

APPENDIX 1



Scottish Charity Regulator

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	05	09	2024	To	04	09	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Friends of Rayne Kirk SCIO
Other names charity is known by	FORK
Registered charity number	SC053624
Charity's principal address	The Longhouse, Loan Steadings, Durno
	Postcode AB51 5ER

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Gilian Stagg	Chair		
2	Diana Muriel	Secretary		
3	Margaret Donaldson			
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Two Tier Constitution

As well as members, FORK has a governing board which holds regular meetings and controls the organisation's activities. The board currently comprises our three trustees (Gillian Stagg, Diana Muriel, Margaret Donaldson), our treasurer and one advisor. Membership is free and open to anyone aged 16 or over who shares the aims and objectives of the charity.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Three trustees were recruited when FORK became a registered Scottish Charity. Each served for the full year 5/9/24 to 4/9/25 and was reappointed at the AGM on 30/10/25

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are:

- a. To promote the permanent preservation of Rayne Kirk, as a community establishment.
- b. The advancement of education.
- c. The advancement of arts, heritage and culture or science.
- d. The advancement of citizenship or community development.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The initial activity required to secure all our purposes is to acquire the building, Rayne Kirk, when the Church of Scotland completes its stated objective which is to dispose of the building prior to 31/12/2027.

Following successful acquisition, we will renovate the building fabric and upgrade services so that a mixed program of community activities can be offered. These are likely to include any or all of the following: weddings, seasonal celebrations, concerts, art/culture exhibitions, arts and crafts workshops, physical and mental wellbeing workshops.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Activities of FORK 5/9/24 – 4/9/25

Our first year has been one of fact-finding, planning and raising awareness.

Public Engagement

After receiving charitable status, one of the first things FORK undertook was to hold a series of public meetings. These took place in October 2024 in three local venues – the village community halls of Wartle, Logie Durno and Old Rayne. The purpose of the meetings was to make the wider public (within the approximate area of Rayne Parish) aware of the proposed church closure and of FORK's existence as a registered Scottish charity; and further, to share its mission and to canvas attendees for their response and ideas for future community uses of the building. A total of 23 non-members attended, with the most interest shown at the Wartle venue, and several of these people became members. Our membership now stands at 37 members.

The meetings demonstrated a reasonable level of interest and support from the community: a few people offered their future services in building repairs and upgrading should we be successful in acquiring the building; others offered names and ideas for potential legal, financial and planning help at an appropriate time viz. when we feel sure an approach to the Church of Scotland with an offer to buy would be favourably received.

Engagement with the Church of Scotland (CoS)

For a two year period prior to FORK gaining charitable status, the current trustees had engaged pro-actively with the Church of Scotland General Trustees (head of policy and legislation; head of policy and planning) and with various members of the local Gordon Presbytery (presbytery buildings officer; presbytery clerk). Gordon Presbytery has now been superseded by the creation of the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles (NENI) in June 2024 and it is unfortunate that very little communication has been forthcoming since then. Our initial query to the CoS raised three points: confirmation that Presbytery had received instructions from Rayne Kirk Session for the disposal of Rayne Kirk; the issue of a nil value transfer (Community Asset Transfer); and our interest in acquiring the building. By way of response, our interest was noted and it was stated that no instruction had been received by the Presbytery of Gordon. We have learned that a Community Asset Transfer is only applicable to public sector bodies, but the CoS have advised that an 'off -market community purchase is a possibility, together with a 'period of exclusivity to us so that we may secure funds. We have received no further response from CoS since July 2024 despite our sending several emails requesting an update of the status of the disposal of Rayne Kirk.

Our conclusion that the Kirk Session has yet to send Presbytery an extract of their minutes acknowledging the proposed closure and disposal of Rayne Church, is reinforced by other informal conversations.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

Activities of FORK 5/9/24 – 4/9/25

Our achievements this year have focussed on how best to fund the acquisition of Rayne Church building. This has involved deepening our understanding of existing organisations which can help us to access funds and guidance.

Engagement with organisations who can help us

We have continued to engage with a number of organisations who offer support to charities such as FORK, that represent community interests or whose aim is to preserve Scotland's ancient buildings.

These include Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) who have assisted us in writing our constitution and gaining charitable status; Bennachie Community Council (BCC) for general support and a vehicle for communication to the public on FORK's progress; and a number of different specialist groups who offer potential funding support: the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS), North East Scotland Preservation Trust (NESPT), Scottish Land Fund (SLF), Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS), and Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) which comes under the DTAS umbrella.

After some very helpful meetings with these potential funding support groups, we can summarise:

- AHSS has confirmed that Rayne Kirk is a category B listed building. They may be able to provide up to £10K in funding. They have stressed the importance of providing evidence for public engagement with any proposals we make and for our assumptions on how revenue will be generated. The latter will form part of FORK's business plan.
- NESPT could provide (at cost) a quote for the Options Appraisal that will need to be done and could also help to strengthen our Business Plan. FORK has not yet actioned any formal submission to them.
- SLF offer grants of up to £1million to fund purchase of land or buildings and/or to help develop projects. They have had a massive call on funding coincident with the influx of churches on to the market. SLF run a two-stage programme of assistance. Stage 1 is for development funding and would include a valuation of the building, surveys as required and business plan development. They work with the National Lottery funding program. FORK has not yet actioned any formal submission to them.
- COSS (part of DTAS) can offer help with budget planning for the short, medium and long term i.e. to take us through acquisition of the building into maintenance and upkeep throughout the operational phase. Surveys to be undertaken prior to FORK making any financial offer to CoS include valuation of the building and a condition survey. FORK has not yet actioned any formal request to COSS. We have also discussed the possibility of using 'Right to Buy'. This is an option to explore but we are aware that it would require an amendment to our constitution which would be a significant undertaking. FORK has not yet actioned any further engagement with COSS.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We do not have a policy on reserves.

Details of any deficit

We have no financial deficit.

Donated facilities and services (if any)

Donated facilities and services:

1. No fee requested by Logie Durno hall committee for hall hire for public meeting.
2. Printing costs for public meeting advertisement flyer met by a member.

APPENDIX 1

Other optional information

FORK is not in a position to move forward with its second, third and fourth purposes until the first purpose is achieved, namely the acquisition of the Rayne Kirk building.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>	Gillian Stagg	Diana S Muriel
Full name(s)	Gillian Margaret Stagg	Diana Stewart Muriel
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	Secretary
Date	28/01/26	28/01/26