

## CASTLE LOCH LOCHMABEN COMMUNITY TRUST

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION NUMBER SC044045

### TENTH ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR TO 31 MAY 2024

#### Part 1 – Administrative Information.

**Charity Name & Address** Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust, Lochfield Cottage, Priestdykes, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 1LP

**Website** [www.castleloch.org.uk](http://www.castleloch.org.uk)  
**Facebook** [www.facebook.com/castlelochlochmaben](https://www.facebook.com/castlelochlochmaben)

#### Charity trustees to 26/3/24

Brian Forbes (Chairman)	William Smith (Treasurer)
Helen Keen (Secretary)	John Robson
Tony Hancock	John Reid
Dougie Fountain	Tony Stewart

#### Charity trustees from 26/3/24

John Robson (Chairman)	William Smith (Treasurer)
Helen Keen (Secretary)	John Reid
Freda Seddon	Paul Beardon
Dougie Fountain	Tony Hancock

**Project Officer from 1 October 2023** Rhonda-Lynn Graham

**Bankers** Bank of Scotland, Direct Business, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB

**Solicitor** Lucy Robertson, Harper Robertson & Shannon, 100 High Street, Annan DG12 6DW.

**Independent Examiner** Robert Murray, Cruachan, Hillbank Road, Lochmaben DG11 1RR

#### Part 2 – Trustees' Annual report

**Structure Government and Management.** The Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a Constitution dated 25 June 2013. Membership of the Trust is open to any individual aged 16 or over who is resident in the area covered by the Community Councils of Lochmaben & District, Templand & District, and Royal Four Towns. Interested individuals resident outwith these areas can be admitted to membership but are unable to vote. There are currently 414 members. A minimum of 3 and a maximum of 10 Board Members/Charity Trustees are elected at each AGM. All of the Trustees must retire at each AGM but are eligible for re-election. Following the departure of Darren Flint, who had been Project Manager since 2014, Rhonda-Lynn Graham was appointed as Habitat officer and has settled into the role very well.

**Objectives and Activities.** The Trust's purposes as laid out in the Constitution are:

- To advance environmental protection and improvement and
- To advance citizenship or community development through community ownership and management of Castle Loch, Lochmaben.

In pursuance of these objectives a dedicated team of volunteers has been established who regularly carry out a range of tasks around the Loch. Children's and youth groups have been encouraged to utilise the facilities and appreciate the importance of caring for this important environment. A large and growing number of members of the community of all ages access the path round the Loch and this inspired more people to become engaged in the management and protection of the area.

**Achievements and Performance.** This past year has been another busy year for the Board, and also quite a transitional time.

Each year brings different challenges that Trustees have stepped up and faced with their usual willing hard work and positive outlooks on behalf of the Trust.

After a number of years of sterling service, some key members retired from their roles in 2023. These included our Chair-person, Treasurer and Secretary, so the Trust started the past year with a new team of officer holders. As a new trustee, Brian Forbes stepped into the role of chair-person to help the Board of Trustees continue with this past year's works. Will Smith took on the Treasurers role, and Helen Keen as Secretary.

The Board's immediate task was to seek a replacement for our Project Officer when he also moved on to fresh challenges after 8 years in post. After a recruitment process, Rhonda Graham was appointed with a new title of Habitat Officer. She started in position 1<sup>st</sup>. Oct 2023. This is a big role for the Trust and carries much responsibility. She has settled in very quickly and the Trust is pleased with how she is making her own mark, and we all look forward to a long connection with her.

Through Rhonda, we have continuing with the connections the Trust has with the Playgroup and Primary School within the Town that use the walks and Lochfield Cottage for engaging the children and young adults with the environment and with nature. The Board consider that helping the new generation to appreciate and value the great asset the Loch is to the Town to be a very important part of our role.

Regular local walkers and visitors, dog owners, bird watchers, joggers and running clubs are all continuing to make good use of our footpaths.

Other community groups are using the Loch's cottage, including the local Art group, and a dog walking group. And we are seeking to extend the use of the cottage's facilities for other interested groups.

The Rotary Club have continued their annual 'Walk the Walk' around the loch for charity fundraising.

A Corporate team are being hosted later in this year, and the Region's Multi-cultural Association have been invited for hosted group visits, also this summer.

As the Loch site is a designated SSSI and a wetland nature reserve. Rhonda has continued the Trust's own work in undertaking a series of nature projects involving recording and monitoring. Our local Secondary School use the site for course-work, and visiting Universities are undertaking survey work in our wetlands.

The results from these are being shared with the membership through a regular newsletter. Through all these connections we are aiming to build and develop our two-way connection and involvement with the membership and wider community.

Our band of willing volunteers have been hard at work with the regular task that include:

general path repairs, pot hole repairs to the unmetalled access road near the castle, Litter picking especially along the roadside, the gradual and phased clearing of rhododendron, controlling the spread of invasive species such as Himalayan balsam and dealing with weather related tree damage alongside the routine woodland management surveys and planning. More recent works also included boundary fencing repairs.

We have continued with a series of Sunday events through the 'Brew & Bite' and 'Tartan Trek' themes. These are aimed to raise our profile as well as raise funds, and show to the community the activities of our volunteers which are entirely supported by charitable donations. These events have been a focus where individual members, and local businesses that have been approached, have generously donated in support of our stewardship of the loch and the surrounds. These are always gratefully received, and are essential to continue the work of the Trust.

Although attracting funding to continue our projects for developing and maintenance is always challenging, the Trust is looking forward keenly to another productive year at Castle Loch.

#### *Future plans*

- To repair the deteriorating Viewing / Fishing platforms that provide 'less-abled' access to the loch side.
- To upgraded our existing but deteriorating Information signage around the loch site.
- To develop our governance for woodland management and continue the planned maintenance of our site
- To continue to seek funding for the Trust from local commercial businesses and supporters to carry out planned activities.

*Financial performance.* Thanks to a very generous donation of £10k from an anonymous donor, receipts during the year exceeded payments by £9,397. The only major items of expenditure during the year were tree safety work (£3,078) and the purchase of two people counters (£3,540) which give valuable information when applying for grants. No grants were applied for during the year as no major projects were undertaken but looking ahead the Board will have to generate an income flow to meet annually recurring expenditure. It is the Board's policy to maintain an unrestricted reserve of at least £10k to meet any unexpected expenditure. Whilst our reserves more than meet that policy forward financial planning is always a priority.

Signed on behalf of the Board



John Robson 27<sup>th</sup>. August 2024



**Part 3 - Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Castle Loch Lochmaben Community Trust**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 as set out on pages 4 to 5.

**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 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 report.**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.

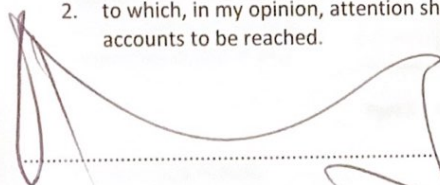
**Independent examiner's statement.**

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.



Robert Murray.

08th September 2024.

Address of Independent Examiner : Cruachan, Hillbank Road, Lochmaben, Lockerbie DG11 1RR .

#### Part 4 - Receipts & Payments Account

	Notes	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>						
Donations		24,856	0	0	24,856	14,857
Grants	5	0	0	0	0	62,250
Fundraising		0	0	0	0	0
Fishing permits		2,750	0	0	2,750	2,300
Bank interest		13	0	0	13	0
Gift Aid Tax		885	0	0	885	1,031
Sundry income		0	0	0	0	7,221
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>28,504</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,504</b>	<b>87,659</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Charitable activities	6	11,214	0	7,893	19,107	142,851
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>11,214</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>7,893</b>	<b>19,107</b>	<b>142,851</b>
<b>Surplus/deficit (-) for the year</b>		<b>17,290</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-7,893</b>	<b>9,397 -</b>	<b>55,192</b>

#### Part 5 - Statement of Balances as at 31 May 2024.

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Bank balance at start of year	22,602	12,142	9,730	44,474	99,666
Surplus/deficit (-) for year	17,290	0	-7,893	9,397	-55,192
<b>Total funds at end of year</b>	<b>39,892</b>	<b>12,142</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>53,871</b>	<b>44,474</b>

#### Part 6 - Notes to the Accounts

##### 1. Accounting Policies

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They consist of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank and in cash during the year, along with a statement of balances. No adjustments have been made for any income due but not yet received, nor for any expenses incurred but not yet paid. Fixed assets are not capitalised.

##### 2. Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the Board's discretion in furtherance of the Trust's objectives. Some unrestricted funds have been designated by the Board for specific projects. Restricted Funds are those given for specific purposes.

##### 3. Contingent Liability

Some grant funders may demand repayment of their grant in the event that it is likely that the Trust may have to stop operating, if the grant conditions are not met or in



certain other defined circumstances.

#### 4. Trustee Remuneration, benefits and expenses.

No Trustee received remuneration or reimbursement of expenses other than reimbursement of purchases made on behalf of the Trust.

#### 5. Grants received during the financial year.

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Lochmaben Community Council	0	0	0	0	750
Minnygap Wind Farm	0	0	0	0	10,000
ANCBC	0	0	0	0	20,000
National Lottery Community Fund	0	0	0	0	10,000
D & G Council	0	0	0	0	5,000
Lush Retail Ltd	0	0	0	0	5,000
Foyle Foundation	0	0	0	0	5,000
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Foundation	0	0	0	0	3,000
Mushroom Trust	0	0	0	0	3,500
	0	0	0	0	62,250

#### 6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Undesignated Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Fund	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Employee costs	0	0	7,893	7,893	13,454
Lochfield Cottage costs	1,744	0	0	1,744	22,170
Insurance	1,330	0	0	1,330	1,264
Site Maintenance costs	4,125	0	0	4,125	9,744
Kirkhirst Wood - Development co	0	0	0	0	0
Boardwalk/footpath upgrade	0	0	0	0	95,331
People counters	3,540	0	0	3,540	0
Other costs	475	0	0	475	888
	11,214	0	7,893	19,107	142,851

Signed on behalf of the Board.....

John Robson 18 August 2024