



Trustees' Annual Report for the period: 01 October 2023 to 30 September 2024

Charity name: The Horam Village Hall and Recreation Ground Charity

Charity Registration no.: 305257

Objectives and Activities:

	SORP Para. ref.	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	1.17	The Object of the Charity is the provision and maintenance of a village hall and recreation ground for the use of the inhabitants of the Parish of Horam without distinction of political, religious or other options, including use for meetings, lectures and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	1.17 & 1.19	<p>The Charity exists to maintain the land and building entrusted to it, for the sole benefit of the people of Horam and its surrounding areas.</p> <p>It comprises a large airy hall, committee room, kitchen, toilet facilities and storage cupboards. It has an extensive range of use, from small committee meetings, a term-time weekday pre-school, through to large meetings and wedding receptions.</p> <p>The hall has open views over the adjacent land forming the recreation ground which also has an extensive children's playground, and a skate-park – these latter facilities are provided and owned by Horam Parish Council.</p> <p>The organisations associated to the Charity, through their presence on and use of the recreation ground and buildings, provide a comprehensive opportunity for youth and all ages to use the facilities for education, recreation, and pursuit of health.</p> <p>As a particular example, the Football Club (accredited by Football England) uses the majority of the available ground in season at weekends, providing football matches/training for under-sixes to under-eighteens, boys and girls, with some 300+ children on the books.</p> <p>The Village Hall and Recreation Ground is recognised by the whole village (of 2,500+ residents) as being of immense value and worth to the inhabitants.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit has been fully regarded in the day-to-day function and management of the facilities comprising The Horam Village Hall and Recreation Ground.

Additional information:

<p>Policy on grant making</p>	<p>Para 1.38</p>	<p>Whilst the Trustees would specifically discuss the merit of any grant-making need or proposal, the normal practice is that the Charity does not make grants of any kind to other Charitable bodies.</p>
<p>Policy on social investment including program related investment</p>	<p>Para 1.38</p>	<p>In principle, the Charity does not consider social investment opportunities as part of its normal remit. However, the Charity would be willing to consider making contributions of this nature, subject to strict criteria, but only where such arose due to stipulations of a grant-making body which may be giving direct financial support to the Charity for one of its project proposals.</p>
<p>Contribution made by volunteers</p>	<p>Para 1.38</p>	<p>All members of the Committee of Management (the Trustees) are volunteers, giving of their time tirelessly to support the work of the charity, and are not recompensed in any way for their efforts. Further tasks are undertaken by part-time staff, who are paid; these staff are not Trustees of the Charity. The staff include a Secretary/Fund-Raiser, a Bookings Secretary, a handyman/caretaker.</p> <p>There are also occasional 'events' which are run by both Trustees and Community Teams/volunteers, such as an Annual Horam Fun Day. Many of the regular (weekly) users of the facilities are 'community-oriented' groups, such as the Heathfield Choral Society.</p> <p>Historically, maintenance of the village hall facilities was funded from a proportion of the fees arising from the hiring of the hall, meaning there was, inevitably, constraint on this maintenance activity. Recent years, however, have seen a marked increase in fund-raising through grant applications to fund-distributing trusts.</p> <p>This has allowed the trustees to consider more robust improvements to the facilities over the past few years, with projects including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of refurbishment and equipping of the Hall's kitchen - Purchase of a modular staging facility - The GAP (Get Active Pathway) project - a 'figure-of-eight' one kilometre Agri-Flex (recycled rubber) pathway planned eventually for the two fields comprising the Recreation Ground. Work in this financial year included the letting of a contract and completion of construction of Phase 1 of the pathway - Provision of seating around the GAP project - Replacement of all external doors and windows - Completion of an extensive upgrade in the CCTV provisions at the site

Achievements and Performance

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.</p>	<p>Para 1.20</p>	<p>The open air facility of the recreation ground continued to be used as a major place of exercise and pleasure for those seeking to maintain their own well-being. The recreation ground, with the Village Hall, children's playground, skate park, Scouts Hall, Bowls Club, Tennis Club, children's football club, is an extremely important 'gem' in the life and well-being of the village.</p> <p>The Gap Project Phase 1 was completed right at the end of the financial year 2022/23; it was officially 'opened' by our local MP Nus Ghani on 10/10/23, and has already made a huge impact on the use of the facilities, transforming the Recreation Ground's desirability and use, and turning it into a truly all-year available opportunity for recreation, fitness and well-being.</p> <p>The Charity's focus in this particular area continued on raising awareness of and finance for the planned children's Pump Track, and an extension of the pathway into the second field of the Recreation Ground.</p>
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Additional information

<p>Achievements against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>The Trustees remain more than satisfied with what has been achieved in the running, maintenance and improvement of the Village Hall and its surrounding Recreation Ground.</p>
<p>Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>The Trustees have been, perhaps, a little reticent in the past about being responsible for running 'fund-raising activities' in support of the Charity, primarily due to the nature of the Charity and its function.</p> <p>Notably, however, since 2021/22, including during 2023/24, various outward-facing events have been held such as a 'Get-to-know- your-village Hall' was held.</p>
<p>Investment performance against objectives</p>	<p>Para 1.41</p>	<p>Not applicable.</p>

Financial Review

<p>Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period</p>	<p>Para 1.21</p>	<p>During the course of the 2023/24 financial year, the decision to move the charity's banking from Barclays to Charities Aid Foundation (CAFBank) was implemented. This process meant a gradual transition away from Barclays to CAFBank, a process which will finally be completed during the 2024/25 year.</p> <p>Additionally, the recording of income and expenditure for the charity moved from Excel spreadsheets to Quick Books.</p> <p>The year beginning/year end positions are recorded in the submitted accounts (in CC16a format).</p> <p>The opening balances, as at 01/10/2023, stood at £14,845 in the Charity's current account, and £6,150 in the reserve account (both Barclays accounts, CAFBank accounts not yet in operation at year opening).</p> <p>Hall hire income (including Representative Groups' fees) totalled £25,480; Grant Income totalled £140,070; other income totalled £6,790.</p> <p>'Normal' running costs totalled £41,405, with 'project' expenditure of £128,375.</p> <p>The end-of-year position was £18,910 in the Charity's current accounts (B: £7,220 & CAF: £11,690), with £4,650 in the reserve accounts (B: £10 & CAF: £4,640).</p> <p>Overall, the picture is of a satisfactory stable year.</p>
<p>Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>The policy for holding reserves is the 'usual prudence' one of having sufficient funds secured so that the Charity can continue to run, covering its costs, for a sufficient length of time to enable income/expenditure streams to be adjusted or restored.</p> <p>We are currently holding reserves equivalent to some 4 months of operating costs, which the Trustees are content to continue, keeping a watchful eye for any pressure that might necessitate a smaller reserve.</p>
<p>Amount of reserves held</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>At year-end 30/09/2024: £4,650 (B: £10 & CAF: £4,640) .</p>
<p>Reasons for holding zero reserves</p>	<p>Para 1.22</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Details of fund materially in deficit</p>	<p>Para 1.24</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern</p>	<p>Para 1.23</p>	<p>There are none.</p>

Additional information

<p>The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)</p>	<p>Para 1.47</p>	<p>There are four main sources of funds, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall hire income – this is the income primarily associated with the 'existence' of the Charity, its raison d'être – approximately £22,010, which includes the significant income from the Pre-School. • Representative Groups' Fees, comprising some £3,470 (from Football Club, Tennis Club, Bowls Club, Scouts and Allotments). • Other Income: totalling £6,790 • Project grant income – some £140,070 in this year.
<p>Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>We have insufficient longer-term held funds to either warrant or enable any concept of an 'investment policy'. In principle, the Charity does not consider social investment opportunities as part of its normal remit.</p>
<p>A description of the principal risks facing the charity</p>	<p>Para 1.46</p>	<p>Currently, as an unincorporated organisation, the level of risk, particularly to the Trustees, is considerable, albeit that extensive insurances are in place. However, should those insurances be called upon in any significant fashion, downstream increases in insurance premiums are considered a risk.</p> <p>Possible future changes of an inflationary nature need to be identified early enough to offset those effects on our stability by balanced but prudent hire-cost increases, and effective marketing of the facilities.</p> <p>The Trustees frequently rehearse possible risks to the Charity's well-being, in order to make sufficient remedial decisions.</p>

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		Original trusts established for Village Hall (1951), and for Recreation ground (1948).
Type of governing document	Para 1.25	Original Constitution dated 10 June 1993 – amended by a Resolution passed on 26 November 2019
How is the charity constituted?	Para 1.25	Unincorporated Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Elected by open public election, at the Annual Meeting held in November each year

Additional information

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Comprehensive manual of relevant documents and operating methods handed to new Trustees upon election. 'Loose' system of mentoring for those entirely new to Charity oversight and management.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	The Constitution limits the number of Trustees to seven. The Charity is an entirely independent body.

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Horam Village Hall & Recreation Ground Charity
Other name the charity uses	None
Registered charity number	305257
Charity's principal address	Horam Village Hall A267 Horam Road Horam Heathfield East Sussex TN21 0JE

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Michael Woodhouse	Chairman		
2	Phil Williams			
3	Brian Arnott			
4	Paul de Bruin			
5	Stephen Fisher			
6	Lisa Stevens			
7	Keith Benson			

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

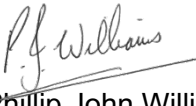
Other information

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Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature	
Full name	Phillip John Williams
Position	Treasurer
Date	28 th July 2025



Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	01/10/2023	To	Period end date
			30/09/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Regular users	12,592	-	-	12,592	11,694
Pre-School users	9,420	-	-	9,420	7,360
Ground rent	3,467	-	-	3,467	-
Donations received	3,367	-	-	3,367	-
CCTV income	1,102	-	-	1,102	-
Solar income	2,143	-	-	2,143	4,279
Sundry receipts	-	-	-	-	734
Project grant income	140,069	-	-	140,069	-
Bank interest	178	-	-	178	53
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	172,338	-	-	172,338	24,120
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	172,338	-	-	172,338	24,120
A3 Payments					
Rates & water	768	-	-	768	1,444
Insurance	1,357	-	-	1,357	1,316
Light & heat	4,287	-	-	4,287	980
Wages	6,218	-	-	6,218	5,483
Garden upkeep	1,819	-	-	1,819	2,918
Telephone	954	-	-	954	823
Post, stat & advert	415	-	-	415	490
Licences	532	-	-	532	687
Repairs & renewals	13,084	-	-	13,084	7,301
Refuse & recycling	2,230	-	-	2,230	1,607
Cleaning	6,418	-	-	6,418	1,136
Computer exp	848	-	-	848	633
Sundry	81	-	-	81	1,884
Accountancy	1,620	-	-	1,620	346
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	2,663
Legal & professional	-	-	-	-	-
Damage deposits returned	774	-	-	774	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	41,405	-	-	41,405	29,711
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
Project grant expenditure	128,373	-	-	128,373	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	128,373	-	-	128,373	-
Total payments	169,778	-	-	169,778	29,711
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,560	-	-	2,560	5,591
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	20,998	-	-	20,998	-
Cash funds this year end	23,558	-	-	23,558	5,591

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
		to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		23,558	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	23,558	-	-

(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))

OK Unrestricted funds OK Restricted funds OK Endowment funds


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

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Shares in new pavilion	15,000	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Fixtures & fittings	8,419	-	-
	Prepayments	265	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Creditors	2,309.00	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature 	Print Name Phillip John Williams	Date of approval 24/07/2025
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**HORAM VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND CHARITY
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 305257**

Independent examiners's report to the trustees of Horam Village Hall and Recreation Ground

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Horam Village Hall and Recreation Ground for the year ended 30 September 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Association 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 Association's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 can 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 Association as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and 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 by Mr Paul A Severn FCA (Independent Examiner)



30-34 North Street
Hailsham
East Sussex BN27 1DW

Date: 29/7/25