Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park

Trustees Report and Financial Statements

Year to 31st December 2025

Charity number: 1206686

Postal address:
c/o Hull CVS,
75 Beverley Road,
Hull HU3 1XL

Trustees

Mary Gibson – Chair
Wendy Gregory – Deputy Chair
Elaine Nifton – Trustee
Andrew Steel – Trustee

Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park may be referred to in this report as “the Friends”, “FoAKP”, or “the CIO”.

Our Location

Alderman Kneeshaw Park sits at the heart of Bilton Grange, one of the most deprived areas in the country, nestled between The Marvel College and St Phillips Church. These institutions serve communities facing high levels of poverty, food insecurity and social isolation.

The park was once a thriving centre of community activity, but this declined as the local council found it increasingly difficult to continue the necessary level of funding.

In 2015, a group of people who regularly engaged with the park through a variety of activities formed a committee with a constitution.The Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park evolved to

become a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation continuing to actively work to restore the park's heritage and enhance its role as a green, community-driven space. During 2025, the Friends continued to develop the park as a place where local people can meet, volunteer, learn new skills, enjoy nature and take part in activities and events. Our approach is based on the belief that the park belongs to the community and that local people should have opportunities to influence how it is used and developed.

Structure, Management and Trustee Recruitment

The Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park operates to benefit the community of people who visit and enjoy the park where our activities and events are based. At the same time, we strive to support and enhance nature in the park.

FoAKP has four trustees. In October 2025 Elaine Nifton resigned as Treasurer but remained as Trustee. This role is currently being undertaken by the charity support worker. This is overseen by trustees at our quarterly meetings where a review of the finances takes place. The organisation is supported by volunteers and a project lead who help to deliver the charity's programme of activities.

Our trustees are local people or have lived in Hull and been involved as volunteers in the HU9 area for a significant length of time. In recruiting trustees, we look to people who demonstrate commitment to Alderman Kneeshaw Park and the local community, alongside a suitable mix of skills and experience.

We have policies and procedures in place to support the safe and effective running of the charity. These include safeguarding, finance, serious incident reporting, confidentiality, social media, whistleblowing, complaints procedures, Trustee's conflict of interest and bullying and harassment.

Volunteers are encouraged to take part in induction and training, with safeguarding and other relevant training provided where appropriate. During 2025, we continued to strengthen our organisational systems, including training around monitoring and evaluation and the development of our digital presence.

Activities and Objectives

Our objective is to make Alderman Kneeshaw Park a welcoming, active and inclusive community space where local people of all ages can meet, learn, volunteer and take part in activities. Throughout 2025 we provided a varied programme of regular weekly sessions, including **49 Gardening Club sessions, 49 Monday afternoon community sessions, youth outreach, Bingo and Cream Teas**. These activities offered regular opportunities for people to use the park, build relationships, learn new skills and reduce isolation. We also ran seasonal and one-off activities including woodwork and skill-sharing workshops, local history talks, talent shows, wreath making, pond dipping, kayaking, gardening and environmental activities, community exhibitions, summer and Christmas events and Healthy Holidays sessions for children and families. Our environmental work included the **City Nature Challenge, pond dipping, wildlife interpretation boards, planting, gardening training and supporting other community growing spaces**. Our volunteers have increasingly

shared their knowledge with other organisations, demonstrating the value and impact of the skills developed through the park.

Our work is strongly rooted in partnership and community voice. We regularly attended youth network meetings and worked with **Youth Services, Hull City Council, Rewilding Youth, the Fire Brigade, local policing teams, Hull CVS and North Bank Forum**, alongside other community and environmental organisations. The **Have Your Say** research helped ensure that our activities responded to local residents' ideas and priorities. Young people were supported through youth outreach, Micro Joy workshops, creative activities, environmental projects and trips, including visits to Humber Street Gallery. Fire Brigade and police surgeries on the park also helped strengthen relationships between young people, residents and local services.

We hosted visits from other wildlife organisations interested in learning from our approach and its impact on both the community and the land. Activities such as the Wassail, summer gala, exhibitions, Cream Teas, volunteer celebrations and community events brought different generations together and encouraged people who may not normally use the park to become involved. This combination of regular sessions, youth engagement, environmental activity, creative projects, community events and partnership working demonstrates our commitment to keeping the park active and accessible while building a stronger, more connected local community.

Achievements and Public Benefit

During 2025, Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park continued to demonstrate the positive contribution the charity makes to the local community and to the wider use and development of the park.The recognition we have received from the local authority and partner organisations reflects the value of the park as a community asset and the role of the charity in bringing people together, creating opportunities and responding to local needs.

A significant achievement has been the deepening of our partnership with the **Hull City Council Youth Team**, including the development of a new partnership agreement to work together to address issues affecting young people in the local area and improve engagement with those who may be harder to reach. **Humber Street Gallery** has also become a new and developing partner, leading to the start of an artist-in-residence programme working alongside the charity and local community. This partnership has grown from our increasing understanding of the needs and strengths of our community and our recognition that creativity and art can provide valuable ways to build confidence, encourage participation and support wellbeing. Local policing teams have also begun holding regular drop-in sessions on the park, creating a more accessible way for residents to speak with officers and helping to strengthen relationships between the community and local services.

These developments provide clear evidence of the charity's public benefit. The park is increasingly being recognised not simply as a green space, but as a place where communities can connect with services, develop skills, express themselves, support one another and find opportunities to participate. By bringing together residents, volunteers, young people, public services, artists and community organisations, the charity is helping to

create a safer, more welcoming and more connected park that responds to the needs of the community it serves.

Financial Review

During 2025, the charity generated total income of **£17,672** from a combination of grant funding, fundraising activities, donations and charitable activities. This income enabled us to continue providing a varied programme of activities despite a challenging funding environment, with grant funding particularly difficult to secure during the year. Funding received from Hull City Council's Healthy Holidays programme supported activities for children and young people during the Easter and summer holidays, while NHS Health Stars funding enabled us to continue Cream Teas and regular activities aimed at reducing isolation among older residents. Support from Ward funding and Hull City Council contributed towards community activities and our summer event, while unrestricted funding from the Reckitt Foundation gave the charity flexibility to respond to local needs. KCOM funding supported photography, digital skills and the development of online sales of items made by volunteers, creating opportunities for both learning and small-scale income generation. Our expenditure for this year was £23,465 resulting in an in year deficit of £5793. Brought forward surplus from 2024 = £12359.14 resulting in overall balance of £6566.15 at the end of 2025.

Reflecting on the previous year, the trustees recognised the importance of developing a more sustainable and diverse approach to generating income rather than relying heavily on grant funding. During 2025, we began to see the community's willingness to contribute through fundraising activities, donations and small income-generating projects. Although these amounts were modest, together they demonstrated a growing commitment to making the organisation more financially sustainable and developing a culture where the community can contribute to the future of the charity in different ways. Most importantly, the charity was able to **sustain its core activities and deliver significant community benefit on a reduced income**, demonstrating the strength of our volunteer base, partnerships and community-led approach.

In response to the funding challenges, the trustees made organisational development and **upskilling in fundraising and grant applications** a key priority. Time was invested in strengthening our understanding of funding opportunities, improving applications and developing the skills needed to build a more sustainable financial future. This approach has already begun to show positive results in early 2026, with successful funding applications secured and further opportunities being developed. The trustees recognise the importance of building an unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately 3 months of essential running cost (approx £4000) which will be reviewed by the charities financial management.

Approval of the Trustees' Report

This report was approved by the trustees of Friends of Alderman Kneeshaw Park on:

Date: _____31.08.2026_____

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Name: Mary Gibson

Position: Chair

Signature: Mary Gibson.

Date: 14th September 2026.

Fund	B/F Balance	Income	Expenditure	Transfer
Ideas Fund 2	4234.64	0	**4234.64**	
Two Ridings	2500	0	**2433**	
Dulverton	1195.96	3.39	**1199.35**	
Police Fund	463.35	0	**465.37**	2.02
Hull City Council	1320	0	**1320**	
Yorkshire Water	691.67	0	698	6.33
Unrestricted	1614	6316.1	6056.61	-36.05
Garden Club	148.9	0	124.93	
WI-Fi	150.22	0	150.22	
Stationary	40.4	0	62.95	22.55
Healthy Holidays Easte	0	1322	1322.35	0.35
HCC Ward	0	1000	890	
Healthy Holidays Summer		3436	3440.8	4.8
NHS Health Stars		1995	372.39	
Reckitts		3000	694.87	
KCOM		600	0	
Total	**12,359.14**	**17672.49**	**23465.48**	**0**
Cash book balance	12359.14	17672.49	23465.48	
Difference	0	0	0	

*Restricted Bank Balance on 29/12/25 £537

Unrestricted Bank Balance on 29/12/25 £11

Dur to £3000 being paid into the wrong account and not physicall transferred until 1