2025 Annual Report

ZERO CARBON HARROGATE









Championing Local Climate Solutions

Charity Number: 1192634

LOVE HARROGATE GO ZERO CARBON

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What we do

We are the leading climate action charity in the Harrogate and Knaresborough. We are a trusted independent voice and set a vision for the benefits of a thriving local zero carbon economy. We advocate for rapid decarbonisation, and we act to bring about this transition.

The goals we have set ourselves are founded on the climate science. Based on this challenging reality, they are not easy. But by building strong partnerships within the community, with local government, individuals and businesses, we believe that it is possible.



Chair's Report

2025 has been an active and positive one for the charity. We have maintained a strong and visible presence in our local community, keeping the urgency of climate action front and centre in everything we do.

For maximum impact we continue to focus on the main sources of carbon emissions in our area to drive the priorities for our trustees, staff and volunteer-led working groups.

Our key areas of work in 2025 have been:

- Completing the delivery of the second phase of our Retrofit Programme
- Building support and partnerships for sustainable transport initiatives
- Initiating our ambition to deliver 1 megawatt of locally generated community energy
- Implementing a strategic programme of local political engagement
- Securing funding to progress our projects and maintain staff capacity

As disruptive extreme weather becomes increasingly common place, we have also been bringing climate preparedness to the fore in each of our workstreams.

Chair's Report

2025 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Climate on the agenda

We have worked hard to build a positive relationship with the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Mayor, David Skaith, and his team. We hosted David for a travel-focused walkabout in November, where he met with members of our Sustainable Transport Group and other local stakeholders, seeking better active travel and public transport options for Harrogate and Knaresborough. We are encouraged by the Mayor's ambition to decarbonise and become the first Carbon Negative region. We have welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Combined Authority's Strategy for a Sustainable Future.

The first Harrogate Town Council was elected in May and has embraced a collaborative approach with ZCH. We have been appointed by the Town Council to deliver a piece of public engagement work, for a district heating scheme feasibility study, to be undertaken in 2026. We will be providing a climate briefing for the elected members in January, focusing on local solutions and the need for local adaptation.



Jemima Parker and John Rowe from Harrogate District Cycle Action with Combined Authority Mayor, David Skaith



Jemima and Vice Chair Tim Larner meeting Iona Taylor, Town Clerk, Harrogate Town Council

Chair's Report

Climate ready homes

Overcoming the multiple barriers to making our housing stock more thermally efficient and coming off fossil fuels is a huge challenge. We are proud of the impact we have had in the local economy through our nearly three year Retrofit Project, which ended in March this year. The project provided cost free training for over 80 industry professional and tradespeople, more that 300 whole house energy improvement plans for householders and included public events to raise awareness and upskill the public.

Climate resilient energy generation

We are pleased to have initiated our ambition to create a community energy network, where locally owned and generated renewable electricity is sold and used within our local economy. We are starting small with a feasibility study to find one suitable anchor building (as a proof-of-concept project) and exploring energy clubs where householders and businesses can buy and sell electricity to each other.



Industry professionals on Airtightness Workshop under the ZCH Retrofit Project



Local residents exploring renewable energy solutions

Chair's Report

Climate friendly travel

Our popular Walk to School Days have continued to deliver active travel mode shift at over 30 schools. Alongside this, we are working with Harrogate Bus Company with our Car Free Friday's campaign. We have strengthened the relationships with the stakeholders in the Sustainable Transport Group we convene, working with them to develop our 'Moving Ahead Together' project; a long-term multifaceted programme designed to change travel behaviours.



ZCH School Commute Roundtable at Harrogate Bus Depot



Pupils celebrating a Walk to School Day, as part of ZCH's local transport work

Climate ready infrastructure

We have been a key leader and contributor to the Harrogate Neighbourhood Plan Forum, the work of which has now been handed on to the Harrogate Town Council with a ZCH representative on the subcommittee. This slow but important reenvisioning of our streets, buildings and services is key to developing a climate-resilient and robust low-carbon economy.

Climate communication

We have continued with our high-quality social media, newsletter and press output, as well as running a range of public and ZCH member events to upskill and motivate change.

We were delighted to have been selected for a place on the Media Trust 'Communicating Climate' course, which has provided valuable upskilling for the Climate Action Coordinator and the Chair.

Chair's Report

FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

ZCH is enormously grateful to all our members and supporters for their generous donations. This year we are indebted to and deeply encouraged by the support of our grant funders enabling ZCH to have a wider reach and a greater impact than previously. Please see the Finance section towards the end of the report for specific details.



ZCH supporters fundraising in the Nidderdale Chairy Walk and Run



ZCH Climate Action Coordinator receiving a donation from the Rotary Club

Chair's Report

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

We are delighted to have been able to employ Sunita Soundur as our Climate Action Coordinator throughout the year. Sunita has:

- Supported our volunteers
- Delivered an interesting and varied events programme to engage new people
- Supported the working groups, particularly ZCH's transport initiatives, leading on the 'Car Free Fridays' project
- Strategically identified funding sources and submitted successful bids
- Built consistent climate communications internally and strengthened climate communication skills externally.

John Kerr was in post as our Retrofit Project manager for the first quarter of 2025 (when funding for the role sadly ceased). We are grateful to John for his leadership and initiative stimulating the local retrofit economy over nearly three years.

We supported the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition, by employing Ed Lee as a Climate Action Coordinator, on their behalf, until May this year.

This year we have welcomed Andy Ball, Alan Tucker and Jo Webb as they join our Trustee Board. We are grateful to Danny Wild and Dean Gregory for their time and service as they stepped down from the Board this year.

We have been deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Ian Fraser. As a trustee and a founding member of ZCH, Ian was an inspiration and beacon of hope. We honour him in the summary of his impact in ZCH later in this report.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who volunteers, supports, and works in partnership with us, united by their care for the Harrogate area and their commitment to driving the changes needed to reduce carbon emissions locally.
As a charity led by volunteers, everything we achieve depends on their generosity, skills, and passion. Without their dedication, our work would simply not be possible.



ZCH with Clive Wilson and Tamás Ihász-Kovács supporting our peace event



Ava Bounds, James McKay and David Bunting supporting our film screening

Chair's Report

PRIORITIES FOR 2026

We have taken time to review our priorities ahead of 2026, mapping our impact, which activities generate most carbon in our local economy, and where funding is available to enable us to increase capacity. This identified three overarching workstreams (which underpin our effectiveness and deliver high impact but are challenging to obtain grant funding to support) and three key priority workstreams (where grant funding is more achievable). These priorities continue to sit within our **Educate, Engage and Encourage** approach.

Overarching Workstreams:

1. Good charity governance: ensuring that the organisation is robust to deliver on our ambition
2. Leveraging change: **(Engage)** engaging with political and business decision makers which our track record demonstrates is a high impact workstream, but is sadly rarely grant funded
3. Communications and events: **(Educate)** continuing our history of high-quality events and communications.

Funded Workstreams (Encourage):

1. Decarbonising travel: working with partners to resource and fund the modal shift campaigns, which make up our 'Moving Ahead Together' programme
2. Clean community energy generation: acting as a catalyst to establish local community owned solar generation.
3. Natural climate solutions: building on Ian Fraser's legacy by initiating a sustainable gardens project.

Additionally, there are several impactful themes where we will support, as volunteer capacity and funding becomes available, including: building on our home retrofit programme; further engagement with local planning policy; continuing our engagement with schools; food and farming; and consumption.



Jemima Parker
Zero Carbon Harrogate Chair

Overarching Workstreams

GOOD CHARITY GOVERNANCE

We are maintaining a sharp focus on ZCH's long-term sustainability by strengthening governance and oversight. This includes expanding our trustee base through the appointment of three new trustees, ensuring a broader range of perspectives and experience at Board level.

We are also investing in the effectiveness of our trustees by providing a strong induction programme and ongoing best-practice training. Alongside this, we are creating additional opportunities for trustees to develop specialist skills, helping to deepen and diversify the expertise that supports delivery of ZCH's core aims.

To uphold high standards of governance, we have committed to maintaining robust, best-practice policies. In 2025, we completed a comprehensive review and refresh of all policies, with a structured programme of annual reviews in place to ensure they remain current and effective. The risk register is a standing item on the Board agenda, with all red-rated risks reviewed on a quarterly basis.

For more detail, please see the governance sections below.

LEVERAGING CHANGE – POLITICAL ADVOCACY

We continue to make the case for local climate action with all tiers of government: local - since last May the new Harrogate Town Council and North Yorkshire Council (mainly through our involvement with the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition), regional – our Mayor and Combined Authority and national – through our Member of Parliament, Tom Gordon. All have been responsive to our arguments, although the lack of focused activity by North Yorkshire Council gives us most cause for concern, as its actions, without the necessary corrective remediation, fall short of the commitments it has made.



Tim and Jemima with Tom Gordon MP



Tim and Jemima with Chris Aldred, Mayor of Harrogate Town Council

Overarching Workstreams

We have very much welcomed our regional Mayor's interest in Harrogate and were pleased to welcome David Skaith on a walkabout visit in November to experience some of the transport issues faced by Harrogate, together with an attendance at our Transport Roundtable. We were pleased that he committed to a further visit in 2026. We have welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Combined Authority's new Strategy for a Sustainable Future which targets net zero carbon emissions for the full range of regional activities – corporate and individual - by 2040.

We also welcomed an invitation to give a climate briefing to the new Harrogate Town Council (which we were able to deliver in January 2026).

We are a proactive member of the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition (NYCC), which brings together 26 groups from across the region, to advocate for change.

COMMUNICATION AND EVENTS

We are pleased to have been able to provide a wide range of quality communication to our members, supporters and the public throughout the year, including a monthly newsletter sent to over 500 recipients, 18 articles in the local press and an ever-growing presence on social media.

Climate communications are always evolving. In 2025, we recognised that certain terminology, framing and strategies needed to adapt to reflect the political landscape, news and changes in people's priorities. We also recognised that we needed to reach new and varied audiences, as well as younger people.

Winning a highly coveted fully funded place on Media Trust's 6-month intensive climate communications programme, which took place from April to September, has helped the charity to develop more effective communications. Both the Climate Action Coordinator and Chair found this training invaluable and have been able to communicate resources and insights to the wider team.

Overarching Workstreams

An extensive events programme has supported our Educate, Engage, Encourage strategy:

Members' events included two exclusive visits to pioneering low carbon properties across Harrogate – an off-grid home and a Passivhaus.

Public events included a double film screening at Harrogate Odeon, which showcased two local filmmakers behind a short film called 'No one is an Island' and a feature-length documentary, '2040', followed by a lively Q&A session with the local creators. The night was a great success with well over 100 attendees.

In the same week, we also held a special workshop to support people to respond to the Local Plan Consultation.

In September we hosted a talk exploring peace and climate in relation to global conflict; an event that has sparked an ongoing collaborative partnership with Harrogate Fairtrade, which will be developed more formally in 2026.



ZCH Member event visiting an energy efficient, off-grid home in Harrogate



Public event of a double climate film screening at Harrogate Odeon

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

ENERGY GROUP

At our May AGM, Rob Barker, from local energy consultancy Energy Oasis, gave an inspiring talk on community energy that kindled a long-held desire to be proactive in this key area of decarbonisation. We have set ourselves a new five-year target to see one megawatt of community energy generation serving Harrogate and Knaresborough.

We have seen how the role of community energy has climbed the political agenda as a contributor to the aim of decarbonising national electricity generation. We have been active in this area before, primarily through ZCH volunteer Nick Anderson's advocacy for the Solar for Schools project.

Through a successful application to the York and North Yorkshire Mayor's Community Wealth Building Programme, we were able to commission an independent technical study to identify promising community buildings that could provide a starting point for our aspirations and serve both community-based organisations and local energy consumers, potentially funded through green energy bonds. This work was still in progress at the end of 2025 (to be completed in March 2026).



Visiting the community energy project at COGS, Gracious Street, Knaresborough



Attending an energy conference in York for networking and learning

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

TRANSPORT GROUP

We have built on the initial partnership work developed through convening the Sustainable Transport Group, for the Harrogate and Knaresborough Area, with productive discussions at the quarterly meetings, which bring together a diverse range of stakeholders.

Our 'Moving Ahead Together' programme has been embraced by the Group proactively working with us to seek funding to support our ambition to deliver this multi-year, multi-faceted programme of modal shift campaigns. We developed a strong partnership of seven organisations to submit an expression of interest to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund (which sadly we found out in early 2026 had been unsuccessful). Harrogate and District Community Action acted as the lead organisation and the other partners were Harrogate Bus Company, Co-Wheels car club, Disability Action Yorkshire, Walk Bike Scoot, Resurrection Bikes and ZCH.

The Car Free Friday campaign has continued to engage with secondary schools and local businesses encouraging modal shift. This year we were delighted to receive grant funding from the LNER Customer and Community Investment Fund, enabling us to extend the reach of this project.

Our Walk to School Days project, now in its fourth year, has continued to be warmly received by school leaders as a simple and effective programme to encourage active travel, reduce congestion around school gates with safety and health benefits. Thirty-one schools took part for the school year 2024-25; while still a huge success this is less than in previous years due to the loss of the proactive volunteer lead for this campaign. Consequently, we will be seeking additional funding in 2026 to develop the Walk to School project, and we hope to continue our partnership working with Harrogate Town AFC (CIO) with their fun and popular mascot, Harrygator.



Car Free Fridays campaign photo



Transport Stakeholders meeting

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS GROUP

The unexpected and sudden passing of our Natural Climate Solutions lead, Ian Fraser in October, has been a source of deep sadness to us and a blow to the natural climate solutions work, for which Ian was such a passionate and knowledgeable champion.

Ian had grown strong links between ZCH and place-based nature recovery projects Long Lands Common and Knaresborough Forest Park. ZCH Patron, Piers Forster, was recognised for his global contribution to climate research and leadership with one of the Long Lands newly planted woods being named after him, with a joyful ceremony being held in May.



Former Trustee Ian Fraser and Professor Piers Forster at Long Lands Common



Piers, Jemima and Ian at Long Lands Common's newly opened 'Forster Wood'

As a member of the White Rose Forest, ZCH had the opportunity to influence woodland creation strategy and to maximise the benefits of urban green spaces for Harrogate and Knaresborough.

Aware of both the local love of gardening and the potential for carbon sequestration in these spaces, Dean Gregory, a ZCH volunteer, has been leading on an emerging Sustainable Gardens project. Working in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales River's Trust, the project has been included in a wider 'Rain, Rivers and Roots' programme in an expression of interest to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund for funding over four years.

Other ZCH Workstreams

BUILDINGS AND RETROFIT PROJECT

The early part of the year saw the successful completion of ZCH's Retrofit project, ably delivered by John Kerr, ZCH's 4 day a week Retrofit Project Manager. This nearly three-year programme delivered a huge uptake in training for local retrofit suppliers and events to enhance the knowledge and confidence of local homeowners and landlords to drive further adoption of thermal efficiency projects. Initially funded by the Energy Redress Fund and then by LEAD funding (Local Energy Advice Demonstrator), overall, the project delivered:

- Over 300 retrofit whole house plans for householders
- Four public retrofit open evenings, attended by around 200 people
- One retrofit fair in Harrogate, attended by over 60 people
- Training for:
  - 27 domestic Energy Assessors/Retrofit Assessors
  - 9 Retrofit Coordinators
  - 10 Retrofit Designers
  - 69 renewables engineers (solar and air source heat pumps)
  - 40 builders

Our ambition is to continue to grow the local retrofit economy. We were, therefore, disappointed not to be awarded funding from the Mayor's Carbon Negative Challenge Fund to take forward our Retrofit Roadshow proposal. Sadly, without funding currently we have had to scale back our work on domestic retrofit. We are grateful to our recently retired trustee, Louise McManus for her leadership and dedication to this area of our mission.

We believe it is vital to give confidence to both suppliers – mainly small businesses – and to homeowners, to reduce energy demand and improve health and comfort. Unfortunately, the external finance for which we have been able to apply since 2022, appears to have dried up, as the focus of funding is targeted at householders experiencing fuel poverty rather than high carbon emitting homes. However, our real desire to be active in this important area remains.

Other ZCH Workstreams

BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

We continue to be members of the Harrogate Chamber of Commerce, attend selected meetings and make ourselves known to the business community through formal and informal contributions to their work. We started to build our relationship with the Harrogate BID, proactively supporting their sustainability group, until this was sadly discontinued.

We ran two successful Carbon Literacy training courses in partnership with Full Circle Funerals to upskill local businesses and individuals.

Cognisant of the links between health and climate change we have established new relationships in the health sector including Harrogate Hospital, part of Harrogate and District Foundation Trust, and the Harrogate and Rural District Local Care Partnership.



ZCH Retrofit Project Manager John Kerr with Harrogate's first Retrofit Coordinator, Marcus Wearmouth at the Harrogate Business Awards



David Billington delivering a Carbon Literacy Training session in Harrogate as part of ZCH's Education and Business Engagement work

Other ZCH Workstreams

PLANNING GROUP

We have been actively involved, mainly through the North Yorkshire Climate Coalition, in advocating for stronger climate protection policies in the replacement Local Plan (it will replace eight current sets of planning policies for different parts of North Yorkshire – in our area, the Harrogate District Local Plan). We convened a successful public meeting, within the summer Local Plan consultation period, although we were disappointed that North Yorkshire Council officers declined our invitation to attend and speak.



Local Plan Workshop event to support locals with Local Plan Consultation



ZCH's planning application advocacy work in action

We continued our involvement with the Neighbourhood Plan Forum. ZCH's Chair acted as the Forum Vice Chair and facilitated the Transport Working Group. We were pleased at the enthusiasm shown by our newly elected Town Council in taking on the Plan development process and that one of their earliest moves was to appoint a professional planning advisor. We were also pleased to be asked to nominate a ZCH representative - Jack Towse - as a member of their new Working Group set up to oversee the process. We look forward to helping with policy suggestions as the substantive Plan development phase begins.

We also continued to keep an eye on large local planning applications with potentially significant climate implications. The high level of local applications means that we have only focused on the most significant. As an example, we have worked in conjunction with other community groups in opposing the extension of the Harrogate Spring Water Plant. This precedent-setting application involves the destruction of over 4 acres of woodland planted 20 years ago by local school children. We believe these local partnerships were critical in securing a deferral of application pending further work. (The application – for matters reserved under the Outline Consent, granted in 2017 - has recently been rejected in April 2026.)

Other ZCH Workstreams

SCHOOLS GROUP

We held two Sustainable School Leaders' Roundtable events this year. These carefully crafted events with exceptional speakers are designed for maximum impact to reach the high-level decision-makers in Multi Academy Trusts, with those attending overseeing 7 secondary schools and colleges and 27 primary schools in the area.

The February Roundtable was Climate in the Curriculum themed, looking at how climate can effectively be embedded, with guest speaker Prof. Leigh Hoath, Co-founder of Climate Adapted Pathways for Education (CAPE) and Deputy Dean of the School of Education at Leeds Trinity University.

In June local employer Envirovent hosted our Green Skills Roundtable, with Danny Wild, Principal of Harrogate College as keynote speaker.

The School Commute Roundtable also met to address school leaders' desire to shift more school journeys to active, shared or public transport.



Prof. Leigh Hoath, Co-Founder of Climate Adapted Pathways for Education, who presented at ZCH's School Leaders' Roundtable



Harrogate College's Principal Danny Wild presenting at ZCH's Green Skills and Green Careers themed Sustainable School Leaders' Roundtable at local employer Envirovent

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

IAN FRASER, TRUSTEE AND FOUNDING MEMBER

Ian was the spark that started Zero Carbon Harrogate. His decision to show the film 'This Changes Everything' at St Peter's Church in December 2015 brought us together. Driven by his yearning for justice and ecological awakening he wanted others to better understand the implications of climate change. From that film showing a small group was formed to help the Harrogate area respond proactively, setting a vision for a sustainable future.

Ian has been instrumental to Zero Carbon Harrogate from those early days, developing a particular interest in how natural climate solution, tree planting and restoring biodiversity, can play their part in sequestering carbon and helping the local economy cope better with extreme weather.

He was a ZCH trustee, representing the charity on the White Rose Forest partnership, liaising with the Rotary Club of Harrogate to support their tree planning in Nidderdale, and contributing to multiple government and council consultations on planning and landscape strategy.

Ian has always been a calm dependable member of ZCH, but more than that he was a dear friend with a rich sense of humour and generosity of spirit. His quiet faith underpinned his open and equitable way of working with people and his deep love and respect for creation.

He wrote recently:

"*My motivation with regard to environmental action emerges from, and is guided by, my strongly held belief that it is essential that our society (local, regional, national) needs to be more ecologically based because there is no route to resolving the climate crisis without sufficient nature recovery.*"

We have lost a quiet man of wisdom and integrity, an eco-warrior who put hope into action. He will be deeply missed, but his work will continue with us.

Jemima Parker, Chair of Trustees 18.10.25



Public Benefit Confirmation

In accordance with the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the ZCH Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.

Details of ZCH's purpose and activities in the year to 31 December 2025 which demonstrate its compliance with the Commission's guidance are provided throughout this report, specifically:

- A review of the significant activities undertaken by ZCH to carry out its charitable purposes for the public benefit – see Chair's Report, Overarching Workstreams, Key Priorities and Other ZCH Workstreams sections.

- Details of purposes and objectives and strategies adopted, and activities undertaken to achieve those purposes and objectives – see Chair's Report and Objects, Governance and Management sections

Details of the achievements by reference to the purposes and objectives set - see Chair's Report, Overarching Workstreams, Key Priorities and Other ZCH Workstreams sections.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The accounts of ZCH for the year ended 31 December 2025, together with the Independent Examiner's Report are presented in the Appendix. These accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis, according to the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP).

ZCH finished the year with £20,223 (2024: £5,174) which comprised a surplus in Restricted Funds of £12,259 (2024: £4,738) due to the receipt of grants in the financial year and a surplus in Unrestricted Funds of £7,964 (2024: £436) mainly due to some generous donations received during the year.

Grants totalling £43,695 (2024: £66,805) including funding from LNER, North Yorkshire Councillor budgets, Beyondly and the Community Wealth Building Fund and Membership fees and other donations.

Additionally, we have undertaken two fundraising events; the Nidderdale Charity Walk, with a team of eight supporters raising over £1,600 in sponsorship; and £600 from high profile film screening at the Harrogate Odeon. We greatly value these unrestricted funds, which enable us to deliver high impact, hard to fund workstreams.

Grants included: Beyondly, the Skipton-based BCorp who gave £12,000 for our Educate, Engage, Encourage, programme, providing partial funding of the Climate Action Coordinator (CAC) role. The North Yorkshire Council Shared Prosperity grant funding also contributed to the CAC's role.

North Yorkshire Council LEAD (Local Energy Advice Demonstrators) Project fund enabling us to complete phase two of our retrofit project and LNER Customer and Community Investment Fund of £7,600 grant supporting expansion of our 'Car Free Fridays' campaign.

Mayor's Community Wealth Building Fund, a £10,700 grant for our Community Energy workstream's feasibility study exploring viability of rooftop solar on community buildings.

GB Community Energy fund award of £3200 to Harrogate Town Council for ZCH to undertake public engagement and market research into the viability of District Heating.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Locality Budget Funding from North Yorkshire Councillors' Peter Lacey and Mike Schofield has supported the delivery of our public events.

Expenditure for the period totalled £36,174 (2024: £65,515), which included staff costs of £33,533 (2024: £56,842).

The Trustees were pleased with the overall results and ZCH's ability to meet the future financial requirements of the various projects it has committed to.

The accounts were prepared by the ZCH Treasurer, a Charity Accountant. Although there was no external audit of the accounts, they have been reviewed by an Independent Examiner in line with the Charity Commission's requirements for small charities.



ZCH's Climate Action Coordinator Sunita Soundur on a campaign photo shoot with Harrogate Bus Company to promote ZCH's Car Free Fridays campaign



ZCH supporters with certificates upon completion of a sponsored walk with Nidderdale Charity Walk and Run to raise funds for ZCH

Objects, Governance and Management

OVERVIEW AND GOVERNING DOCUMENT

ZCH is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), incorporated and registered as a charity on 3 December 2020. ZCH was established under a constitution document dated 3 December 2020, which established the objects and powers of the CIO as well as setting out key matters of Governance.

ZCH is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. Our Charity Commission Registration number is 1192634.

OBJECTS

The constitution document defines ZCH's objects (purpose) as, for the public benefit, the advancement of environmental protection and improvement by promoting a zero carbon, sustainable society in the Harrogate District through: (a) The advancement of the education of the public in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources; in particular, but not exclusively, by raising awareness, and providing information and advice, in accordance with scientific evidence on climate change and encouraging and supporting local residents to reduce their carbon emissions and live in a more sustainable way; and (b) The promotion of a sustainable economy and local regeneration.

Objects, Governance and Management

ZCH SEEKS TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSES THROUGH:

Member involvement in Working Groups, education, providing information, events, signposting and advocacy, to enable the citizens in the Harrogate and Knaresborough area to reduce their carbon emissions and conserve and protect the physical and natural environment.

Promoting low carbon solutions across the district for buildings, energy, transport, and promoting natural climate solutions such as tree planting and rewilding.

Supporting and actively encouraging the reduction of energy, the use of renewable energy, energy efficient building and retrofit, low carbon means of transport and natural climate solutions.

Engaging with local decision makers, business leaders, schools, and the general population to promote and enable carbon emission reduction.

TRUSTEES AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

The constitution allows for a minimum of three and a maximum of 12 Trustees to be appointed. Trustees are appointed or reappointed annually at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

At each AGM one third of Trustees must retire from office. Retiring Trustees may be reappointed but may not serve for more than three consecutive terms. They may be reappointed after an interval of at least three years.

In accordance with the ZCH constitution ZCH's first AGM was held on 22 June 2022.

Our Trustees are responsible for setting ZCH strategy and overseeing the running of ZCH activities.

All Trustees are members of the ZCH Board of Trustees. During the year under review, the Board met quarterly, providing strategic direction and overall oversight of ZCH activities, governance matters and progress against objects.

Objects, Governance and Management

TRUSTEES AND ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

In November 2022 Programme Group meetings were established in addition to Board meetings, with Programme Group meetings providing a more focused forum for detailed operational review, while Board meetings continue to focus on strategic direction and governance matters. Programme Group meetings have been held on four occasions during the period with the Board continuing to meet at quarterly intervals. Programme Group Meetings are attended by the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and all Workstream Leads.

Key matters discussed at Programme Group meetings are escalated to all Trustees at Board meetings for review and approval, as necessary.

ZCH activities are principally delivered via six workstream leaders and their supporting working groups (see key priorities section for further details). Working Groups meet informally to plan and deliver ZCH activities.

All Trustees, unless otherwise stated, served for the entire period from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025:

Jemima Waterlow Alice Parker (Chair)
Timothy Charles Larner (Vice Chair)
Chris Arnott (Vice Chair and Secretary)
Danny Wild resigned 01-12-2025
Dean Gregory resigned 20-05-2025
All existing and previous Trustees, aside from expenses, were not remunerated for their trusteeship.

Employed staff:
Sunita Soundur, Zero Carbon Harrogate Climate Action Coordinator, 0.6 FTE 1st January – 31st December
Ed Lee, North Yorkshire Climate Coalition Climate Action Coordinator, 0.4 FTE 1st January - 6th May 2025
John Kerr, ZCH Retrofit Project Manager, 0.8 FTE 1st January – 31st March 2025

Objects, Governance and Management

RISK MANAGEMENT, POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The Management Committee regularly reviews major risks to which ZCH is exposed. A risk register is maintained and reviewed at Board meetings, with updates made as required.

A Conflicts of Interest register is also maintained and reviewed at each Board Meeting.

As part of our risk mitigation processes and governance review, our scheduled review of policies and procedures was completed, updating the ZCH Handbook to provide a clear Policy and Procedures Guide for all Trustees, volunteers, and employees. The ZCH Handbook is shared with all new Trustees, volunteers, and employees as part of their induction training and is always available for reference on our internal portal.

Financial Accounts

Receipts and Payments Accounts for the period ended 31 December 2024 and Statement of Assets and Liabilities as 31 December 2025.

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Zero Carbon Harrogate	1192634	CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01-Jan-25	To	31-Dec-25

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Members' subscriptions	521	-	521	663
Donations	11,233	-	11,233	2,682
Gift aid	-	-	-	-
Bank interest	430		430	539
Event Income	518		518	-
Grants	-	43,695	43,695	66,805
	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	12,702	43,695	56,397	70,689
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).				
Member loans	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	12,702	43,695	56,397	70,689
A3 Payments				
Staff costs	2,846	30,687	33,533	56,842
Promotional material	181	-	181	126
External advice & surveys		-	-	115
Training & event costs	517	449	966	2,234
IT & web costs	219	170	389	2,036
Room hire	-	130	130	460
Insurance	547	-	547	485
Memberships	147	-	147	143
Bank charges	179	-	179	74
Trustee Training & Other costs	102	-	102	
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,738	31,436	36,174	62,515
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
Member loan repaid	-	-	-	3,000
	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	3,000
Total payments	4,738	31,436	36,174	65,515
Net of receipts/(payments)	7,964	12,259	20,223	5,174
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	18,728	19,246	37,974	32,800
Cash funds this year end	26,692	31,505	58,197	37,974

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cooperative Bank	26,692	31,505
		-	-
		-	-
	Total cash funds	26,692	31,505
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	Agreement Error	#REF!

	Details	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

	Details	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities		-	
		-	
		-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature		Date of approval

Financial Accounts

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Zero Carbon Harrogate

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Zero Carbon Harrogate (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

   content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Signed:



Name: GARIC TAYLOR

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any):
FCA (8208050)

Date: 11th June

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