

Ore Community Land Trust

Registered charity, number 1171507

Trustee report and financial statements for the year ended 31st October 2023

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Ore Community Land Trust

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31st October 2023

Full Name	Ore Community Land Trust
Registered charity number:	1171507
Principal address:	C/O The Ore Centre, 455 Old London Road, Hastings, East Sussex, TN35 5BH
Legal status:	Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustees:

Peter Chowney - Chair
Anthony Polain – Secretary
Rebecca Polain – Treasurer
Richard Street – Membership and Minutes
Ian Sier – Special Projects
Jo Walker – Volunteer Co-Ordinator
Denise Ware- Trustee

Bankers: Lloyds Bank, Hastings branch

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution and registered by the Charity Commission on 7 February 2017.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees is laid down in the constitution. Potential trustees are interviewed and then asked to attend a trustee meeting as an observer. Trustees are appointed for a three-year term and retire at the Annual General meeting by rotation.

Aims and objectives

TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF HASTINGS AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION IN GREEN SPACES IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT, WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS.

Background

The group started in 2007 to act as a pressure group to prevent a local wood from being developed. This was successful, and following our intervention, the local council granted us some land in the wood as a community asset transfer. We embarked on a series of improvements and maintenance projects which are ongoing.

Ore Community Land Trust

Trustees' annual report for the year ended 31st October 2023 – cont'd

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

The aim of the group is to protect, acquire and maintain land in the Speckled Wood, in the Ore Valley in Hastings. We work to create a community woodland for the people in Hastings to enjoy. We work with other organisations and recruit volunteers to manage and improve the woodland, and to develop projects such as footpaths, a greenway, and a village green. Using our skills, knowledge, and expertise we work with similar groups in Hastings to improve other green spaces to keep them available for the benefit of the people.

We have acquired two pieces of land from the local council and have purchased a further three, all in Speckled Wood. We have purchased and installed two volunteer bases in the wood to store tools etc., and as a place for our volunteers to socialise and make drinks etc. The larger base has also been used as a venue for a limited number of public events.

We have continued our programme of maintenance and have a team of regular volunteers. We produce a newsletter through the year to inform our members and the public and held a general meeting to update people.

We are also in negotiation with the local council, Hastings Borough Council, regarding several plots in the lower Ore valley. If negotiations are successful, we anticipate these plots of land to be passed over to us along with an endowment of £250,000 for maintenance and management on behalf of the local community.

We have conducted surveys on several occasions, to gauge public opinion and to learn for the future. We liaise with other local voluntary groups on joint/mutually beneficial projects.

The lockdown period restrictions were eased, and we have resumed all such activities in line with Government guidelines, as they were lifted.

Financial review

The organisation received £8,985.03 in income (2022: £8318.30) and spent £6,445.02 (2022: £9,499.34) leaving a surplus of £2,540.01 Together with a brought forward balance of £6,330.62, the organisation takes forward into the next year a total of £8,870.63.

The charity's policy on reserves

The charity has no specific policy regarding the level of reserves.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Signed

Date: 14th April 2024

Tony Polain, Secretary

Ore Community Land Trust

Receipts & payments account for the year ended 31st October 2023

2022				2023	
Total Funds		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
£	Note	£	£	£	
	Receipts				
1,045.00	Grant - Big Local	-	-	-	
1,000	Grant – Chalk Cliff Trust Foundation	-	-	-	
200	Hastings Borough Council		-	-	
2,288.50	East Sussex County Council		-	-	
711.20	Refunds		-	-	
0	National Lottery Community Fund		3,620.00	3,620.00	
0	Zurich Insurance claim		841.33	841.33	
0	Crowdfunder	1,122.30		1,122.30	
3,073.60	Membership/ Donations	3,401.40	-	3,401.40	
<u>8,318.30</u>	Total receipts	<u>4,523.70</u>	<u>4,461.33</u>	<u>8,985.03</u>	
	Payments				
55	Venue Hire	137.50	-	137.50	
1,552.27	Insurance	409.18	-	409.18	
0	Training	-	100.00	100.00	
533.30	Printing/ stationery	216.25	-	216.25	
0	Catering	30.16	-	30.16	
85.20	Web Hosting/ IT support/ Other IT	436.24	-	436.24	
583.93	Forest School	-	2,372.55	2,372.55	
6,689.64	Equipment, repairs & renewals, labour	189.99	2,553.15	2,743.14	
<u>9,499.34</u>	Total Payments	<u>1,419.32</u>	<u>5,025.70</u>	<u>6,445.02</u>	
<u>-1,181.04</u>	Net receipts/(payments)	<u>3,104.38</u>	<u>-564.37</u>	<u>2,540.01</u>	
7,511.66	Cash funds at start of this period	6,927.34	-596.72	6330.62	
<u>6,330.62</u>	Cash funds at end of this period	<u>10,031.72</u>	<u>-1,161.09</u>	<u>8,870.63</u>	

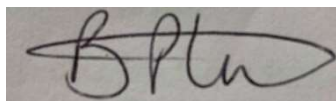
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Statement of assets and liabilities as of 31st October 2023

2022			2023
£	Cash assets	Note	£
6,105.18	Lloyds bank account		8,828.63
<u>225.44</u>	Cash in hand		<u>42</u>
<u>6,330.62</u>			<u>8,870.63</u>
	Liabilities		
-			-
<u>-</u>			<u>-</u>
<u>6,330.62</u>			<u>8,870.63</u>
Represented by: Funds b/f			6,330.62
Net surplus/deficit for period			2,540.01
			<u>8,870.63</u>

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed



Dated: 14th April 2024

Rebecca Polain, Treasurer

Ore Community Land Trust

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st October 2023

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts are statements that summarise the movement of cash into and out of the charity during the financial year. In this context “cash” includes cash equivalents, for example, bank accounts where cash can be readily withdrawn to pay for debts as they become due.

2. Donations/ Membership

Previous accounts showed these as separate. However, due to the nature of membership and donations increasingly being paid online and no differentiation made, for example: via PayPal, these have been amalgamated. Therefore, these have arrived by the following methods, with c), d) & e) being schemes that people opt into online and a donation is made when they choose Ore Community Land Trust as their preferred charity, and subsequently shop with those companies.

- a) via cheque, cash, and card payments (SumUp)
- b) PayPal
- c) Amazon Smile (scheme now ended)
- d) Co-op Local Community Fund (scheme now ended)
- e) Easy Fundraising
- f) Hastings Borough Bonfire Society

3. Insurance

The change to the accounting year to end 31st October has meant that 2 payments had been made in the previous accounting period. A new, more accurate quote was made for our insurance in 2023 and it has been reduced by about £300pa.

3a) This was a payment from Zurich following theft and vandalism.

3*) This was a refund as we overpaid the solicitor during land purchases in the previous accounting period.

4. Grants

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	£	£	£
National Lottery Community Fund	-	3,620.00	3,620.00
	-	3,620.00	3,620.00

5. Premises and staff

Ore Community Land Trust owns five plots of land in Speckled Wood. These pieces of land have not all been valued, but the group puts an estimated value of £7,500 for the two community asset transfers from Hastings Borough Council who have confirmed that there is no reversionary interest. The three other plots were purchased from private individuals at a total purchase price of £15,000. Funding for these plots was provided by the Big Local. Two these plots are adjacent and house our portacabin.

Ore Community Land Trust does not employ any staff.

6. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.

7. Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the reporting year.

8. Glossary of terms

Restricted funds: These are funds given to the charity, subject to specific restrictions set by the donor, but still within the general objects of the charity.