

Culduthel Woods Group

Scottish Charity No –SC049665

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name

Culduthel Woods Group

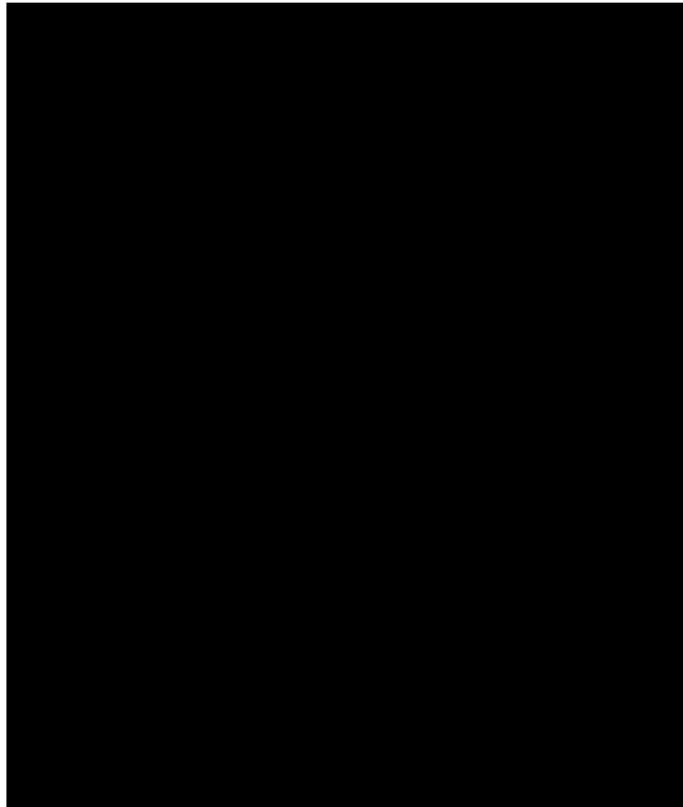
Charity no

SC049665

Address

Boyndie, Dores Road, Inverness, IV2 4LT

Trustees



Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 11 October 2019. The organisation was originally formed as an unincorporated association but changed its legal status in 2019 to a SCIO. It has a single tier structure and, as such, the Trustees are members of the charity. The purposes are of the organisation are:

- *To advance the environmental protection and improvement of Culduthel Woods, following the principles of sustainable development, by the conservation, management and enhancement of the natural habitats and the plant and animal species therein*
- *To promote education within the community about the history, management and habitats of Culduthel Woods and to enable use of the Woods by schools and other organisations for educational purposes*
- *To advance citizenship and community development by encouraging voluntary activity and recreation in, and promoting civic responsibility for, the Culduthel Woods.*

The constitution is available on the Group's website at <https://www.culduthelwoods.org/community-woods-group>.

Appointment of Trustees

Membership of the organisation is open to any individual who supports the aims and activities of the organisation. The Board, which normally meets on the first Tuesday of every second month, is made up of the Charity Trustees. Trustees are either elected at the Annual General Meeting by the membership or co-opted during the period by the Trustees. There must be a minimum of five and a maximum of 11 Trustees on the Board.

Objectives and Activities

The purposes are of the organisation, as set out in the constitution, are:

- *To advance the environmental protection and improvement of Culduthel Woods, following the principles of sustainable development, by the conservation, management and enhancement of the natural habitats and the plant and animal species therein*
- *To promote education within the community about the history, management and habitats of Culduthel Woods and to enable use of the Woods by schools and other organisations for educational purposes*
- *To advance citizenship and community development by encouraging voluntary activity and recreation in, and promoting civic responsibility for, the Culduthel Woods.*

The Charitable Purposes, as set out in the Status Award Letter from OSCR are:

- *B -the advancement of education*
- *F -the advancement of citizenship or community development*
- *M -the advancement of environmental protection or improvement*

Activities

The Group purchased its own motorised scythe in the summer of 2023, which has greatly eased the process of looking after the wild flower meadow. Additionally, its barrow attachment and the purchase of hay rakes has greatly accelerated the process of removing hay from the meadow.

Then, during the winter, prominent new signs were erected at the two main entry points to the woods. These were made using local Elm and carved in Carrbridge

Financial review

During the period, the group's main source of funding was a grant from Highland Council Nature Restoration Fund in connection with the purchase of the scythe referred to above.

In addition to the balance of this purchase, other expenditure comprised mainly of the new signage, and a modest amount of general running costs.

The Trustees wish to thank the Council for this support.

Plans for future period

Following the successful completion of the legal process which enabled the Group to take ownership of the woods, the previously defined Management Plan will continue to guide the work for the next 10 years. The main project for the coming year is to improve the paths in the wood, and to promote active travel.

Through the construction of new and improved paths, important connections will be made to the wider active travel networks, helping people to walk, cycle and enjoy the local area. In summary, we plan to build a new path around the pond; to improve the surface of the paths near the main gates; and to improve entrances to the woods near the school and close to Culduthel House and the path between these two points.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Culduthel Woods Group

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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;
 - 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.



October 2024

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	2023 £
Receipts				
Donations		-	-	2,333
Grants	-	5,117	5,117	1,000
Charitable activities – Membership fees	201	-	201	230
Total receipts	<u>201</u>	<u>5,117</u>	<u>5,318</u>	<u>3,563</u>
Payments				
Cost of charitable activities	4,721	4,617	9,338	1,818
Total payments	<u>4,721</u>	<u>4,617</u>	<u>9,338</u>	<u>1,818</u>
(Deficit) / Surplus for the period	<u>(4,520)</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>(4,020)</u>	<u>1,745</u>

Statement of Balances – As at 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	2023 £
Opening cash at bank and in hand	15,972	2,790	18,762	17,017
Surplus / (Deficit) for period	(4,520)	500	(4,020)	1,745
Closing cash at bank and in hand	<u>11,452</u>	<u>3,291</u>	<u>14,742</u>	<u>18,762</u>

Bank and Cash Balances – As at 31 March 2024

Bank Deposit Account	<u>11,452</u>	<u>3,291</u>	<u>14,742</u>	<u>18,762</u>
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Assets & Liabilities

In addition to the above cash & bank balances, the group has equipment to the value of £6,131

1. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	2023 £
Donations - Spar Community Cashback	-	-	-	1,000
Donations - Co-Op	-	-	-	1,333
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At 31 March 2024	-	-	-	2,333
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2. Grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	2023 £
Received During Period - H&I Climate / Woods Event	-	-	-	1,000
Highland Restoration Fund - Power scythe	-	4,617	4,617	-
H&I Climate - Training of IRA pupils	-	500	500	-
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At 31 March 2024	-	5,117	5,117	1,000
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3. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	2023 £
Tree felling	650	-	650	-
Power Scythe	1,514	4,617	6,131	-
Signage for Woods	1,200	0	1,200	-
Insurance	262	-	262	199
Subscriptions & Donations	30	-	30	110
Miscellaneous	117	-	117	0
Tools / Woods maintenance	948	-	948	503
Woods Event	-	-	-	893
Travel & Accomodation	-	-	-	113
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At 31 March 2024	4,721	4,617	9,338	1,818
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Signed on behalf of Culduthel Woods Group Trustees

.. [Redacted Signature]

Office Bearer

TREASURER

Date

29/10/2024