APPLETON FIELDS ASSOCIATION

CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION

CHARITY NUMBER: 1199589

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR END 30/06/2026

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2026

The past year has been one of the most significant in the development of Appleton Fields since the Association was formed. Guided by our long-term masterplan and strengthened by major external funding, we have made substantial progress in both the meadow and woodland, improving biodiversity, access, and community involvement.

1. Major Project: The Veolia Environmental Trust Programme

The defining achievement of 2026 has been the commencement of the **£25,000 Veolia Environmental Trust (VET) project**, supporting woodland improvements, wildflower expansion, accessible pathways, and new seating.

Key elements delivered or initiated this year:

Woodland thinning and clearance by Small Planet Assessors, opening up the canopy to allow under-storey regeneration.

Construction of the new all-weather woodland path by Matthews & Leigh, completed to an exceptional standard.

Ground preparation for meadow enhancement, including the planned grubbing out blackthorn, seed-bed preparation, and mowing by Paul Adams Agricultural Contractors.

Wildflower and bulb procurement, including bespoke meadow seed mixes and 250 bluebells.

Seating installation in both meadow and wood, with Cyan benches selected for durability and low maintenance, alongside benches manufactured from felled timber by Small planet Assessors within the woodland.

The VET project has also strengthened our governance, requiring detailed tendering, financial evidence, and project management structures. The Implementation Sub-Group has met regularly to oversee delivery, with Trustees providing oversight and coordination.

2. Meadow Development

Expert guidance from Lancashire Wildlife Trust has shaped a clear, evidence-based plan for meadow management, with a proposed autumn cut or strim and rake off wildflowers and the creation of new wildflowers areas.

Key achievements include:

Expansion of wildflower areas through sowing, plug planting, and careful soil preparation.

Continued success of yellow rattle, knapweed, ox-eye daisies, trefoil and yarrow.

Meadow path edges treated with pet-friendly spray and maintained with donated mower equipment.

Ragwort pulling.

The meadow continues to be a central feature of Appleton Fields, enjoyed by residents, schools, and youth groups.

3. Woodland Improvements

The woodland has undergone its most transformative year to date.

Key actions:

Thinning and clearance to allow more light into the woodland floor.

Dead hedging and brash clearance to create wildlife habitat.

Selective strimming around under-storey plants.

Bramble control, particularly in the mid-section of the wood and along the circular path.

Sapling identification and preparation for planting, including clearing planting areas.

Bluebell planting planned for autumn, with ground preparation underway.

The new woodland path has dramatically improved accessibility, enabling safe, year-round walking and opening the wood to wheelchair users and pushchairs for the first time.

4. Access and Infrastructure

The Association now provides **two fully accessible, all-weather paths**—one around the meadow and one through the wood. Together they form a continuous, inclusive route that supports recreation, education, and wellbeing.

The woodland path has been particularly praised for enabling visitors to "observe the environment rather than having your eyes fixed on the ground" and for its success in wet weather.

Seating has been expanded in both meadow and wood.

5. Community Engagement and Volunteering

Community involvement remains at the heart of Appleton Fields.

Volunteer achievements this year include:

Beavers planting snowdrops.

Cubs protecting saplings and helping with seating.

Guides conducting soil sampling and plant identification.

Regular volunteer sessions supporting meadow and woodland maintenance.

A volunteer survey completed, with results analysed and recommendations in preparation.

The site continues to attract visitors, with strong engagement from local residents, youth groups, Newburgh School, and running clubs.

Our Facebook page remains the primary communication channel, supplemented by TikTok and GoFundMe for fundraising and awareness.

6. Funding and Financial Progress
In addition to the major VET grant:

GoFundMe raised over £1000 over a 12-month period.
The Friends of Appleton Fields initiative has been launched to encourage regular giving.
Additional grants continue to be explored for future phases.
The Association has maintained strong financial governance, with clear tendering processes and oversight from Trustees.

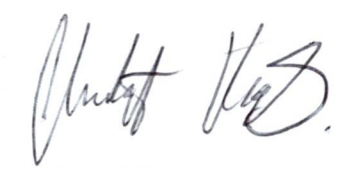
7. Governance and Planning
The Implementation Sub-Group has met frequently, producing:

A **Calendar of Activities 2026–2027**, adopted in July and used to guide communications and volunteer planning.
A structured timetable for VET project delivery.
Clear allocation of responsibilities for contractors, Trustees, and volunteers..

8. Looking Ahead
The coming year will see:

Completion of autumn meadow works and bluebell planting.
Planting of new woodland saplings.
Continued bramble control and path maintenance.
Expansion of community events such as butterfly counts, birdwatching, and school engagement.
Further development of the circular path and woodland glades.
Strengthening of volunteer recruitment and structured activity planning.
Appleton Fields is increasingly recognised as a thriving, biodiverse, and accessible community asset. The generosity of funders, the expertise of contractors, and the dedication of Trustees and volunteers have made 2026 a landmark year.

Conclusion
Appleton Fields continues to flourish as a space where nature thrives and the community connects. The achievements of 2026 reflect the commitment of everyone involved—Trustees, volunteers, contractors, funders, and residents.
My thanks go to all who have contributed their time, expertise, and enthusiasm. Together we are building a lasting legacy for Newburgh.
Chris Hayes Chair, Appleton Fields Association 20th August 2026



Signed on behalf of Appleton Fields Association by the Chair, Christopher Hayes, on the 15th September 2026.

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Section A **Independent Examiner's Report**

Report to the trustees/directors/ members of	**APPLETON FIELDS ASSOCIATION**		
On accounts for the year ended	**30 JUNE**	**2026**	
	Charity no.: **1199589**	Company no.:	
Set out on pages			

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

• accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;

• the accounts do not accord with such records:

• where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102)

• any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.

Signed: [signature] **Date:** **27.8.26**

Name:	**CHRISTINA QUIRK**
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	
Address:	**26 DOE MEADOW**
	NEWBURGH
	WN8 7LZ

Section B Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems (E.g. Accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; the accounts do not accord with the accounting records; any material expenditure or action which appears not to be in accordance with the trusts of the charity; any failure to be provided with information and explanation by any past or present trustee, officer or employee; and in the case of accruals accounts any material inconsistency between the accounts and the trustees' annual report, and in the case of a charitable company with the director's report.)

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	NONE

	Notes	Period 01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Period 01/07/24 to 30/06/25
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Assets	2	-	-
Current Assets			
Stocks	7	-	-
Debtors	8	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand	6	908.09	3,137.38
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	-	-
NET CURRENT ASSETS		908.09	3,137.38
NET ASSETS		908.09	3,137.38
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
General Funds		1,239.44	1,637.38
Restricted Funds	-	331.35	1,500.00
		908.09	3,137.38
Rounding Error	-	0.00	-

	Notes	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Period 01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Period 01/07/24 to 30/06/25
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Donations, Legacies and Similar Incoming Resources	3a	1,339.31	-	1,339.31		2,968.93
Income from Activities in Furtherance of the Charitable Objects	3b	-	-	-		-
Investment Income	3c	-	-	-		-
Other incoming Resources	3d	-	-	-		-
Earmarked Income	5	-	24,380.45	24,380.45		21,996.00
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		**1,339.31**	**24,380.45**	**25,719.76**		**24,964.93**
RESOURCES EXPENDED						
Grants Payable in Furtherance of the Charitable Objects	4a	-	-	-		-
Costs of Activities in Furtherance of the Charitable Objects	4b	1,414.05	-	1,414.05		2,830.08
Resources Expended on Managing and Administering the Charity	4c	323.20	-	323.20		221.79
Other Expenditure	4d	-	-	-		-
Earmarked Expenditure	5	-	26,211.80	26,211.80		23,485.42
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		**1,737.25**	**26,211.80**	**27,949.05**		**26,537.29**
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		**- 397.94**	**- 1,831.35**	**- 2,229.29**		**4,709.74**
Total Funds Brought Forward		1,637.38	1,500.00	3,137.38		- 1,572.36
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,239.44**	**- 331.35**	**908.09**		**3,137.38**

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Cost	01-Jul-25	-	-	-
Additions		-	-	-
Cost	30-Jun-26	-	-	-
Depreciation	01-Jul-25	-	-	-
Charge		-	-	-
Depreciation	30-Jun-26	-	-	-
Net Book Value	30-Jun-26	-	-	-
Net Book Value	01-Jul-26	-	-	-

NOTES: A petrol mower has been donated to the charity which as an estimated value of £300

Note 3 Incoming resources

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Period 01/07/25 to 30/06/26 Total	Period 01/07/24 to 30/06/25
a)				
Donations	1,286.00	-	1,286.00	530.01
Grants and Trusts	-	24,380.45	24,380.45	21,996.00
Crowdfunding & Friends of AFA	53.31	-	53.31	2,438.92
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	1,339.31	**24,380.45**	**25,719.76**	**24,964.93**
b)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
c)				
Bank Interest	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
d)				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	**-**	**-**	**-**
			25,719.76	**24,964.93**

Note 4 Resources Expended			Period 01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Period 01/07/24 to 30/06/25
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
a) Grants Payable in Furtherance of the Charitable Objcts				
Gifts made	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
b) Costs of Activities in Furtherance of the Charitable Objects				
Grass Cutting	438.00	-	438.00	532.00
Purchase of Seeds	-	-	-	264.88
Meadow Maintenance	56.18	-	56.18	7.07
Meadow Commerative Benches	428.87	1,450.00	1,878.87	-
Meadow Entrance Gates	-	-	-	1,019.78
Meadow Noticeboard	-	-	-	969.69
Meadow Pathway	-	-	-	23,389.20
Woodland Maintenance	30.00		30.00	-
Woodland Improvements	-	22,761.80	22,761.80	-
Equipment	-	-	-	132.88
	-	-	-	-
	461.00	2,000.00	2,461.00	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	1,414.05	**26,211.80**	**27,625.85**	**26,315.50**
c) Resources Expended on Managing and Administering the Charity				
Bank and Card Charges	-	-	-	-
Insurance	286.01	-	286.01	157.00
Legal and Accountancy Fees	-	-	-	-
Computer and Software	37.19	-	37.19	34.79
Internet Expenses	-	-	-	-
Telephones	-	-	-	-
Postage and Stationery	-	-	-	-
Printing and Photocopying	-	-	-	-
Subscriptions	-	-	-	-
Training	-	-	-	-
Communications	-	-	-	30.00
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-
	323.20	**-**	**323.20**	**221.79**
d) Other Expenditure				
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
			27,949.05	**26,537.29**

5. RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balance 01-Jul-25	Income	Expenditure	Transferred to debtors	Transferred to creditors	Balance 30-Jun-26
Earmarked Funds	1,500.00	24,380.45	26,211.80	-	- -	331.35

	Period 01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Period 01/07/23 to 30/06/24
6. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		
Current Account	908.09	3,137.38
Savings Account	-	-
Restricted Funds Account	-	-
Petty Cash	-	-
	908.09	**3,137.38**
7. STOCKS		
Stocks	**-**	**-**
8. DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS		
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	**-**

	Period 01/07/25 to 30/06/26	Period 01/07/24 to 30/06/25

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
Earmarked Money received but not yet paid out	-	-
	-	-

10. STAFF COSTS

The Charity has no direct employees, the charitable work is carried out by a team of volunteers.

11. TRUSTEES EXPENSES

Fees	-	-
Travel - Car	-	-
Travel - Other	-	-
Travel - Miscellaneous Expenses	-	-
Training	-	-
Accomodation/Hospitality	-	-
Telephone	-	-
Subscriptions	-	-
Other Reimbursements	-	-
	-	-