

Sustainable Cupar

Scottish Charity number: SC042695

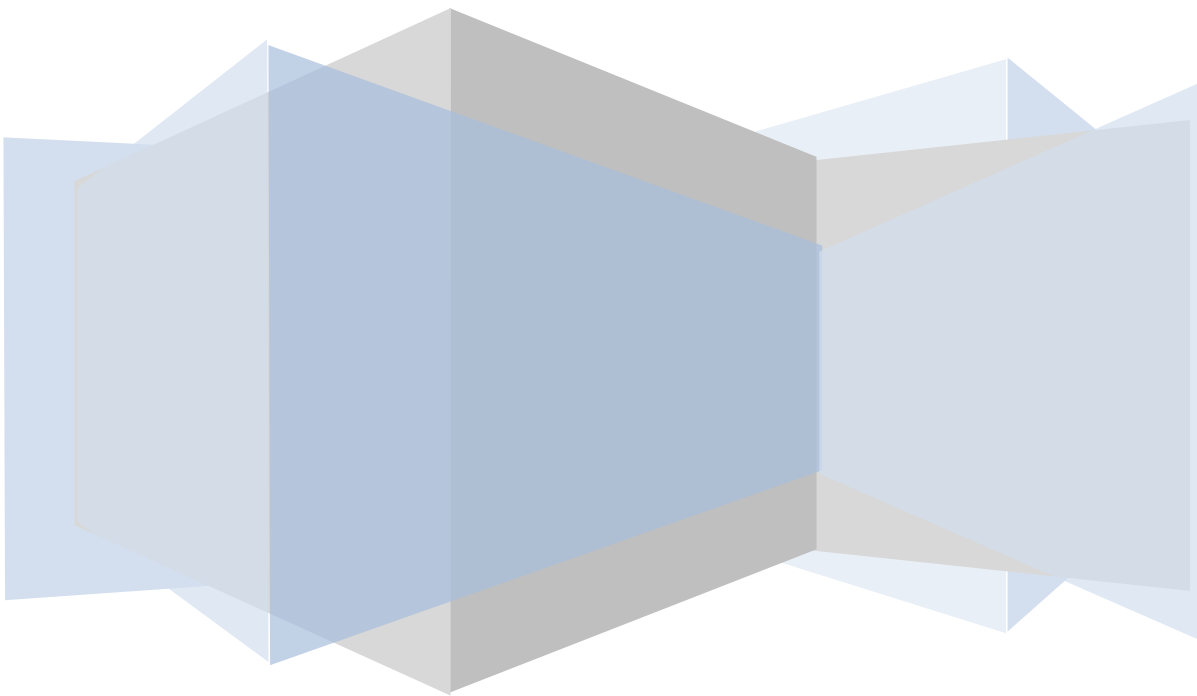
Annual Report

&

Financial Statements

For Year Ended

31 March 2026



Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Report together with the Financial Statements and the Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Reference & Administrative Information

Charity No: SC042695

Address:

c/o 20 Millbank
Cupar
KY15 5DP

Current Trustees:

Sarah Davidson	Chair	
Priya Logan	Secretary	
Lauren Kerr	Treasurer	(appointed 8 May 2025)
Mary Ellen Robertson		
Jim McLeish		
Alison Milne		
Norma Alari		
Margot Abbott		
Gary Paterson		
Gordon Pay		
Margaret Anne Hutton		(appointed 8 May 2025, resigned 18 March 2026)

Sub Group Coordinators:

Jim McLeish	Active Travel
Alison Milne	Book club
Sarah Davidson	FAB & River
Gordon Pay	Town /Energy

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
St Andrews
113-115 South Street
KY16 9QB

Independent Examiner:

Sue Jack
Fife Voluntary Action
Caledonia House
Saltire Centre
Glenrothes
KY6 2AL

Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Structure Governance & Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It is governed by its constitution which was adopted on 28/07/2011 with the charity being granted charitable status by OSCR on 27/10/2011. The constitution was amended on 08/05/2025. A new constitution is being presented to members for approval and adoption at the AGM on 02/07/2026. The new constitution is designed specifically for compliance with the Community Rights to Buy legislation.

Appointment of Trustees

The charity's trustees meet frequently throughout the year. Membership of the Charity is open to anyone with an interest in the sustainable future of Cupar. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of four and not more than twelve elected trustees.

Management

The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the Charity, whilst day-to-day running is delegated to the Sub-group Co-ordinators. The Sub-groups normally have monthly meetings and the Sub-group Co-ordinators attend the Trustee meetings to discuss progress and development.

The Trustees are particularly aware of their responsibility for Health and Safety. The Charity also has 3rd party insurance.

Objectives & Activities

Sustainable Cupar is a local community group that was set up to help Cupar become a thriving, environmentally friendly town. The group aims to raise awareness of green issues and to promote and support changes to more sustainable lifestyles.

Achievements & Performance

2025 was a busy year for Sustainable Cupar (SC), with a great deal of progress made around our work with the River Eden Sustainability Partnership (RESP) in its aims to improve water quality and habitat in the catchment of the River Eden and Motray Water. SC continued its work with tree planting, pruning, scything and allotment / fruit cage management around the Cupar area and its work to advocate for sustainability with partner organisations across a range of environmental and sustainability issues. The report below provides greater detail on the work delivered over the year and going forward.

Sustainable Cupar Trustee Group

The SC Trustee Group met regularly throughout the year and was delighted to welcome Margaret-Anne Hutton as Trustee, Lauren Kerr as Treasurer and Priya Logan as Secretary to complete the team of Trustees. The twice-yearly newsletter has provided a useful update to all members on SC's activities.

Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Achievements & Performance (continued)

Several members' meetings were held this year. Fife Climate Forest (FCF) representatives guided us on improving local tree connectivity to better support biodiversity corridors. A second meeting on "Our Food Futures", focussed on conversations around sustainable food availability locally. Presentations by individuals involved in existing food projects in Scotland included, the Full of Beans project, East Neuk Seaweed, Public Diners and the Cupar Food Station, all of which were well received and discussed. A further event, an "Otterly Brilliant" meeting attracted over 90 people who came to hear about the lives and future of the otters that frequent Cupar's River Eden and its environs. Alana Dewar of Lutra Grampia, gave a stimulating and highly informative talk about native otters, along with Michael Farrell, Eden Angling Association, exploring the fish on the River Eden. An outcome of this event was a clear recognition, and desire from the people present, for similar events that inform and educate the community about our local biodiversity. SC trustees will explore how we could possibly support that in the coming year.

Sustainable Cupar Active Travel

This year has been a time of change for this group. The Active Travel group coordinator resigned this year, so another trustee, Jim McLeish, took over receiving all emails and queries around active travel. SC plans to identify further leadership and support for this group in the coming months.

Linked to the Active Travel Group, the SC Cycling Group, PedalHowe, organised and led by Jim McLeish, led a cycle ride once a month, on a Saturday or Sunday, between March and October. The cycling group provides access to local nature and countryside, supports outdoor exercise and is a sociable event, with a stop or two to chat with a final coffee stop at the destination. The highlights of the year were trips to Backhouse of Rossie, Monimail Tower and Falkland Stables.

Each of the PedalHowe cycle rides covered distances of between 15 to 25 miles and all started and finished in Cupar. The pace is leisurely, taking account of less experienced cyclists. Where possible, a circular route is taken along quieter roads and, where navigable, off-road tracks were used for safety and to avoid pollution. Thereby, increasing confidence in the participants to cycle off road more.

During these eight monthly cycle rides, a total of 118 miles of the Howe of Fife were explored and, excluding the two cycle leaders, 60 other individual cycle rides were completed. The group ranged in size between seven and eleven participants, including two ride leaders. Understanding the health benefits of exercise and being out of doors with others, SC is delighted to see this group grow in strength.

PedalHowe@gmail.com is used for all communications. Currently there are 50 people receiving emails each month and 20 who have participated on at least one cycle ride in the last year. To further the work of the Active Travel Group in this part of Fife, it is hoped that some of the regular cyclists might get involved in advocating for improvements for cycle access on tracks, paths and public roads around Cupar and the Howe of Fife.

Sustainable Cupar Book Club

During this year, our Book Club gathered monthly on Saturday evenings, with 4–8 members attending each meeting. Generous members opened their homes to host the meetings, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our literary conversations. We explored a rich variety of themes, mostly around relevant non-fiction subjects, including Sustainability, Politics & History, Sociology and Economics and managed to also enjoy one fiction novel this year. This led to a year of thoughtful reading and lively discussions amongst the group, with notes sometimes shared more widely with the SC membership.

Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Achievements & Performance (continued)

Sustainable Cupar Book Club (continued)

Looking ahead to the coming year, we would hope to explore even more genres, while keeping our serious non-fiction roots, and encourage the lively debating atmosphere already a feature of our monthly get-togethers. Thanks to all our members for another wonderful year of reading, learning, and camaraderie!

Title of book	Author	Date discussed
The Golden Road: how ancient India transformed the world	William Dalrymple	Apr-25
The Trading Game	Gary Stevenson	May-25
Trumpet	Jackie Kay	Jun-25
Planetary solvency - finding our balance with nature	Sandy Trust et al.	Aug-25
The Insecurity Trap: a short guide to transformation	Paul Rogers & Judith Large	Sep-25
Stuffed: a political history of what we eat and why it matters	Pen Vogler	Oct-25
Woman on the edge of time	Marge Piercy	Nov-25
Review of how the book group works		Dec-25
Rivers: An experiment in each person reading a different book and bringing thoughts on it.		Feb-26
Animism	Graham Harvey	Mar-26

Sustainable Cupar Fruit and Blossom (FAB) Group

As usual, the FAB planting and growing group has been very active this year. The Community Orchard at Millfield has been tended by 20 volunteers - pruning, scything, planting and picking, with the winter pruning involving over fifty hours of volunteer work. The Community Orchard has added new life to this little corner of Cupar. SC volunteers have transformed the area into a peaceful place where people come to sit, look and listen to nature. Young parents bring toddlers into the orchard to play amongst the wild flowers, with the new seating, installed in 2024, adding to the atmosphere of this tranquil spot. The spring bulbs and fruit tree blossoms provide welcome early nectar for bees.

Over the years, a generation of SC volunteers, some skilled and others learning the craft, have looked after and harvested apples and pears, nuts and plums in the orchard. The orchard is a sociable place, which also provides our community with free organic fruit.

Unfortunately, the annual winter wassail was cancelled this year due to bad weather, but we did manage to have a joyous pudding party in the orchard in July, with many puddings consumed and enjoyed by those who gathered.

Another important part of FAB's work is tree planting. In December, we planted 200 trees as part of a natural flood measure, organised by and in cooperation with the RESP. 22 volunteers helped with this planting project, including children from Bell Baxter High School. This was also done in partnership with the Tay Rivers Trust, local landowners, Fife Council, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (FCCT), Eden Angling Association, Cupar Golf Course and Crown Estates. This project engendered a feeling of agency amongst local people, who want to make a difference to the climate induced flooding that has affected this area in recent years. This is portrayed in a film produced by Crown Estates about the RESP work.

Many FAB volunteers have also supported our partner organisation, Lucky Ewe, with tree planting and have helped with the planting of over five thousand trees in the Stratheden area this winter. SC recognises that North East Fife has a very low density of native tree cover. Through partnering with Lucky Ewe, and other organisations, SC has helped plant many thousands of trees locally in recent years, improving habitat creation and outcomes for local biodiversity.

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Achievements & Performance (continued)

Sustainable Cupar Fruit and Blossom (FAB) Group (continued)

The community allotment at Elmwood College continues to thrive, with an open morning held in the summer and a regular group getting together weekly to work the plot. As skills and knowledge have developed and been shared amongst the group the ambition has grown, with a large range of produce now being cultivated, and shared with the group/community. Two compost bins have been constructed and the edible wild garden now has a small wildlife pond.

The community fruit cage at Elmwood College remains a great resource, with the volunteers involved in the maintenance of the soft fruit cage, from planting, pruning through to harvesting, benefitting from the abundant crop of soft fruit in the summer. FAB volunteers have worked on this plot since 2011, during which many local people have been involved. We have one main workday in the winter when usually about 5 or 6 people volunteer. The fruit cage has been a real asset, with fruit shared at our summer Jamboree when puddings made from the fruit are eaten and enjoyed. These types of social events are very enjoyable, bringing us together and marking the natural seasons.

There are a lot of changes underway at Elmwood College presently and SC has been involved in maintaining strong communication links between SRUC representatives and Cupar Community representatives about the future of the Elmwood green space and allotments. These discussions have led to Fife Council, probably, becoming the managers of the allotment sites at Elmwood and to the continuation of the fruit cage as part of the Elmwood establishment. It is hoped that this will improve the management and security for the FAB planting and growing group at the allotment and for other allotment and green space users in the local community.

As part of SC Trustees' concern about the future of Elmwood College, SC held a public meeting about the future of Elmwood and its associated grounds. Over 100 people attended this meeting, showing the depth of feeling there is about Elmwood College locally. Trustees wanted to explore the possibility of a Community Right to Buy, if the woodland area of the grounds comes up for sale. In anticipation of this, a small group of SC Trustees drew up possible changes to the SC Constitution, which have been confirmed by the Community Land Team as compliant with Community Right to Buy Legislation, and would make such a move possible if the opportunity arose. This will be put to the SC membership at the next AGM in July 2026. This change in the constitution would put SC in a good position to respond to local interest to save that area of woodland or any other local asset in the future.

The River Eden Sustainability Partnership (RESP)

SC, as a founding partner of RESP, has played a large part in the delivery of the RESP's work. RESP wants to see a restored river corridor, rich in biodiversity, free from invasive, non-native species, resilient to climate change and connected to the community for general well-being and economic benefit.

Successful action taken by SC/RESP in recent years has led to the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) deciding to increase their project area to include the Eden Catchment this spring. This is a major achievement for SC and for the river. SC raised funds for RESP to train local volunteers for Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) control and provided the necessary equipment for volunteers. This, along with a survey of the INNS population on the river, during our Nature Restoration Funded work, has led to the River Eden Catchment being ready for coordinated action on the management of INNS.

<https://www.riveredenfife.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/App-3-Habitat-Survey-Report.pdf>.

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Achievements & Performance (continued)

The River Eden Sustainability Partnership (RESP) (continued)

The SISI input mentioned above, also provides for a full-time and a part-time seasonal worker to be employed to manage INNS on the Eden Catchment for the next two years. This development is a step change and provides an opportunity for real improvement in the management of INNS. Trustees are delighted that SC played an important role in helping make this happen.

Last year, through funding awarded by the Neighbourhood Ecosystem Fund, SC employed James Hutton Ltd to do a piece of development research on the River Eden and Moray Water Catchment 'Transition to Delivery' <https://www.riveredenfife.org/resources/>. Eight landowners in the catchment area had site visits with James Hutton Ltd and were given personalised advice about water management. The culmination of this project, in June 2025, was at the 'River Eden & Motray Water Landowner Catchment Management Workshop'. This workshop brought together members of RESP, SC, Eden Angling Association, Tay Rivers Trust, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, with statutory bodies such as Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) / Scottish Water, and with the involved landowners and James Hutton experts, to discuss possible improvements in water management and habitat.

Other important actions successfully achieved this year by SC, as a partner in RESP, was the training of 20 volunteers in Water Quality Testing (WQT) and the establishment of 7 WQT sites on the River Eden and Motray Water Catchment. This work was done in partnership with St Andrews Aquarium and St Andrews University. SC is grateful to get funding for this from the Fife Rural Development Fund and Local Community Planning budget.

RESP has received huge support from FCCT this year, through their volunteer coordinator. All RESP citizen scientists volunteering in WQT, Riverfly and INNS management, are registered with FCCT, ensuring that these volunteers are well supported. SC really appreciates this support.

In September 2025, SC was awarded a Riverwoods grant, on behalf of RESP, to develop a Woodland Development Plan for the River Eden and Motray Water Catchment. After a rigorous tender process, contractors Walker Hines were appointed to support the work of the project. This work started with two landowner engagement events held at Balmullo and Strathmiglo in February and is well underway. SC is delighted to be working on this project with FCCT and FCF. Landowners are now being offered a limited number of free assessment visits supporting tree planting in the catchment.

RESP has reached a point where volunteer energy is not enough to manage all of the ongoing commitments. With both the SISI and Riverwoods work, RESP now has sourced paid support and management. This is a huge step change for RESP. The partnership is going to spend the next six months exploring the type of governance needed to best reflect the ongoing purpose and scope of RESP.

Other achievements this year include making two films about the work of RESP - one with the Crown Estates and one with Bioregioning Tayside. These films capture the work that SC, in partnership with RESP, has been instrumental in delivering to achieve its goals to improve the water quality, habitat and biodiversity of the River Eden and Motray Water catchment.

Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Trustees' Annual Report For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

Much of the income of the charity is from grants for specific projects and is therefore restricted on what it can be used for.

	£
Closing balance for restricted funds:	
Riverwoods Fund	(636)
Local Community Planning Budget Fund	1,354
	<u>718</u>
General Fund (non-specific or overhead costs)	2,628

The trustees' policy is to maintain reserves for 3 months' normal running costs to meet commitments and cover unexpected expenditure.

The Riverwoods Fund was a deficit at the year end due to the grant income being received in arrears. The grant income received after the year end is detailed on page 9.

Plans for Future Periods

Our funds have been supported and made more sustainable by an increase in members joining fees which are optional and regular contributions by members to cover payments such as insurance and other fees not normally covered by funding. This has given more certainty and financial stability.

We will continue to obtain funding from relevant organisations to pursue our aims.

Approved by the trustees on the date below and signed on their behalf by:



Chair Isabella Sarah Davidson

Date: 19/05/2026

Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Statement of Receipts & Payments For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025-2026 £	Total 2024-2025 £
Receipts					
Grants	4	8,234	-	8,234	99,946
Donations	5	2,000	1,060	3,060	1,232
Bank interest	6	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts		10,234	1,060	11,294	101,178
Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	7	20,948	3,612	24,560	87,626
Governance Costs	8	-	120	120	120
Purchase of equipment	9	3,468	-	3,468	-
Total Payments		24,416	3,732	28,148	87,746
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(14,182)	(2,672)	(16,854)	13,432
Transfers between funds		100	(100)	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(14,082)	(2,772)	(16,854)	13,432

The notes on pages 10 & 11 form an integral part of these accounts

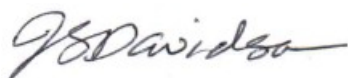
Statement of Balances As at 31 March 2026

	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total 2025-2026 £	Total 2024-2025 £
Funds Reconciliation				
Opening Cash at Bank	14,800	4,682	19,482	6,050
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(14,082)	(2,772)	(16,854)	13,432
Closing Cash at Bank	718	1,910	2,628	19,482
Bank & Cash Balances				
Represented by: Bank Account	718	1,910	2,628	19,482
Assets - at cost				
Storage container	3,468	-	3,468	-
Grants receivable	3,447	-	3,447	-
	6,915	-	6,915	-
Liabilities				
Independent Examination	-	120	120	-
Riverwood Costs	2,828	-	2,828	-
	2,828	120	2,948	-

The notes on pages 10 & 11 form an integral part of these accounts

Approved by the trustees on the date below and signed on their behalf by:-

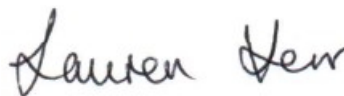
Chair:



Isabella Sarah Davidson

Date: 19/05/2026

Treasurer:



Lauren Kerr

Date: 19/05/2026

Notes to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the Charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Related Party Transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees.

No travel expenses were paid to any trustees during the year.

	2026			2025		
	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Total £
4 Grants Received						
Moor Road	-	-	-	151	-	151
NatureScot (River)	-	-	-	86,298	-	86,298
Neighbourhood Eco Fund	-	-	-	13,497	-	13,497
Local Community Planning Budget	2,500	-	2,500	-	-	-
Fife Rural Development Fund	5,734	-	5,734	-	-	-
Total Grants Received	8,234	-	8,234	99,946	-	99,946
5 Donations	2,000	1,060	3,060	-	1,232	1,232
6 Bank Interest	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Receipts	10,234	1,060	11,294	99,946	1,232	101,178
7 Cost of Charitable Activities						
Insurance	93	347	440	-	249	249
Legal fees	-	120	120	-	-	-
General meetings/events	-	385	385	-	174	174
Subscriptions	-	240	240	-	-	-
Stationery	-	55	55	-	-	-
FAB plants, etc	-	21	21	-	539	539
Tree planting	1,067	37	1,104	-	-	-
River - equipment	2,505	-	2,505	5,886	-	5,886
River - other costs	17,283	2,262	19,545	80,618	-	80,618
Other	-	145	145	-	160	160
Total Cost of Charitable Activities	20,948	3,612	24,560	86,504	1,122	87,626
8 Governance Costs						
Independent Examiner's fee	-	120	120	-	120	120
9 Purchase of equipment						
Storgae container	3,468	-	3,468	-	-	-
Total payments	24,416	3,732	28,148	86,504	1,242	87,746

Sustainable Cupar SCIO

Notes to the Accounts For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

10 Movement in funds	2025-2026					2024-2025				
	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfer	Carried forward	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Carried forward	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Restricted funds										
Moor Road	967	-	(967)	-	-	816	151	-	967	
NatureScot River fund	336	-	(436)	100	-	542	86,298	(86,504)	336	
Neighbourhood Eco Fund	13,497	2,000	(15,377)	(120)	-	-	13,497	-	13,497	
Local Community Planning Budget	-	2,500	(1,266)	120	1,354	-	-	-	-	
Riverwoods Fund	-	-	(636)	-	(636)	-	-	-	-	
Fife Rural Development Fund	-	5,734	(5,734)	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	14,800	10,234	(24,416)	100	718	1,358	99,946	(86,504)	14,800	
Unrestricted funds	4,682	1,060	(3,732)	(100)	1,910	4,692	1,232	(1,242)	4,682	
Total Funds	19,482	11,294	(28,148)	-	2,628	6,050	101,178	(87,746)	19,482	

APPENDIX 3



Report to the trustees/members of

Registered charity number

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Set out on pages

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

v2

Charity name
Sustainable Cupar

SC 042695

Period start date			to	Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
01	04	2025		31	03	2026

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 
Name: Susan Jack

Date: 22.05.26

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address: Fife Voluntary Action
Caledonia House, Pentland Park
Glenrothes. KY6 2AL