charity Commission under charity number 1003737.

The Trustees of Strouden Park Community Association have overall management responsibility for the Centre building and manage this in line with the constitution and under the terms of a lease with BCP Council. This entails:

- the day-to-day running of the centre.
- managing the Association's finances and administration.
- A continuing programme of work is needed to maintain and improve the physical condition of the premises.

- Continue to make the Centre more accessible and engage with the local community.

The Trustees delegate the day-to-day management of the Centre's Office to a part-time manager responsible for bookings and the general management of the Centre as well as relationships with all the groups using the Centre.

Trustee meetings are held every quarter.

Objectives and activities

The objects of the charitable company are to:

(a) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Strouden Park and the neighbourhood (hereinafter called 'the area of benefit') without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions by associating the local authorities, voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure-time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants;

(b) To establish or to secure the establishment of a Community Centre (hereinafter called 'the Centre') and to maintain and manage or to cooperate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a Centre for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies in furtherance of the above objects.

The Association shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

Public benefit

The trustees are mindful of the requirements for meeting the public benefit test. The establishment of the community centre and its maintenance and management provide access for the local community to a range of benefits, including education, social welfare, and recreation to improve the lives of that community. It is felt this satisfies such criteria.

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Activities

The rooms of the community centre are hired out to groups and clubs from Strouden Park and the surrounding area in accordance with the objectives.

Induction and training of trustees

The 'Essential Trustee' document, the constitution, and a copy of the latest annual accounts are available to new trustees.

Staff

The Centre currently has no paid staff. However, a Contractor manages the Centre's bookings and general management of the Centre and users part-time on behalf of the Trustees. Cleaning of the Centre and critical maintenance and repair works are outsourced to contractors.

Membership

The Trustees have decided not to charge membership fees in 2023 to attract new members. There are 42 members, and the fees will be reviewed in 2024.

Meeting our legal obligations

The Trustees are fully aware of their responsibilities to ensure that SPCA's activities comply with various laws and regulations. These include Charity Law, Health and Safety Law, Fire Safety, Environmental Health, building regulations, the Disability Discrimination Act, and the Data Protection Act.

If necessary, compliance with laws and regulations has influenced all Trustee discussions and decisions throughout the year. The Trustees have sought assistance and advice from CAN, the BCP Council, and other relevant bodies when necessary.

The Trustees are conscious that the need for legal advice and guidance will be ongoing and will take this up when required.

The Trustees recognise that all these requirements are essential in ensuring proper and transparent governance of SPCA to support its position as a registered charity.

Related parties

SPCA is aware that it cannot achieve its long-term goals without the active involvement and support of various agencies that guide, advise, and facilitate development. To this end, SPCA maintains a close working relationship with the BCP Council and the Community Action Network (CAN). Being a member of CAN has enabled the SPCA to access all the necessary advice and support for managing an active public building.

Lease

SPCA agreed and signed a 25-year lease on the building with BCP in March 2012. We have a good working relationship with the BCP Council to ensure both parties abide by the lease terms and fulfil the necessary requirements for the maintenance and upkeep of the building.

Achievements and performance

2023-24 Chairman's Report

2023 went from strength to strength building on 2022. Another long-term group left us last year to carry on in their own dance studio, but spaces were quickly filled. The only upset early last year was that the Probation Service announced they were going to pull out of Lunch Club. They had been doing it for over 30 years. We immediately acted and had a meeting with two other lunch clubs in Dorset who have used this service for many years, like us. We all wrote to our MPs, local Councillors, Crime and Police Commissioner and, of course, head of the Probation Service. We then had meetings with the head of Probation for the South Region, MP Tobias Ellwood, who came to our lunch club, gave us his support, and said he would contact the Justice Minister. The happy outcome was that after a few meetings, the Probation Service agreed to keep the lunch clubs on, with a few tweaks. We average around 30 people at the lunch club weekly but are open to having a few more people.

As many will know, the two banks at the bottom of Castle Point closed, but Barclays Bank now has a presence at the centre three days a week. During the early part of last year, we opened our doors on a Monday morning and offered a Warm Welcome with coffee and cake. We did not have a significant uptake for this, but a steady band of people came, and we have continued this for this year. Thanks to Ann Mertens for her work and dedication to this, but we could always do with volunteers to come and make the tea and chat with people.

Last year was also busy for the centre as we wanted to change our status from an Association to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This has generated a lot of work, especially for Sue, our secretary, and Ann, our treasurer; my sincere thanks go to both. All the Trustees have been involved, and Stuart, our Office Manager, and again, my thanks go to them. It has not happened yet but will hopefully happen before our next financial year. We look forward to a good year with not too many problems. Thank you.

Brenda Moore
Chairperson

Financial Review

Investment policy

There are no restrictions on the charity's power to invest. The unrestricted funds may be invested in any investment with the trustee board's agreement. The charity's investment strategy is low risk.

Unrestricted funds and free reserves

The charity's policy is that unrestricted funds not designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to **three month's** expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that they can continue the charity's current activities in the event of a significant drop in funding. At the same time, consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

Free reserves, those reserves not tied up in fixed assets, designated reserves and restricted reserves are maintained for ongoing refurbishment. Due to increasing costs commensurate with activities and legislation, free reserves are held to meet potential risks.

Insurance cover

Insurance coverage for the premises, contents, and liabilities has been in effect throughout the year for SPCA, including public liability coverage of £10m as required by the Council's lease.

Treasurer's Report for 2022-23

Our finances for this financial period are on a steady footing and I will bring your attention to the following:

Firstly, during the pandemic we received a number of government grants. Since then, we have been at the mercy of market forces, not only with rising utility costs, but also concerning the outlay of replacing major appliances.

Secondly, we were fortunate to apply for and receive a grant for new chairs and a new cooker, which amounted to £3,423. However, our outlay in total for the year was £8,188.

Our council tax, which was subsidised during the pandemic, continues to be held at a low rate.

Furthermore, to maximise our financial situation £20,000 has been deposited in a one-year fixed term deposit.

To summarise, our fiscal arrangements are stable and whilst our figures exhibit £7,170 less cash in hand than the previous year, this has been predominantly because of replacing fixed assets.

Ann Mertens Treasurer

Strouden Park Community Association Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2023

	Total 31 March 2023	Total 31 March 2022
Fixed Assets	£	£
Tangible Assets	90,407	88,315
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	66,192	73,362
Debtors and prepayments	-	-
Total Current Assets	66,192	73,362
Creditors (falling within one year)	-	600
NET CURRENT ASSETS	66,192	72,762
TOTAL ASSETS	156,599	161,077
Creditors: Long Term Liabilities	-	-
Funds of the charity		
General Funds	156,599	161,077
Restricted Funds	-	-
Total Funds	156,599	161,077

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the trustee's report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signature..... B. M. Moore

Full name..... BRENDA MARY MOORE

Position..... CHAIR PERSON

Date..... 20/01/2024