

**Charity Number 290637**

**FLEET POND SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

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## **FLEET POND SOCIETY**

### **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS**

#### **Report to the Trustees and Members of Fleet Pond Society on the accounts for the year ended 31 January 2024**

#### **Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner**

The charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's Trustees do not consider that an Independent Examination of the accounts is required, as its gross income was less than £25,000, as per Charity Commission brochure CC31 and the Charities Act 2009.

It is my responsibility to:

- (1) examine the accounts under Part 8, Sections 145 and 152 of the 2009 Act,
- (2) follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission in their brochure CC32
- (3) state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with general directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 seeking 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, no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with 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 Part 8, Sections 145 and 152 of the 2009 Act and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2009 Act 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**

#### **Date**

#### **Name**

John C. Geering

#### **Relevant professional qualifications or body (if any )**

Fellow Institute of Financial Accountants

#### **Address**

11 Glen Road  
FLEET, GU51 3QS

## **FLEET POND SOCIETY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

#### **PRINCIPAL ADDRESS**

The principal address of the charity is 40 Fir Tree Way, Fleet, Hampshire GU52 7NB.

#### **MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The following have served on the committee since 1 February 2023 or later date if shown and act as Trustees of the charity and as such, manage the charity on a daily basis :

	<b>Office held</b>	<b>Dates acted if not for the whole year</b>
Jim Storey	Chairman	
Katharine Higgins	Treasurer	
Jane Pango	Secretary	resigned 14/5/23
Colin Gray		
Nick Keeley		
Terry Austin		resigned 9/3/23
Cathy Holden		
Michelle Salter		resigned 15/3/24
Mandy Saxby		resigned 3/5/23
Wolfgang Hamann		
Terry Dunford		elected 9/3/23

#### **GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

The charity is governed by the constitution adopted on 5 September 1984, as amended subsequently on 26 February 2005 , 23 February 2008, 20 February 2010 and 9 March 2023.

#### **CONSTITUTION**

The charity is an unincorporated society.

#### **CHARITY TRUSTEE SELECTION METHODS**

Members of the executive committee are elected from the members of the society. Members wishing to join the committee during the year must be co-opted by the existing committee by a majority vote.

All members of the executive committee are required to stand down before each Annual General Meeting and must be nominated for re-election.

## **FLEET POND SOCIETY**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

#### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

#### **OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY**

The main charitable objects of the charity are to stimulate public interest and appreciation for Fleet Pond and its surroundings, to promote the preservation and maintenance of Fleet Pond and promote its use as a public amenity and as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and local nature reserve and to encourage the harmonious and sensitive use of Fleet Pond and its surroundings by all users, commensurate with its status as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and local nature reserve.

#### **MAIN ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS**

The Society has continued the voluntary management activity at Fleet Pond, including habitat management and repair and upgrade of paths and protective fencing. The Island Management team also continued to tackle the scrub growth on the new islands that were created by the dredging a few years back. Care has been taken that maintenance of islands, reedbeds, marshland and heathland does not impede access or obstruct visitors' views. In fact the work has continued to open up new vistas across the open areas to the Pond, attracting positive responses from the public. We did a massive amount of work to remove over 4000 saplings and trees in one of our reedbeds. We commissioned a new group of volunteers to study the moth populations on the reserve. We funded new equipment to do this and very interesting results have been noted and reported to the County Moth Recorder.

We spent a significant amount of funds on purchasing materials as well as new types of tools and replacements to allow us to be more efficient in our conservation work. We employed contractors to build a new path down a particularly awkward slope to improve accessibility. We paid for this with the bequest of £20,000 from the estate of Patsy Welford and the path was opened at the end of March 2023. We paid for two of our volunteers to have formal training on equipment we use in our conservation work. We purchased new banners and flags to use to promote the Society and we put them to good use during the town's Coronation activities. We spent a significant sum on the maintenance of our website as our IT consultant hadn't billed us for two years. Our handling of cash was made more difficult by our bank branch in Fleet closing.

The number of volunteers who help at our Friday morning conservation sessions has continued to increase significantly and they have delivered an increase in hours worked by 25% in each of the last two years. Sunday monthly tasks and corporate volunteer groups from local businesses are now very limited under the management of Hart Countryside Services (HCS). So there were minimal opportunities for young people to do community work for the Duke of Edinburgh's award or for Venture Scouts to earn conservation badges. However our work with young people has increased greatly again with the many educational and work parties we organised for Beavers and Cubs from the Scouting Organisation.

We delivered numerous illustrated talks for groups from neighbouring parishes and community groups. The Society has carried out numerous outreach activities and continued to encourage public awareness by various articles in the local press and on social media and has gained a significant number of new members.

We received a good number of donations this year from our public supporters as well as Southern Co-ops. We had a major single bequest of £5000. The amount of these donations we received totalled roughly £7100.

**FLEET POND SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ( continued )**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

**RESERVES POLICY**

It is the policy of the charity to ensure at all times that they have sufficient reserves to meet all expected day to day expenditure for a period of twelve months ahead.

**APPROVAL**

This report of the Executive Committee was approved by the committee on 28 May 2024 and signed on its behalf by -

Jim Storey (Chairman)

Date of approval 28 May 2024

**FLEET POND SOCIETY**

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2024**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total 2022/23
	£	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>				
Memorial Donations (22/23 S Wheale, 23/24 J Moore)	5,000	-	5,000	775
Co-op Donations	1,500	-	1,500	1,500
Corporate Grants	-	-	-	-
Collection Boxes Cash per HMRC	42	-	42	52
Small Cash Donations per HMRC	71	-	71	142
General Donations	636	-	636	647
Subscriptions (incl member donations)	5,000	-	5,000	5,152
Fundraising Stalls (22/23 Jubilee, 23/24 Mistletoe)	188	-	188	84
Clothing Sales	45	-	45	-
AGM Income	83	-	83	-
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Interest Received	181	-	181	15
HM Revenue & Customs Gift Aid	939	-	939	864
	<u>13,685</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,685</u>	<u>9,229</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>				
Fencing	756	-	756	43
Pat Welford Memorial Path	16,473	-	16,473	-
Butterfly Board (in memory of Peter Martin)	-	-	-	1,062
Fundraising Stalls (22/23 Jubilee, 23/24 Mistletoe)	94	-	94	50
Tractor Costs	200	-	200	861
Reserve Management	375	-	375	495
Materials & Equipment	1,758	-	1,758	2,133
Moth Survey Equipment	866	-	866	-
Stationery & Postage	205	-	205	290
Newsletter Costs	767	-	767	599
Insurance & TCV Fees	614	-	614	530
Training	1,043	-	1,043	76
Website Costs	830	-	830	144
Promotional Goods	394	-	394	-
AGM Costs	152	-	152	14
Hall Hire	144	-	144	132
Miscellaneous	278	-	278	318
	<u>24,947</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,947</u>	<u>6,748</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS / (DEFICIT ) FOR THE YEAR</b>	(11,262)	-	(11,262)	2,481
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Surplus brought forward	47,085		47,085	44,603
<b>SURPLUS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>47,085</u>

**FLEET POND SOCIETY**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

**AS AT 31 JANUARY 2024**

	<b>2023/24</b>			<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>BANK BALANCES</b>				
Barclays Accounts	10,575	-	10,575	32,018
Barclays Deposit	25,247	-	25,247	15,066
	<u>35,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>47,085</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>NET FUNDS</b>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>47,085</u>
Represented by:				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b> (page 5 )	<u>35,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>35,822</u>	<u>47,085</u>

Signed by the following on behalf of the Executive Committee :

Jim Storey (Chairman)

Date of approval 14 March 2024