

**GROW WEST FIFE
(SCIO Number SC051026)
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025**

GROW WEST FIFE
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED
30 NOVEMBER 2025

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GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Report of the Trustees'

For the twelve months ended 30 November 2025

Reference and administrative information

Address

An Cala
Low Causeway
Culross
Fife
KY12 8HN

Trustees

The trustees during the period and at the date of this report were:

Dean Nelson - Chair (appointed 9 June 2021)
Pamela Nelson – Secretary (appointed 9 June 2021)
Anson Clark FCA – Treasurer (appointed 23 February 2022)
Meghan De Gruyter (appointed 9 June 2021)
Jayne Baxter (appointed 7 November 2024)
Carol Brimacombe (appointed 8 November 2024)
Dick Bowdler (appointed 7 March 2025)
Julia Hamilton (appointed 7 March 2025)
Ken Hay (appointed 7 March 2025)

Bank

Royal Bank of Scotland, 54 East Port, Dunfermline, KY12 7JB

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the twelve months ended 30 November 2025. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published 16 July 2014.

Structure, governance and management

Grow West Fife SCIO is a two-tiered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation established under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Its activities are guided and monitored by its trustees and accountable to its members under the terms of its constitution

Objectives and activities

The charitable purposes of Grow West Fife are:

- the relief of poverty; (a)
- the advancement of education; (b)
- the advancement of citizenship or community development; and (f)
- the advancement of environmental protection or improvement. (m)

Grow West Fife's objects in pursuit of these purposes are to encourage cooperation and mutual support to produce food for local consumption in a growing project for all, and to promote wider community knowledge of food growing, harvesting and preparation.

Achievements and Performance

It's been a rollercoaster year of great highs and deep lows.

The most favourable growing weather, strong attendance by a committed and growing corps of amazing volunteers, and the support of a full-time gardener produced bumper crops. This meant we were able to donate more fruit and vegetables to our local community food pantries at High Valleyfield, Oakley and Saline/Steelend – a fabulous variety of high quality, locally-grown, organic produce.

A new, larger polytunnel was installed, with funding from the National Lottery's Community Fund, which increased our capacity for indoor, climate-proof growing. It was laid out beautifully by our volunteers and planted with a wide variety of tomatoes.

Our garden and the work of our garden and kitchen volunteers were showcased on BBC's Beechgrove Garden show in early summer 2025 (you can watch it here at the 18 minutes 12 seconds mark through this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m002ctv6/beechnogrove-garden-2025-episode-9>) and highlighted their incredible achievements in providing food for those in need, a warm welcome and friendship to our many visitors, and an invaluable contribution to community resilience.

We welcomed teachers and children from Culross Primary School's Pupil Equity Fund programme to support better outcomes for those impacted by poverty. They came to the garden once a week to learn growing skills and enjoy delicious food cooked from the ingredients we grow.

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Our new Yum Club, in which participants in Fife Council's Cash First scheme to support those dependent on foodbanks, learned to cook delicious, healthy and low-cost meals in our garden kitchen, was a great success. They learned to cook new dishes to delight their friends and families, budget and shop more creatively, and save money. In the process they made new, supportive friends at the classes and through a Whatsapp support group. Fife Council's survey of participants found it was the most popular part of the wider Cash First programme which included support to help foodbank dependents give up smoking, manage their finances and reduce fuel bills. The Yum Club was supported by the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

In addition to the Yum Club, our incredible kitchen volunteers and food coordinator ran a free weekly community lunch which served delicious soups, tarts, breads and cakes made using our own garden harvests to up to 30 visitors throughout the year. These were supported by Fife Council's Warm Welcome Fund.

We ran a successful monthly Repair Café mainly at Fife Council Community Centres in High Valleyfield, Oakley and Saline community centres. Our sixteen repairers and volunteers repaired between 20 and 30 items each month, ranging from beloved clothes our visitors couldn't bear to lose, to household and garden appliances like power-washers and lawnmowers, and children's toys. Members of our communities enjoyed cakes baked by our kitchen volunteers and food coordinator and reconnected with old friends, while our repairers saved them the cost of buying replacements and the items from being dumped in landfill.

Our workshop volunteers, with funding from the Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund and support from our woodwork teacher David Young, met regularly in our outhouse workshop and completed a large new shed to house our garden handtools.

Three incredible volunteers renovated our front outhouse from a dark, damp, windowless space, into an amazing, bright office, with a new slate roof, previously blocked windows restored, new lighting, custom-made wrought iron window grills, and the stone work repointed with original lime mortar. Huge thanks to the wonderful Donald Campbell, Gordon McLuckie, Alistair Craig and to Survivability Consulting Limited, which funded the restoration.

Throughout the year we deepened our partnership with Fairway Fife, the charity which supports young adults with educational disabilities, whose amazing staff and volunteers brought joy and a power of real work to our garden.

These successes and the volunteering opportunities they offered were much appreciated in our community by our friends and partners at the Culross Stables Community Hub, the Culross Community Council, Culross Primary School Parent Council, Andy's Man Clubs, Fairway Fife, our local Members of the Scottish Parliament Alex Rowley and Shirley-Anne Somerville and local Member of Parliament Graeme Downie.

Shirley-Anne Somerville, Scotland's Minister for Social Justice said Grow West Fife's project "exemplifies resilience, kindness, and a willingness to work together. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when a community comes together with a shared purpose. I believe there is much to learn from what Grow West Fife has built, and I hope that it will be supported to continue its valuable work for many years to come."

Their support was offered as part of our campaign to buy our garden under the government's Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 Part 2 Community Right to Buy. The campaign had the overwhelming support of the Culross Community – 160 people registered to vote in Culross – 33.7% - signed our petition in favour of our community buy out application and we believe we could have got close to 100% if we'd had time. Not a single resident declined to sign.

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As part of our campaign, Grow West Fife became a registered Culross community body, which means it is now controlled by the people of Culross for their benefit.

It is a source of great disappointment that our application was rejected, not on its merits but a technicality: our then landlord, the Scottish Mining Convalescent Trust, had transferred ownership to the Scottish Mining Welfare Trust, and our legal advisors, the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS) strongly (and wrongly) advised us to keep the Convalescent Trust listed as legal owner pending the ownership being updated on the Registers of Scotland. The Scottish Government's lawyers spent several months determining which trust was the lawful owner at the time of the application and ruled in favour of the Scottish Mining Welfare Trust. This meant our application was invalid and therefore rejected. The Scottish Mining Welfare Trust later informed us they had sold the estate to Carlow House Limited, a company formed by William Tanner and Mark Tanner. Mark Tanner's lawyers have since informed us he is the owner and that Carlow House Limited is the operator of day-to-day activities at Blair Castle.

Once the change of ownership took effect late last year, our electricity supply was immediately cut off and a few weeks later our water supply was disconnected. We discovered our Scottish Water meter and valve had been encased in concrete. The new landlord refused permission for Scottish Water to repair the damage and restore our supply.

They have also installed gates and fencing to restrict vehicle access to the garden. The nature of the fencing means we can no longer receive the bulk compost deliveries the garden needs.

The landlord's solicitor has been informed that the withdrawal of water and electricity are breaches of our lease. Without water we cannot grow vegetables, our volunteers cannot use the toilet and our wetland cell wastewater processing system will not work. Without electricity the lights in the toilet will not work. In these circumstances we cannot safely host groups of volunteers at the garden in the way we have. Our primary charitable work has, in effect, been sabotaged.

We had hoped this year would be one of community ownership in which all the investment made by the garden by volunteers and funders would help us to offer more help and volunteering and meeting opportunities to more people. The new landlord's actions, for now, have thwarted our ability to do that.

We'd like to thank all our members, volunteers, partners, funders, volunteers, and visitors for their incredible support over the last year.

We could not have achieved all we have without the support of our wonderful funders:

The Community Recovery Fund

The Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund

The National Lottery Community Fund

Fife Council

The Volunteer Support Fund

The Scottish Land Fund

Fife Law Centre

The Fife Rural Development Fund

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

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The Crown Estate

Stephens Bakery Foundation

Baynes Charitable Trust

Survivability Consultants Limited

Ikea

Muir Timber Systems

We would like to thank Pippa Robertson of Aurora Planning for her incredible support and legal advice over the years, and David McGrath of Fife Voluntary Action, without whom we would never have raised the funding we did to support our incredible our volunteers.

I'd also like to give heartfelt thanks to our trustees for their patience and hard work in a difficult year.

One of our founding trustees, Megan DeGruyer, resigned towards the end of last year and we would like to give special thanks to her for the incredible contribution she has made to the garden since it began during the pandemic in 2020. She had continued in her post long after moving far from West Fife. She brought all the right questions, great ideas, total commitment and a wonderful sense of fun. We'll miss her hugely.

Financial review

The results for the twelve months to 30 November 2025 showed a small surplus in unrestricted funds. Total reserves carried forward are £68,198.32.

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:



Dean Nelson (Chair)

21 May 2026



Anson Clark (Treasurer)

21 May 2026

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Grow West Fife

I report on the accounts of the charity for the twelve months ended 30 November 2025.

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 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of regulation (10) (1) (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44) (1) (c) of the 2005 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 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 disclosure 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 views given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Qualified Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter came 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 Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations; and,
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.



Jane Murie,
Senior Development Worker,
6 Dunimarle Street,
High Valleyfield.
KY12 8RY

3 June 2026

GROW WEST FIFE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the twelve months ended 30 November 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2025(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)
Receipts					
Donations	4	3,522.56	125.00	3,647.56	6,271.46
Grants	5	0	86,104.41	86,104.41	110,234.00
Total Receipts		3,522.56	86,229.41	89,751.97	116,505.46
Payments					
Charitable activities		1,243.45	62,026.68	63,270.13	45,263.64
Fundraising costs		0	0	0	0.00
Purchase of equipment		518.41	18,556.22	19,074.63	40,978.10
Administration		194.14	4,896.18	5,090.32	6,932.39
Total Payments		1956.00	85,479.08	87,435.08	93,174.13
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1,566.56	750.33	2,316.89	23,331.33
Transfer between funds		0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		1,566.56	750.33	2,316.89	23,331.33

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Statement of Balances for twelve months ended 30 November 2025

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total year ended 30 November 2025(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)
Opening cash at bank	4,016.23	61,865.20	65,881.43	2,550.10
Surplus/Deficit for the year	1,566.56	750.33	2,316.89	3,331.33
Closing Cash at Bank and in hand	5,582.79	62,615.53	68,198.32	5,881.43
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank Account			68,198.32	65,881.43
Other Assets				
Solar panels & batteries			0	12,781.00
Van			0	17,848.00
Poly Tunnel			4,038.83	0
			4,038.83	30,629.00
Liabilities				
None				

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Notes to the accounts for the twelve months ended 30 November 2025

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and 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. During the year the charity received donations of £3,647.56.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes. During the year the charity received restricted grants of £86,104.41.

3. Trustee remuneration, expenses and related party transactions

The charity's insurance policy includes Trustee Indemnity Insurance for all its trustees. No other remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year. Travel expenses of £0 (2024:£263) were paid to one trustee in the year.

4. Donations Received

	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2025(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)
Cash donations	3,522.56	125.00	3,647.56	6,271.46
Total	3,522.56	125.00	3,647.56	6,271.46

5. Grants Received

	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2025(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)
Fife Rural Development Fund		19,800.80	19800.80	0
Volunteer Support Fund		750.00	750.00	10,500.00
Fife Voluntary Action		23,500.00	23,500.00	17,900.00
Repair Café		1,803.61	1,803.61	
Lottery Community		20,000.00	20,000.00	0
Scottish Land Fund		14,250.00	14,250.00	0
Impact Funding		6,000.00	6,000.00	0
Fife Council		0	0	81,834.00
Total	0	86,104.41	86,104.41	110,234.00

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6. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds(£)	Restricted Funds(£)	Total period ended 30 November 2025(£)	Total year ended 30 November 2024(£)
IT	29.96	638.76	668.72	494.87
Garden repairs	0	2,916.00	2,916.00	300.00
Rents & leases	0	130.00	130.00	471.28
Insurance	0	1,027.28	1,027.28	987.73
Sundries	164.18	184.14	348.32	1,891.58
Total	194.14	4,896.18	5,090.32	4,145.46

7. Governance Costs

Independent Examiner Fee £100 (2024: £100)

8 Transfers between funds

None