

*National Federation of  
Parks and Green Spaces*

*Supporting Grass Roots*

# Annual Report 2021/2022

***Reporting period:***

***06/04/2021 – 05/04/2022***

**National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces (NFPGS)**

**charity registration number: 1185924**

***Registered address:*** 7 Carrick Gardens, London, N17 7AX

***Email:*** [info@natfedparks.org.uk](mailto:info@natfedparks.org.uk)

***Websites:*** <https://www.natfedparks.org.uk>/<https://www.parkscommunity.org.uk>

# Who are we and what do we do?

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces [NFPGS] is a CIO\* and is governed by our constitution which can be found on our website (<https://natfedparks.org.uk/resources/>). The NFPGS was originally constituted in 2010 but converted to a CIO on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 which was registered with the Charity Commission on the 22/10/2019.

## OUR MISSION

(What we do)

The NFPGS promotes the voluntary sector concerned with the protection and improvement of the UK's parks and open green spaces of all kinds as public facilities and resources for the benefit of the public. It does this by providing advocacy, advice and information to its members and the wider public in support of its' charitable objects. It acts as an umbrella for Friends Groups Forums and other stakeholders of public open spaces nationally.

## OUR GOALS / PURPOSE

(What we must achieve)

- Influencing strategic decision making and policy, and lobbying for statutory recognition and adequate funding for public green space
- Addressing the deficiencies of green space in the environment
- Advancing the education of the public in the enjoyment, understanding, appreciation, and conservation of open spaces.
- Promoting the development and empowerment of Friends / Community Groups for parks and open spaces, and their forums and networks, their communication and cooperation, and their full involvement in the management of their parks and open spaces
- Raising the profile of members and the Friends Groups movement as a whole.

## OUR VISION

(What we want to be)

The Federation to become the 'go to' organisation and resource for all information for and about the Friends Groups' movement, and by coordinating and strengthening that movement thereby have a real and positive influence over the future of the UK's green spaces.

## OUR BEHAVIOURS

(How we will work)

- Inclusive
- Transparent
- Respectful
- Encouraging
- Sharing
- Focused
- Outspoken
- Collaborative

\*A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is a corporate form of business designed for (and only available to) charitable organisations in England and Wales, similar to (but with important differences from) a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.[1] CIO status is conferred by the Charity Commission for England and Wales on application by a charity, whether new or existing.

# Charitable Objects [as registered with the Charity Commission]

To promote the voluntary sector concerned with the protection and improvement of the UK's parks and open green spaces of all kinds as public facilities and resources for the benefit of the public by:

- a) influencing strategic decision-making and policy, and lobbying for statutory recognition and adequate funding for public green space;
- b) addressing the deficiencies of green space in the environment;
- c) advancing the education of the public in the enjoyment, understanding, appreciation and conservation of open spaces;
- d) promoting the development and empowerment of friends/community groups for parks and open spaces, and their forums and networks, their communication and cooperation, and their full involvement in the management of their parks and open spaces;
- e) raising the profile of members and the friends groups movement as a whole. "voluntary sector" is defined as "charities and voluntary organisations".

*Charities are organisations, which are established for exclusively charitable purposes in accordance with the law of England and Wales. Voluntary organisations are independent organisations which are established for purposes that add value to the community as a whole, or a significant section of the community, and which are not permitted by their constitution to make a profit for private distribution. Voluntary organisations do not include local government or other statutory organisations.*

## What the charity does:

- General Charitable Purposes
- Environment / conservation / heritage
- Economic / Community Development / employment
- Recreation

## Who the charity helps:

- Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies
- The General Public / humankind

## How the charity helps:

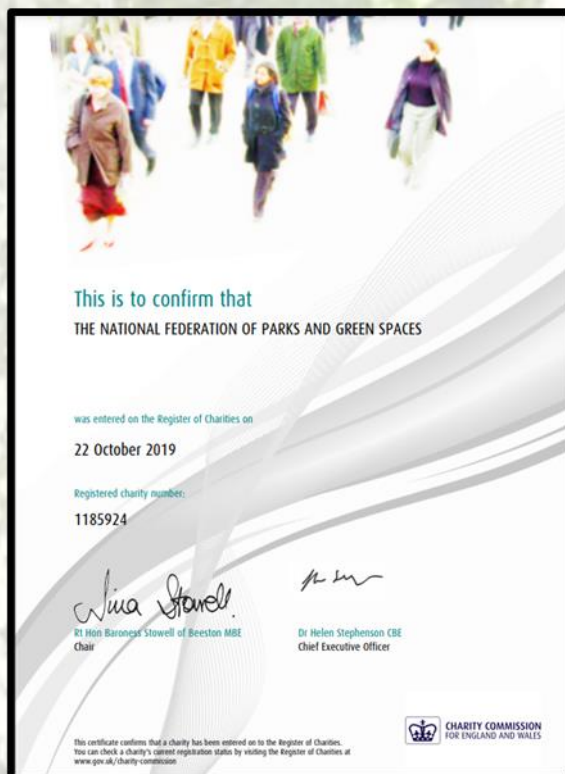
- Provides Advocacy / advice / information
- Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body

## Where the charity operates:

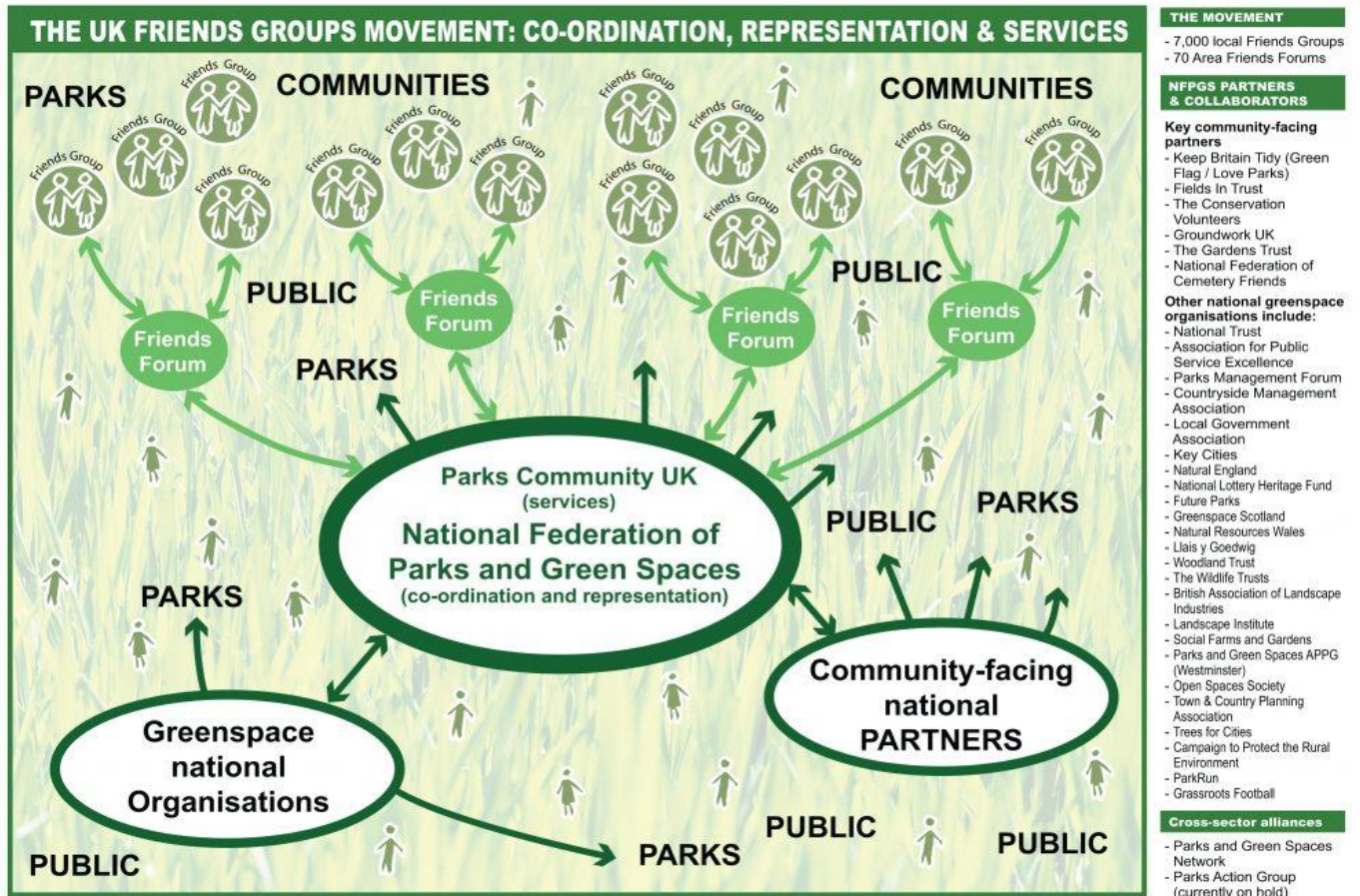
- Throughout England and Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Scotland

## Activities - how the charity spends its money:

The Federation works with the dynamic and inspirational grassroots movement of over 7,000 local Friends of Parks groups, supporting volunteers who act on behalf of the communities who use and care about our vital public green spaces of all kinds. We exist to represent their activities, issues and concerns and strengthen their passionate and knowledgeable voices. To that end we communicate with local groups and Forums, manage websites and social media, produce newsletters and reports, organise meetings, liaise with Government, collaborate with other national bodies, contact the media, apply for funding, and manage our organisation.



To further explain what we do the following infographic (from 2019) shows how we fit together in the green spaces big picture.



Our theory of change also explains what we do, why, and the changes we hope to effect

### National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces- Theory of Change

<b>Situation</b>	Without, or with no effective, National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces there is no way to ensure ongoing support, communication and co-ordination across the UK for the movement of 7000+ friends groups and other interested community organisations for parks and green spaces.			
<b>Aims</b>	An effective, community voice to lobby for, and influence strategic decision-making and policy to ensure the healthy future of our parks and open spaces.			
<b>Inputs</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>Process</b>			<b>Impact</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National co-ordinator for the charity in place</li> <li>Engaged board of trustees &amp; management committees</li> <li>Comprehensive regional structure in place</li> <li>Effective communication &amp; support infrastructure in place</li> <li>Adequate funding in place to cover required annual budget</li> <li>Suitable partnerships &amp; relationships in place</li> <li>Engaged members</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Knowledge sharing</li> <li>Website / social media platform</li> <li>Signposting &amp; networking</li> <li>Research &amp; information gathering tools</li> <li>Advocacy &amp; lobbying</li> <li>Campaigning</li> <li>Business planning &amp; income generation</li> <li>Promoting inclusion</li> <li>Partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social media presence</li> <li>Conferences</li> <li>Reports</li> <li>Guidance documents</li> <li>Effective partnerships / alliances</li> <li>Memberships</li> <li>Area &amp; regional forums</li> <li>Audit tool</li> <li>Case studies</li> <li>Income</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best practice is shared</li> <li>Groups are more representative &amp; effective</li> <li>Groups are stronger, more sustainable &amp; resilient</li> <li>Policy is built upon real information gathered at source &amp; consolidated nationally</li> <li>Friends groups/forums are better connected &amp; can see that they are 'not alone'.</li> <li>More volunteers created &amp; more volunteer time donated</li> <li>Paid employment created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strong partnerships/ strong friends groups = strong voice in decision making</li> <li><b>Better parks &amp; greenspaces</b></li> <li>Empowered groups to take plans forward</li> <li>Community cohesion</li> <li>Resources &amp; income generation maximised</li> <li>Engaged &amp; knowledgeable volunteers</li> <li>Engaged &amp; knowledgeable staff</li> </ul>
<b>Rationale &amp; Assumptions</b>	More and stronger groups; along with a more active, diverse, and inclusive membership, across all aspects of the Friends movement covering the entire United Kingdom Recognition, support and appreciation from land owners and other stakeholders is freely given.			

# Our Trustees:

Our trustees are all elected by NFPGS members:

Name of Trustee	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Terms of Office
David Morris	Chair	n/a	23/11/2019 – present
Michelle E. Furtado	Vice Chair	n/a	23/11/2019 – present
Sarah Elizabeth Royal	CEO	n/a	23/11/2019 – present
Nigel Thomas Sharp	Secretary	n/a	23/11/2019 – present
Martin Willis	Treasurer	n/a	23/11/2019 – present
Marion Williams	Vice Chair	n/a	10/04/2021 - present
Shelly J Quinton-Hulme	Development Coordinator	n/a	10/04/2021 - present

**David Morris:** Dave was one of the founders of the NFPGS in 2010. He is the chair of his local Friends Group in Tottenham (North London), helps coordinate the Haringey Friends of Parks Forum, and chairs the London Friends of Green Spaces Network which coordinates the movement of around 900 Friends Groups throughout London. He liaises on our behalf with other national greenspace organisations and has been a member (its only community representative) of the Government/Sector official liaison body, the Parks Action Group, coordinating its Empowering Communities Working Group and projects.



**Michelle Furtado:** Michelle is a long-time volunteer in a range of roles including, Trustee of NFPGS and Director of our local Adur and Worthing green spaces forum, Green Tides CIC. She has worked in the environment and green spaces field for most of her career, doing everything from designing parks and playgrounds to lobbying and researching policy. She remains committed to ensuring that our wonderful natural environment is protected, recognising that the amazing army of green space volunteers across the UK is critical to this. Her professional experience includes broader sustainability and regenerative themes, supporting communities, businesses and organisations towards a zero-carbon future.



**Sarah Royal:** Sarah has worked in Environmental Charities for over 20 years and gained her love for green spaces by playing as a child in Sutton Park, north Birmingham. She helps to run the Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF), which is for all community groups in Birmingham with an interest in their park or open green space – there are around 130 such groups in the network, inspiring more groups to set up all the time. BOSF started back in 2005 and have now become a CIO, with an excellent small team. BOSF were one of the founding members of the NFPGS and Sarah has spoken across the country to inspire more parks and open spaces groups to join together as Forums and be linked in to the NFPGS.



**Nigel Sharp:** From early days as an urban ranger, and later as a development officer, Nigel worked with Liverpool City Council for over thirty years, helping establish the Liverpool Parks Friends Forum, and later the regional North West Parks Friends Forum (which he still coordinates). Following work on the Love Parks project at Keep Britain Tidy, Nigel is now a group development worker at Sefton Council for Voluntary Services,



in North Merseyside, supporting a wide range of voluntary, community and faith organisations, including park and beach friends groups. This role also helps inform his position as NFPGS secretary, responding to parks and green space community group enquiries with guidance, advice and support.

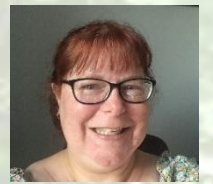
**Martin Willis:** Current Chair Nottingham Open Spaces Forum; Joint Vice Chair of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; Chair of Nottingham Urban Wildlife Scheme; Founding Chair of NWT City Group; One of organisers of Wild.NG



**Marion Williams:** Marion is the chair of her local Friends Group in Newcastle upon Tyne's Leazes Park. A city councillor, she was a founding director of Urban Green Newcastle, the body now responsible for managing the majority of the city's parks and allotments. Marion has been a member of a Heritage Lottery Fund Regional Committee, a regional Cultural Consortium and Chair of a regional Museums, Libraries & Archives Council. She has a professional interest in Environment & Planning.



**Shelly Quinton-Hulme:** Shelly joined as a trustee at the AGM in 2021. She is the Chairperson for the Friends of Victoria Park, Stretford and also the Friends of Trafford's Parks and Green Spaces. She has a strong background in governance and is also Chair of Governors at her local infant school and runs Stretford Children's Theatre too. She works as a Project Manager for Network Rail and loves her family life in Stretford and is a big part of the community.



In the pursuance of our activities the trustees named above confirm that they have given due regard to the Charity Commissions public benefit guidance.

# Our Year in Review

By NFPGS Chair – Dave Morris

The Friends Groups movement was again severely impacted by the second year of the Covid pandemic. Many groups only began to re-emerge properly towards the end of the year. Mind you we have all discovered the joys of zoom, and many groups and area Forums maintained a level of activity and took the chance to focus on developing activities not so reliant on face to face interaction.

Meanwhile, greenspace once again proved to be an essential service for all the UK's communities. But the generally woeful level of funding and staffing was further under pressure as Councils often had other Covid-related priorities to deal with on top of all their other responsibilities.

As for us as the voice and coordination body of the movement, we also took the opportunity to focus on strengthening some strategic areas of our operation.

Our key activities included:

- assuming responsibility for, and upgrading, the Parks Community UK platform for supporting those at the grassroots of the movement. This included promoting our 'Better Friends' self-audit tool, and producing a new graphic (reproduced here) summing up the value and benefits of local groups and their activities

- providing ongoing support for local groups and their area Forums (our members), general communication and promotion including regular bulletins, updates and additional social media activity. Our twitter (@NatFedParks) had almost 1900 followers by the end of the year.

- the production of a major 'state of the movement' report: <https://natfedparks.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/NFPGS-PCUK-Report.pdf> Based on the highly detailed data collected by our Better Friends online tool, the report concluded that there are around 7,000 local groups with 60,000 core activists and a total membership of around 840,000 – altogether contributing around 7m hours of volunteering each year.

- strengthening our core team, holding regular trustee meetings and integrating 2 new trustees.

- Holding regular Financial Working Group meetings and preparing some major funding applications which unfortunately have so far proved to be unsuccessful. So we have been forced to continue to try to fulfil our crucial role within the sector and for the wider UK public without any staffing or substantial resources

**WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FRIENDS GROUPS FOR PARKS & GREEN SPACES?**

**PARKS COMMUNITY**  
helping uk friends groups thrive

FOR VOLUNTEERS	FOR GREEN SPACE	FOR MANAGERS	FOR COMMUNITIES
<b>HEALTH</b> Improve fitness and wellbeing	<b>INVESTMENT</b> Additional funding, volunteering, skills and lobbying	<b>EYES &amp; EARS</b> People watching out and reporting back	<b>STANDARDS</b> Improvement, greater usage and optimism
<b>EMPOWERMENT</b> Experience ownership, take initiative and make a difference	<b>PROTECTION</b> Monitoring, championing and defence of site	<b>RECOGNITION</b> Appreciation of work done	<b>CONNECTIONS</b> Physical and social interaction
<b>INFLUENCE</b> Have a real say in decision-making and improvements	<b>PROMOTION</b> Publicity and encouragement to use	<b>SUPPORT</b> Help with maintenance, promotion and activities	<b>COHESION</b> Connect diverse interests, ages and backgrounds
<b>MEANING</b> Give purpose and pride	<b>DECISION-MAKING</b> Better and more popular decisions, engagement and continuity	<b>IMPROVEMENT</b> Aspirations and standards raised	<b>PROTECTION</b> Community champions and long term investment
<b>ENJOYMENT</b> Being involved is exciting and fun	<b>USAGE</b> More visitors, natural benefits and appreciation	<b>PARTNERSHIP</b> People to discuss, work and coordinate with	<b>PRIDE</b> Sense of achievement and ownership
<b>FRESH AIR</b> Great way to get outside and into green space	<b>SAFETY</b> Community surveillance helps deter crime	<b>FEEDBACK</b> Information and views	<b>WELLBEING</b> Enabling and promoting positive lifestyles
<b>AWARENESS</b> Get to know about nature, the community and the neighbourhood	<b>IMPROVEMENT</b> Better standards, and extra facilities and features	<b>SATISFACTION</b> Increased public usage and happiness	<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b> Encouraging volunteering and participation
<b>CONNECTIONS</b> Connect with others and explore common interests	<b>ANIMATION</b> More activities and initiatives, vibrancy and innovation	<b>CHAMPIONS</b> People speaking out for the needs of the space	<b>AWARENESS</b> Spreading information and communication
<b>LEARNING</b> Use, acquire and develop skills	<b>COLLABORATION</b> Development of relations and partnerships	<b>EXPERTISE</b> Extra knowledge and skills through volunteers	<b>COMMUNITY SPIRIT</b> Encouraging solidarity and co-operation
<b>RECOGNITION</b> Be part of activity which is valued and appreciated	<b>MAINTENANCE</b> Fast reporting, timely action and extra help	<b>INVESTMENT</b> Additional funding and new projects	<b>INSPIRATION</b> Example of what can be achieved by community action

Parks Community UK © 2021  
Design by Cohere.  
Icons by Andrew Nottle and Gan Khooon Lay for the Noun Project

Rethinking Parks  
community partners:

- continuing to support collaboration among greenspace national organisations, including sector alliances and joint calls for adequate resources for the sector. This included us being invited to address the new All Party Parliamentary Group for Parks.

### **Impact**

We believe that the Friends Groups movement in general has continued to remain a crucial force within the sector and in local communities throughout the UK, and makes a real difference to many thousands of the UK's green spaces. The NFPGS is crucial to the practice, coordination, and success of this movement and ensures that there is a strategic voice at national level.

## **Financial Review:**

**Reserves policy:** We will not hold in excess of six months average expenditure as reserves and will ensure that any accumulation over this will be spent on furthering the aims and objectives of the organisation.

Amount of reserves currently held: £0

No employees have total benefits over £60k for this charity

Fundraising – This charity raises funds from the public but does not work with professional fundraisers or commercial participators.

Trading – This charity does not have any trading subsidiaries.

Trustee payments - One trustee was briefly hired freelance for his specialist skill as a consultant and therefore received payment for providing services to the charity. He did not take part in the relevant decision-making.

No trustees are paid for carrying out trustee duties.





**Receipts and payments accounts**

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	06/04/2021		05/04/2022

**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 £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
ParksCommunity website donation	-	600	-	600	-
MPF donation	49	-	-	49	-
SG & OSF honorarium	150	-	-	150	-
JustGiving donation	10	-	-	10	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
DM fees	2,154	-	-	2,154	-
Bank charges	72	-	-	72	-
Website fees	660	-	-	660	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,886</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>- 2,677</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>- 2,077</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>- 1,235</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>7,917</b>	<b>1,235</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>9,152</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>6,475</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,075</b>	<b>-</b>

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

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>		6,475	600	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>6,475</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
		<b>Unrestricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Restricted funds to nearest £</b>	<b>Endowment funds to nearest £</b>
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>				
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>				
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>				
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Martin Willis	04/08/2022	
	S. Quinton-Hulme	Shelly Quinton-Hulme	04/08/2022	