

<b>Trustees' Annual Report for the period</b>							
		Period start date			Period end date		
<b>From</b>	01	04	2024	<b>To</b>	31	03	2025

**Section A Reference and administration details**

**Charity name** BYRNESS VILLAGE HALL

**Other names charity is known by**

**Registered charity number** 506856

**Charity's principal address**  
 Otterburn Green  
 Byrness  
 Newcastle upon Tyne  
 NE19 1TS

**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	Susan Chapman			Rochester Parish Council
2	Joan Oliver			
3	Caroline Richardson		01/04/24 - 05/08/24	
4	Barbara Sunley			Craft Group
5	Peter Softley			Rochester Parish Council
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Rochester Parish Council – Custodian Trustee	

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Lease and Trust Deed (Scheme) of the 13 <sup>th</sup> October 1999 and amended 3 <sup>rd</sup> August 2021
How the charity is constituted	Trust
Trustee selection methods	Two members are elected annually by the residents of Rochester with Byrness Parish, the beneficiaries. User groups are represented by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Parish Council appoints two members</li> <li>- Craft Group appoints one member</li> </ul> The Trustees may appoint not more than 2 co-opted members.

### Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The hall is sufficiently insured to a surveyed re-build valuation and which provides adequate third-party liability cover.

All necessary safety tests including annual PAT testing, 5-year electrical safety tests, and fire appliance maintenance are conducted and acted upon.

A periodic fire safety inspection of the building and policies took place in March with no concerns raised.

Policies relating to management and use of the hall continue to be developed with close cooperation with Community Action for Northumberland, ACRE's local representative, and include policies for:

Fire Risk Assessment,  
Fire Safety,  
Health and Safety Risk Assessment,  
Equality and Diversity,  
Safeguarding,  
Finance,  
Reserves  
Risk Management

The following policies are being prepared for adoption:

Trustee Expenses  
Conflicts of interest  
Serious incident reporting

Hire of the hall is subject to hire agreements modelled on guidance from CAN and ACRE.

## Section C Objectives and activities

### Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The object of the charity is the provision and maintenance of a village hall for use by the inhabitants of the area of benefit without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, including use for:

- (a) meetings, lectures and classes, and
- (b) other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation,

with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.

The area of benefit is the parish of Rochester with Byrness.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

Trustees ensure that the hall remains available for the beneficiaries and encourages its use for hire by local people and organisations whose activities meet the object of the charity.

We also encourage use by putting on a number of fund-raising events throughout the year.

The hall is available for occasional private hire to supplement income.

Fundraising activities to support the charity's income and also other national charities take place.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The trustees would like to thank the work and support from Caroline Richardson who stepped down in August 2024 to concentrate on her community support and care for her family.

During the year volunteers have helped with repairs to the gutters following heavy snowfall, and the application of preservative on the external wood cladding.

We also thank all our volunteers for their generous help with maintenance and upkeep, support for all our activities, and in helping us meet our charitable objectives.

**Section D Achievements and performance**

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

Following the refurbishment of the hall, completed last year, the trustees have continued to work towards reducing reliance on mains electricity to further future proof the village hall for the next generation of users.

The next stage will help to reduce the cost of electricity by the installation of a roof-mounted solar panels and battery storage system. We have embarked on fundraising for this project and plan to implement this during year 2025-26. By the end of this year, we had received funding from Northern PowerGrid's Foundation fund and Northumberland County Council's Community Fund.

Our planned final stage is the installation of a stand-alone generator to provide independence from the electricity grid during extended periods of power outage. This will enable the hall to support the community and provide an emergency centre during adverse weather conditions.

The hall has hosted:

- Regular use by the Craft Group
- Wreath making course
- Spring fair
- Christmas fair
- Christmas Carols
- Sewing machine repair and maintenance sessions
- Local parents have used the hall for children's events.
- The hall is used for regular meetings by
  - a) Rochester with Byrness Parish Council
  - b) Horsley Parochial Church Council (St Francis)
  - c) The Village Hall management committee
  - d) Forestry England
  - e) Various training classes organised by a number of local organisations
- Various groups and activities attract visitors resident outside the area of benefit including Elsdon and Otterburn parishes. Given the proximity of the village to the border (16 miles), we also have visitors attending from Scotland.
- Hall used by Northern PowerGrid micro-resilience team for presentations to residents
- Hall used by local resident as a venue for training attendees in forestry techniques and safety
- Hall is used by the Montane Spine Race safety team during their winter and summer endurance events
- Occasional use is made of the hall for private parties
- Polling station
- Northumberland National Park Dark Sky project is in the process of installing photometers on the village hall to measure the 'darkness' of the Dark Sky over a period. The equipment will have the capability to record bird song and interpret the species. The Park's website will include this data showing the public the variety of birds detected.

The Spine Race safety team's usage of the hall is on a 24-hour multi-consecutive day basis for the time when competitors pass through the area. Their summer and winter Spine Race events that pass close to and through the village make use of the village hall for support, safety, and registration purposes. We take great care to ensure that these bookings do not interfere with charitable use of the hall. Income from these events each year is a significant boost to the charity and goes a long way to help trustees meet their obligation of making the hall available to the charity's beneficiaries.

To maintain flexibility in attracting users to the Hall, the Charity holds a Premise Licence (non-alcoholic) and a licence from the Performing Rights Society.

## Section E

## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

At the end of the reporting period unrestricted funds were £4,086. Annual expenditure of the charity is currently £2,208 and the trustees intend to reserve £2,000 to cover current approximate annual costs. Income streams from the Spine Race and possible excess energy sale to the 'grid' will be important in the future.

### Details of any funds materially in deficit

There are no funds in deficit.

### Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Hire of the hall is our main source of income with a smaller amount of general fundraising. We hope to increase general fundraising activities over the coming years to reduce dependence on a single activity. The installation of pv panels and battery storage systems should reduce electricity costs and restricted funding for this project held at the bank is £22,500. Additional fundraising for this project will hopefully achieve our target of £25,000.

## Section F

## Other optional information



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## Section G

## Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	PETER SOFTLEY	SUSAN CHAPMAN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		
Date	10/11/25	



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

BYRNESS VILLAGE HALL

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31/03/2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

506856

**Set out on pages**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/03/2025**.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

*[Signature]*

**Date:**

06.11.2025

**Name:**

MICHAEL NIXON

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

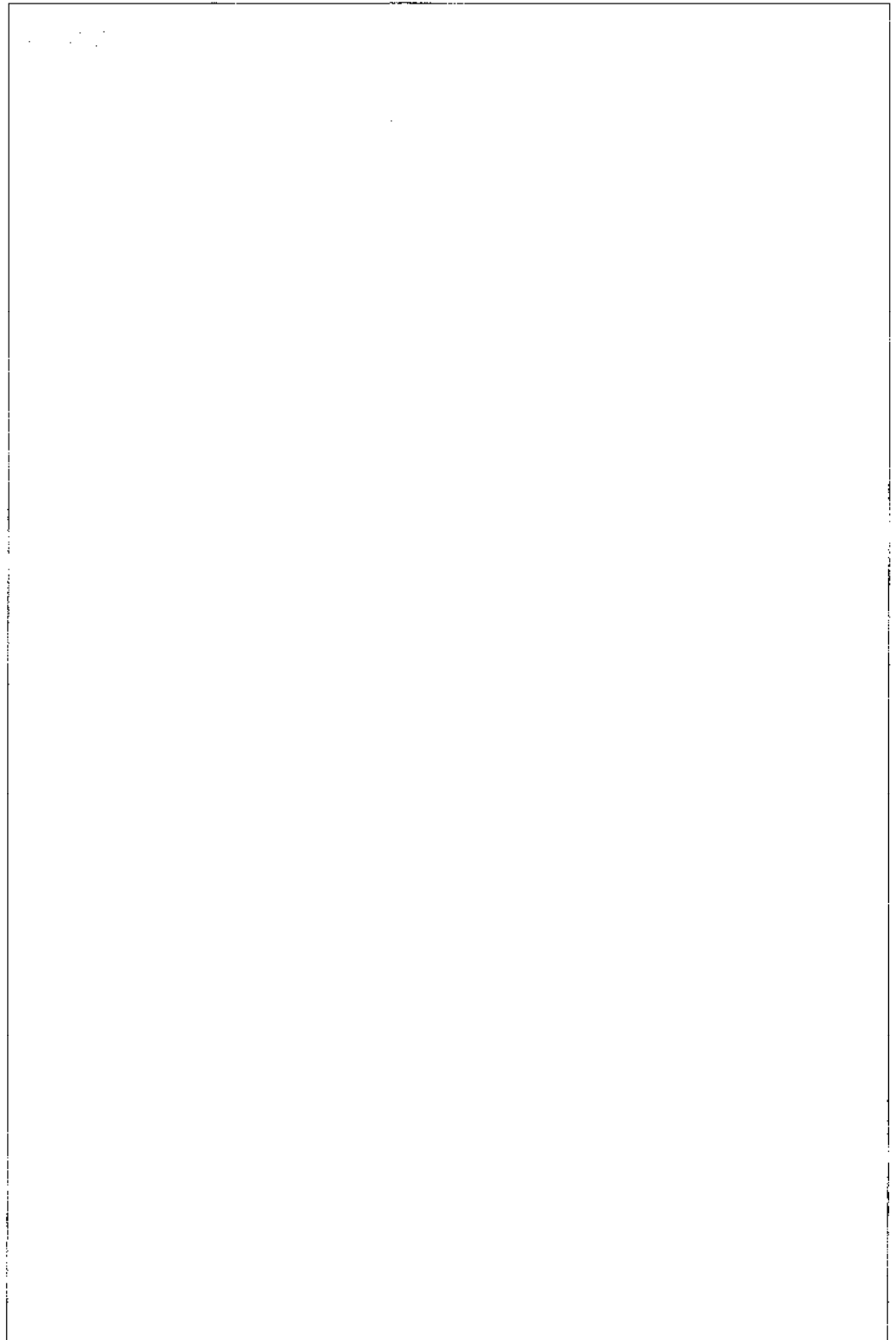
Minister of Religion

**Address:**

South Gatehouse, Tia Act  
Hexham  
NE48 1NB

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**



**BYRNES VILLAGE HALL**

Registered Charity No. 506856

**Receipts and Payments Accounts**

For the period from 01/04/24 to 31/03/25

**Section A Receipts and payments**

	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Restricted funds</b>	<b>Endowment funds</b>	<b>Total funds 2024/25</b>	<b>Total funds 2023/24</b>
<b>Receipts</b>					
Hall Hire	2,549	-	-	<b>2,549</b>	1,064
Fundraising	277	-	-	<b>277</b>	220
Donations	50	-	-	<b>50</b>	-
Misc	-	-	-	-	11
PV & Battery Fund	-	22,500	-	<b>22,500</b>	1,000
<b>Sub total (Gross income for</b>	<b>2,876</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,376</b>	<b>2,295</b>
<b>Asset and investment sales</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>2,876</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>25,376</b>	<b>2,295</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Heat & Light	697	-	-	<b>697</b>	682
Water Rates	280	-	-	<b>280</b>	269
General Admin	80	-	-	<b>80</b>	-
Safety Tests	77	-	-	<b>77</b>	57
Insurance	754	-	-	<b>754</b>	688
Licenses	-	-	-	-	155
Repairs & Maintenance	320	-	-	<b>320</b>	-
Misc	-	-	-	-	-
Hall Refurbishment Fund	-	-	-	-	120,290
PV panels & battery storage	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>122,140</b>
<b>Asset and investment purchases</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,208</b>	<b>122,140</b>
<b>Net of receipts less payments</b>	<b>668</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>23,168</b>	<b>(119,844)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>123,263</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,586</b>	<b>3,419</b>

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

	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
<b>Cash funds</b>				
	Bank current account at y/e	4,086	22,500	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>4,086</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>-</b>

	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
<b>Other monetary assets</b>				
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current Value (optional)
<b>Investment assets</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current Value (optional)
<b>Assets retained for charity's own use</b>				
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>Liabilities</b>				
	PPL/PRS license	Unrestricted	160	
			-	
			-	
			-	