
**The Meeting Place (Dunoon) SCIO
Scottish Charity No – SC04G769**

**Annual Report and Financial
Statements for the year ended
31st March, 2024**

Trustees Annual Report

For the year 31st March 2024

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

Reference and Administrative Information

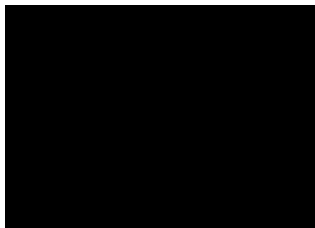
Charity Name

The Meeting Place (Dunoon)

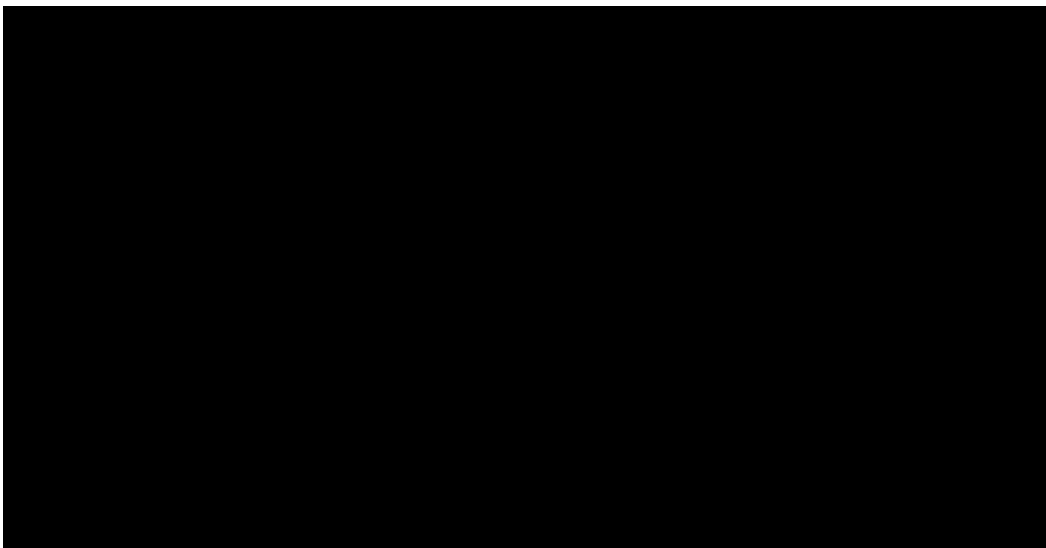
Charity No

SC049769

Address



Trustees 2023-2024



Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 22nd November 2019. It has a single tier structure and as such the Trustees are the members of the charity.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board, (which normally meets every six weeks), are the charity's Trustees. Members of the Board are appointed by the trustees and are interested parties mostly with lived experience of mental health problems either as a service user or carer, or with relevant professional expertise.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

To improve the mental wellbeing of people in Cowal and the surrounding areas.

Activities and Performance

The Meeting Place was founded in 2019 with the objective of creating a safe space for people with mental well-being issues, to encourage mutual peer support by sharing their lived experience and to overcome social isolation by providing a friendly and welcoming environment. All sessions are on a drop-in basis and no GP referral is necessary. It has a regular core attendance of between 10-15 participants per session although there are more who come on an occasional basis. A sense of real community is progressively developing.

We have a food share arrangement with the local Co-op which helps us to provide a much-appreciated lunch to which participants donate on a voluntary basis.

Since moving into its present hired premises in September 2021 The Meeting Place has opened Tuesdays, Thursdays 11-3pm and Saturdays 11-2pm, although presently not Saturdays due to staffing shortage at weekends. We also have occasional extra days for special events. Our weekly Singing for Fun session continues to be enjoyed by participants. We have a designated craft room and are in the process of developing a quiet room for counselling or private discussions. A small group of participants also go swimming together out of session hours.

In the Autumn we had a Managing Anxiety Course led by a Counsellor running over several weeks and a session on bullying which people found very helpful. We have been extremely grateful to have developed our free Counselling service due to the generous funding by the Bank of Scotland Foundation.

An outing just before Christmas to a bowling alley was a great success and there is an afternoon visit planned to feed the lambs on a local farm.

Before Christmas we had participant groups discussing positive traits about each other! This led to the making of individual 'scrolls' which were then presented to each one and it was very gratifying to see the very positive reaction of recipients. This has led to the idea of collating all the items and producing a book which could help to showcase us as a valuable community facility especially with statutory services e.g. GPs and Mental Health Team to be launched on a special open day in the near future. The book will have a special dedication to [REDACTED] our previous Chair, who tragically died in May 2023.

Financial Review

The Meeting Place depends primarily on grants and donations to fund its activities. Key to our operations is the provision of a safe, warm place where people can meet, chat, eat together and engage in various other

activities. The annual cost of renting 53 Hillhead St, together with utilities costs and maintaining a phone line and Broadband come to rather more than £10,000. In addition, there are other essential outgoings such as premises maintenance (£2000 this year), TV and music licences, and insurance.

This financial year we had a deficit of just over £10,000 in unrestricted (general) funds, although we remained in credit (£4714 in general funds) and are expecting to receive funding to bolster this.

We have been spending grants obtained in the previous year allocated to specific purposes, disbursing the money remaining in the grant from the Corra Foundation in winter hardship grants, and paying for counselling and related group work free to participants.

We received a grant from the Co-op Local Community fund of just over £3000, which we have put to general purposes, and a grant from the Community Health and Wellbeing Fund of £5000 which we will use for extended activities. We also learnt just before the end of the financial year that we had been successful in an application for £19,800 from the Community Lottery for rent and utilities for 2 years, but as it only appeared in our account on the 2nd April 2024, it is not visible in the 2023-2024 accounts.

We are, of course, grateful for the donations we receive, great and small. Every little helps!

Grant-giving bodies are currently thinking hard about the need for financial stability, especially for small charities which do not have large reserves, and are increasingly offering grants over more than one year, which is far-sighted and very welcome. We will continue to identify such funding opportunities and make applications appropriately, and we remain optimistic (but never complacent) about our financial position.

Future Plans

We are keen to maintain as well as develop our current service and to encourage participants to try out things they would like to do and support

them in this so that they can grow in self-confidence to share skills and possibly develop new ones. We have a well-stocked craft room and plan to bring in instructors to lead guided craft sessions.

We realise how important Suicide Awareness is and plan some training in the near future. We will also be exploring possible links with a suicide and wellbeing charity in Inverclyde.

We also want to develop our new website and publicity and use the book launch as a way of increasing our community profile and interaction with other agencies in the area.

Our activities are limited only by what can be achieved by our volunteers; we hope to increase our volunteer pool from interested local people and from within the participant group as they gain in confidence.

Statement of Receipts and Payments**1st April 2023-31st March 2024**

Note 1

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Receipts				
Donations	2	2,437	665	3,102
Grants	3	3,175	5,000	8,175
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	4	399	0	399
Total Receipts		6,011	5,665	11,676
Payments				
Gross trading payments	5	90		90
Cost of charitable activities	6	16,243	6,821	23,064
Total Payments		16,333	6,821	23,154
Surplus/ (deficit) for current period		-10,322	-1,156	-11,478

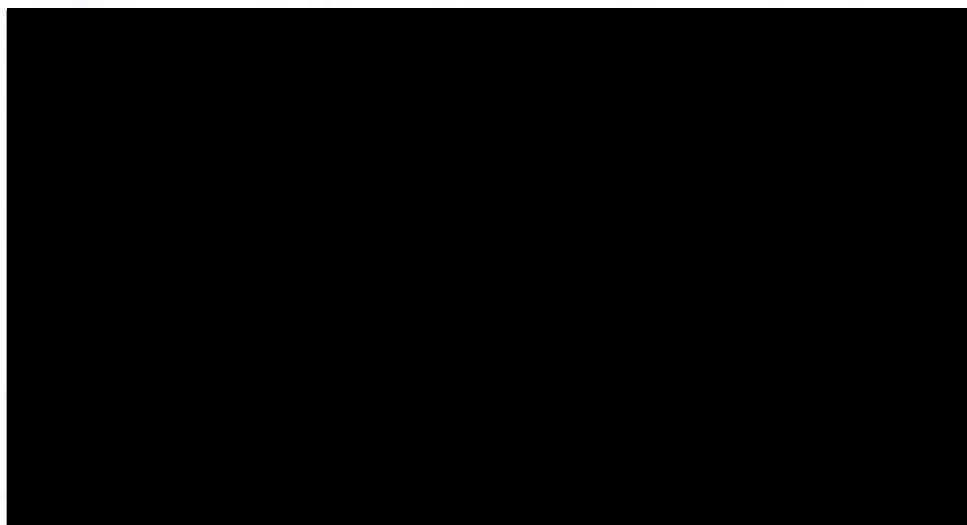
Statement of balances, as at 31st March 2024

1st April 2023-31st March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Cash at bank and in hand, 31st March 2023		14,740	11,473	26,213
Surplus/deficit for current period		-10,291	-1,185	-11,476
Cash at bank and in hand, 31st March 2024		4,449	10,288	14,737
Bank and cash balances				
Bank current account				14,731
Cash in hand				6
				14,737

The notes on pages 9, 10, and 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees on 11th December 2024 and signed on their behalf
by:



Notes to the accounts
1st April 2023-31st March 2024

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. Donations received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Small donations (at meetings etc.)	918		918
Other	1,519	665	2,184
Total	2,437	665	3,102

3. Grants received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Co-op Local Community Fund	3,175		3,175
Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund		5,000	5,000
Total	3,175	5,000	8,175

4. Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Fund raising	233		233
Received from bowling trip participants	55		55
Ferry refund	75		75
Other	36		36
Total	399	0	399

5. Gross trading payments:

	Unrestricted Funds
Belated lost stock payment to artist for stock lost in fire August 2021	90
	90

6. Cost of charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total
Premises rent and utilities	9,553		9,553
Premises maintenance etc	2,011		2,011
Phone, Broadband	646		646
Publicity	0		0
TV and music licences	780		780
Insurance	673		673
Counselling		5,121	5,121
Grants from discretionary fund	90		90
Winter hardship payments from Corra Fund		1,700	1,700
Refreshments	769		769
Activities	819		819
Donations	150		150
Governance costs	120		120
Trustee payments (includes grant from discretionary fund)	150		150
Other (includes petty cash)	482		482
	16,243	6,821	23,064

Analysis of restricted funds

1st April 2023-31st March 2024

	Counselling (Bank of Scotland Foundation)	Winter Hardship Fund (Corra Foundation)	Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund	Suicide/ bereavement	Total
Balance 31st March 2023	9,773	1,700			11,473
Receipts					
Grants			5,000		5,000
Personal donation				665	665
	9,773	1,700	5,000	665	17,138
Payments					
counselling fees	5,121				5,121
Winter hardship payments		1,700			1,700
Activities			29		29
	5,121	1,700	29	0	6,850
Balance 31st March 2024	4,652	0	4,971	665	10,288

APPENDIX 3



Independent examiner's report on the accounts

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Report to the trustees/members of

Charity name
The Meeting Place (Dunoon)

Registered charity number

SC049769

On the accounts of the charity for the period

Period start date				Period end date		
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
01	04	2022	to	31	03	2023

Set out on pages

1-12

(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 ~~[other than that disclosed on the attached page*]~~

- 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

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

Signed:

Name:

Date: 9-12-24

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

Address: