

The Pensford, Publow and The Stanton Community Trust
Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 January 2024

The Pensford, Publow and The Stanton's Community Trust

Registered Charitable Incorporated organisation ("CIO") No. 1160279
Principal Address: Birchwood House, Pensford, Bristol BS39 4NG

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st January 2024

Trustees and Advisers

Trustees

Andrew Hillman	Chair
Susan Osborne	Secretary
J. Anthony Heaford	
Derek Winstone	
Elizabeth Richardson	
Eilish McNickle	
Mark Finn (appointed 26 May 2023)	Treasurer

Reviewing Accountant

Elizabeth Ann Kilbride (ACA), The Old Vicarage, Upper Stanton Drew, Bristol, BS39 4EG

Bankers

NatWest Bank, PO Box 3235, 290 Wells Road, Bristol, BS4 9GB

CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

1. Structure, Governance and Management

The Trust is registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with voting members other than its charity trustees.

Last year members approved variations to our constitution, revising the formerly restrictive provisions relating to the appointment of Trustees. The new provisions allow:

- Minimum of four and maximum of eight Trustees;
- Not less than two Trustees to reside in each of our two villages;
- A maximum of two to reside outside either village but within a radius of three miles from the parish boundaries.

Under our original constitution, terms of office were set at a maximum of four terms of three years, making a maximum period in office of twelve years. There should then be a minimum period of three years before a trustee could be appointed again. At AGM 2019, members approved a maximum of three periods of three years, making a maximum of

nine years. We have successfully recruited four new trustees in recent years but under our current rules, Andrew Hillman, Sue Osborne and Tony Heaford would all be required to step down and not be eligible for re-appointment. All three remain committed to the Trust and would be prepared to continue for at least one more year. Whilst it is crucial that we continue to appoint new trustees, there is clearly a limited pool of eligible members. It is recommended that members approve the attached resolution which would restore the position to that under our first constitution and therefore members, assuming that the resolution is passed, are asked to approve the re-appointment of Andrew, Sue and Tony for a further three year term.

Membership of the Trust is by membership of the separately controlled 100 Club or by direct application to the Trustees and payment of an annual subscription.

The Trustees may appoint a new Trustee between general meetings, but such appointment shall automatically be subject to approval at the next general meeting of members.

All Trustees give voluntarily of their time and the Trust has no employees.

2. Objectives and Activities

The objects of the Trust are to further such purposes which may be charitable according to the law of England and Wales as the Trustees see fit by the making of grants for the benefit of the inhabitants of the parishes of Publow with Pensford and Stanton Drew.

The Trustees achieve the objects by publicising the availability of grants and by direct approaches to local organisations which may benefit from grants.

Trustees meet regularly four times a year and on other occasions when required, to consider grant applications and fundraising.

The Trustees raise funds principally from the 100 Club, which is a separately administered organisation not under the control of the Trustees; by seeking donations from individuals; and by other fundraising activities.

In all their activities the Trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

The Trust's policy on grant making is regularly reviewed and is published on the Trust's website www.ppsct.org.uk.

3. Achievements and Performance

Trustees are pleased to report on our ninth year since we were officially registered as a charity on 2nd February 2015.

4. Income

The Trust benefitted from donations from the 100 Club of £20,000, a subscription of £10, gift aid recovered on donations of £131 and interest of £2.

Total income was **£20,143**

5. Operating Expenses

Expenses are kept to a minimum and were a total **£349** for advertising, display boards, newsletter and website hosting.

6. Awards and Grants

When the Trustees agree to make an Award, the amount is marked as “Designated Funds” until the money is paid out as a Grant. Restricted Donations, and associated Gift Aid received from HMRC, are held in Restricted Funds.

Grants paid out in the year, including Restricted Donations and Gift Aid, were as follows:

Beneficiary	Project	Grant Total
Publow with Pensford Parish Council	Climate WG: Bath & West Community Energy Scoping Study	1,050.00
Stanton Wick Village Green	SW Rewilding	171.05
Pensford Primary School	Playground improvements	2,000.00
Stanton Drew Primary School	Playground improvements	1,800.00
	Stuckeley 300 celebrations	335.90
		5,356.95

Unpaid Awards:

A new award of £750 was made to St. Thomas a Becket for the restoration of the clock, which is still to be drawn down and there is £429 left to be spent on the Stanton Wick rewilding project.

Total designated funds is **£1,179**.

The Trustees anticipate that all of the above awards will be drawn down in the next Financial Year.

7. Financial Review

The funding provided by the 100 Club continues to mean that we have a healthy Balance Sheet.

On 31st January 2024, the Trust had a total bank balance of £45,560 and unrestricted funds of £44,381. Given our policy of keeping a reserve of £7,500 for unexpected calls, this leaves £36,881 available for future grant making.

The Trust has minimal running costs, typically relating to the website maintenance, publicity, and the cost of the Annual General Meeting. There are no long-term commitments and all grants approved are covered by funds in hand. Trustees therefore are confident that the Trust is a going concern.

8. Chairman's Statement

This year we have been able to provide significant funds to both the schools in our villages to enhance their play facilities – which are of course educationally vital. We have further supported the “rewilding” of Stanton Wick village green. One of the outstanding events of this and indeed many a year was the Stukeley tricentenary weekend where a huge number of villagers and visitors celebrated the work of Rev. William Stukeley in making widely known the prehistoric Stanton Drew stone circles, the second largest in the country after Avebury. The Trust was able to facilitate much of the set-up costs.

It is pleasing to report on the great success of one of our recent grants (made in 2022). The Old School Room at Pensford has been very substantially refurbished, with much voluntary labour and with grants from several other bodies. It is now increasingly used for private events and every fortnight for a very successful series of soup lunches – during the summer to be ploughman's lunches – every two weeks. This is exactly the type of “enabling” the Trust is proud to support, helping to bring a facility back to life for the benefit of the community.

I have to thank Sue Osborne and Liz Richardson for their work in writing and creating The Community Trust Times, a revisit of all that had been achieved over the year. Their Community Trust “roadshow” boards successfully toured the opening of the new

Pensford Tennis club pavilion, which the trust part-funded; Publow church market; and Stanton Drew flower show. This led to several new members joining the 100 Club, hence the increase in member numbers to over 100. Imagine, a 100 club with more than 100 members – how many small communities can achieve that level of social action?

All this has meant that the Trust continues to be well funded. We are presently in discussions with Stanton Drew PCC over several projects at the church, the churchyard, their handbells and the bell tower; with the Pensford Local History group and several of their projects (two of their recent talks given by 100 Club members were very well attended); the schools; the clocktower at St. Thomas a Beckett church in Pensford; and new defibrillators at Pensford. Other projects are being discussed with both Parish councils and the various sports clubs – we are always on the lookout for new projects that can make a real difference.

I would like to thank all my hardworking fellow trustees for another successful years work. We were delighted to “convert” Mark Finn from being our overseeing accountant to become a trustee and Treasurer, to which role he has taken with aplomb, and our other new recruit Eilish McNickle, who has completed her first year as a trustee and has proved herself a generous and thoughtful contributor.

We are grateful to Ann Kilbride for taking on the role of reviewing accountant, vacated by Mark when he became our Treasurer.

Members will be interested to know that during the year we moved our banking from NatWest to CAF Bank, enabling useful interest to be earned on our cash balances.

And finally, my thanks to all our members, without whom none of any of these successes would be possible. Membership at the current levels is quite remarkable especially considering the cost of living crisis we have been living through.

Andrew Hillman, Chair

May 2024