

Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2024.

The trustees of Finnard Rural Development Association are pleased to submit their report and accounts for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Achievements and Performance

Meeting Programme

There were two meetings with an average attendance of seven.

Activities Throughout the Year

As in previous years the main activity has been Highland Dancing classes which are held on a regular weekly basis.

Post CoVid-19 guidance in respect of social interactions involving group settings is followed and monitored by the committee.

The classes have been well attended and have had competition success under the excellent tuition of Kathryn Stewart.

Membership

At 31st March 2024 there were 12 members of the association.

Accommodation

The association continues to use the facilities of Finnard Orange Hall and is grateful to the lodge for their continued support.

Financial Review

Financial Performance

Financial performance has continued to be strong with a closing balance of £1,120.

Income

Income receipts for the year totalled £3,683. The association's income is generally healthy and remains consistent with previous performance.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year totalled £3,397. and was mainly in respect of dance tutor fees and insurance,

Financial Management

The Association continues to use the services of a Chartered Accountancy practice to ensure that the requirements of The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 are being met.

The Association continues to maintain a small reserve of funds to better allow it to meet the funding challenges which the wider economic situation may impose. Securing external funding is becoming more difficult and the Association continues to review its own funding opportunities to maintain its ability to provide for the needs of the local community.

Accounts for the Year ended 31st March 2024

(Please refer to the attached accounts).

Reference and Administrative Details

Charity Name

Finnard Rural Development Association

Charity Number

Registered in Northern Ireland, NIC103492

Principal Address

47 Old Newry Road, Rathfriland,

Newry,

Co. Down

BT34 5BQ

Charity Trustees in the year to 31st March 2024

WILLIAM MITCHELL *Chairman / Child Protection Officer*

MR WILLIAM NIBLOCK *Vice-Chairman*

KEITH HAMILTON *Secretary*

MRS DIANE GRAHAM *Treasurer*

MRS ANDREA BARR *Publicity Officer / Catering*

MRS ALLISON NIBLOCK *Catering*

MRS ELEANOR HENNING *Catering*

MRS SHARON MAGOWAN

MR JOHN MAGOWAN

MR RODNEY HAMILTON

MRS AUDREY HENNING

MRS SALLY ANN MAGOWAN

(Kathryn Stewart (during Highland Dancing) - Child Protection Officer)

Advisors

Banking Danske Bank, 37-39 Bridge Street, Banbridge, BT32 3JL

Accountancy S. M. Vint & Company, 8 Newry Road, Banbridge, BT32

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document and Management

The Association is governed by a constitution adopted on 19th April 2007 and last amended on 7th January 2016.

The Association is run entirely by its committee members (trustees) and as of 31st March 2024 there were 12 members.

Trustee Selection and Management

The Association is managed by a Committee which consists of all the appointed Trustees. A number of trustees also hold offices within the association as noted in the list of current trustees above. The committee typically meets four times per year.

At each meeting the minutes are read out, the Treasurer reports on the latest accounts, correspondence is reviewed and the committee discuss plans for any future special events or projects.

The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts are presented at the Annual General Meeting and approved by the Trustees / Committee Members.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objectives

The object of the Association, as set out in our Constitution, is to promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the Finnard area and its environment and to advance knowledge and appreciation of the Ulster Scots music, language and culture and to encourage understanding and acceptance of all cultures in the area of benefit.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees of Finnard Rural Development Association confirm that they have complied with their duty with regard to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidelines on public benefit and that the public benefit requirement has informed the activities of the association in the year to 31st March 2024.

In evaluating public benefit the trustees note that membership of the association is open to all persons from the community.

Summary of Main Activities

The core activities of the Association are

- Promote knowledge and appreciation of the Ulster Scots culture
- Encouraging understanding and acceptance of all cultures in the area
- Provide opportunity for the community to come together by planning events and activities that are open to all.

Our philosophy is to offer to all, opportunities for community integration and cooperation regardless of personal circumstances, race, gender, ability or faith.

Approved and adopted at a meeting of the Committee on 21st October 2024 and signed on their behalf.



Keith Hamilton

Secretary