George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust

Report and Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2021

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Notes forming part of the financial statements

Trustees

RE May (Chairman)

MJ Drake

Dr M Wace

OE Tebbs (resigned 10 June 2021)

ML Lovegrove

Mrs MAE East

S W Ricketts

Mrs D Hargreaves (appointed 7 October 2021)

Manager

Mrs F Ouzman

Principal address

The John East Centre, George Gibson Close, Exning, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7LE.

Registered charity number

1176924

Auditors

RSM UK Audit LLP, Blenheim House, Newmarket Road, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3SB.

Accountant

Andrew D Fisk ACIE, 26 Blackbourne Road, Elmswell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 9UH.

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc, 7 Cornhill, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 1BQ.

Stockbrokers

EFG Harris Allday, 33 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, B3 3JN.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out on pages 14 to 17 and comply with the charity's trust deed, the Charities Act 2011, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) effective 1 January 2019.

Structure, governance and management

A new charitable incorporated organisation (CIO), the George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust was registered on 31 January 2018 (charity registration number: 1176924), and an order to authorise the transfer of the assets of the previous unincorporated charity the George Gibson Almshouses Foundation (charity registration number: 234807) to the new CIO was obtained from the Charity Commission on 14 March 2018. The Foundation has now implemented this transfer, with effect from 1 April 2020 and will operate as the CIO from that date having transferred all the assets and liabilities of the old Foundation to the new CIO. Consequently these are the first financial statements that have been prepared for the new Foundation.

The George Gibson Almshouses Foundation was established to provide and maintain almshouses and to assist poor and old people resident in the former administrative county of West Suffolk. The Foundation was established by Trust Deed on 31 March 1959 through the generosity of the late George Gibson.

George Gibson originally transferred to the Foundation funds, primarily shareholdings in the former Atlantic Shipping and Trading Company, and later a further sum of £55,000. In line with its objectives the Foundation built George Gibson Close at Exning, consisting of 32 almshouses in the early sixties. In addition, the Newmarket Day Centre was built in 1980.

There had been no material change in the policies adopted by the old Foundation since its inception, and the trustees considered that there was a need to update the objects of the Foundation to better reflect changes in society and better provide public benefit. Consequently, the old Foundation contacted the Charity Commission with a view to revising its Trust Deed. In so doing the Foundation has modernised its objectives both geographically and generally, simplified its governance structure with trustees replacing the former governors and administrative trustees, and adopting Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status going forward.

Ultimate control of the Foundation rests with the trustees who are responsible for the day to day management of the investments and affairs of the Foundation.

The existing trustees appoint new trustees by reference to the needs of the Foundation with a view to providing the Foundation with appropriately qualified and experienced trustees for the Foundation's requirements. On appointment, the trustees are made aware of the Foundation's activities and their responsibilities through information provided and review of the Foundation's activities. Thereafter individual trustees ensure they are sufficiently trained to act as required.

The trustees meet periodically to agree strategy and areas of activity for the Foundation. Day to day management is largely undertaken by the manager in consultation with the chairman and other trustees as appropriate. The trustees and the manager are considered to be the key management personnel of the Foundation. All trustees give their time freely and received no remuneration or expenses in the year, other than as detailed in note 6 for one trustee in respect to professional services provided in accordance with the trust deed. The trustees review the salary of the manager periodically, and this is increased in accordance with their assessment of appropriate remuneration for their duties in relation to the particular circumstances of the Foundation. Details of those in office during the year are given on the contents page of this report.

It is with regret that the trustees record the death of Simon Gibson on 3 May 2021 who was former chairman and trustee of the Foundation for many years.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Objects and activities

The trustees refer to the guidance in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 on public benefit when reviewing their aims and objectives and planning their future activities.

The Foundation's objectives are for the public benefit to: relieve the need of persons resident in Newmarket and the surrounding areas (including the former administrative county of West Suffolk) who are 55 years of age or over and in need of financial support and assistance with the provision of healthcare and housing by such means as the trustees from time to time think fit, including, but not limited to, the provision of almshouse accommodation.

The Foundation aims to achieve these objectives by:

- providing accommodation in the almshouses at George Gibson Close in Exning;
- providing accommodation at a property in Persimmon Walk, Newmarket;
- supporting the work of the Newmarket Day Centre;
- monitoring the Exning Court very sheltered housing project in conjunction with Sanctuary Housing;
- making other donations to projects that fulfil the Foundation's objectives when identified.

These activities are all ongoing and the Foundation sees these as part of its strategic aims into the future, following the transfer of the assets of the previous Foundation to it on 1 April 2020.

Achievements and performance

The Foundation, under the power of its Trust Deed, has continued to finance the upkeep and maintenance of George Gibson Close. This provides a safe environment for elderly people with a manager, and has been fully occupied during the year subject to short periods of vacancy that has allowed for maintenance work as appropriate. There have been two significant refurbishments undertaken in relation to the properties this year.

The John East Centre (community room) at George Gibson Close was not used by Almshouse residents for events in the year as activities had to cease under Covid-19 secure guidance.

Given the age and comparative vulnerability of residents of the Almshouses the Foundation had particular regard to ensuring it was Covid-19 secure by taking appropriate precautions around access to George Gibson Close together with procedures for dealing with the occupants and maintenance issues where this was necessary. On no occasions did this give rise to a situation in which the Foundation was unable to fulfil its charitable objectives. No cases of the Covid-19 virus have been recorded amongst the Almshouse residents to date.

The Foundation makes a modest service charge for occupancy of the bungalows of £35 (2020:£25) per week per person, which is only a small fraction of their open market rental value. This was the first increase in service charges for very many years. In so doing needy members of the public benefit from affordable and safe accommodation.

The Foundation undertook a restructuring of its day to day operations in the previous year and a new role was established of Almshouse manager that encompassed that of the former warden and of administration going forward. This new structure is now well established and working to everyones satisfaction.

One beneficiary continued to occupy the freehold property at Persimmon Walk which was provided to her in accordance with the charitable objects of the Foundation during the year, but sadly the beneficiary died after the year end and the trustees have now sold this property.

In addition charitable support has been provided to the Newmarket Day Centre which works with retired and frail older people to enable them to have and enjoy a better quality of life, for its ongoing general operation.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Achievements and performance (continued)

As a part of this continued support the trustees agreed to fund the replacement of the Day Centre's conservatory (Orangery) and work in respect to this was ongoing at the year end. Subsequent to the year end this was completed and is now in use.

The trustees in conjunction with Sanctuary Housing have developed Exning Court as a very sheltered housing project for the elderly at Cotton End Road, Exning. The Foundation continues to be involved in overseeing Exning Court's performance under the terms of the donations made to it when it was established.

The funds raised by the Foundation have continued to be either invested for future use or applied for the furtherance of the Foundation's objects, and investment performance is detailed below.

In carrying out its activities the Foundation believes that it is providing a real public benefit by the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or other disadvantage. Despite its geographical restrictions and the limited number of bungalows available at George Gibson Close, the Foundation provides for a large section of the public, and the trustees seek to identify those most appropriate to receive that benefit.

As otherwise referred to in this report the Foundation has now concluded the transfer of its activities to a new CIO with effect from 1 April 2020, which is taking forward those activities with amended but broadly similar objectives into the future, under a simplified governance structure as agreed with the Charity Commission.

Financial review

Total income is significantly reduced when compared to last year at £379,986 (2020: £420,348).

Investment income from stock market holdings decreased significantly to £278,626 (2020: £345,690) as a consequence of market factors. The investment property continues to generate a notional rental income of £9,540 (2020: £8,070) having been occupied by the former warden as a part of her redundancy package.

Service charge income has increased significantly compared to last year at £91,761 (2020: £65,929) largely as a consequence of an increase in the rate of service charges from £25 per person per week to £35. This was the first increase in service charges for very many years. All bungalows have been occupied during the year subject to short periods following changes of occupants and to facilitate necessary refurbishments.

Total expenditure has decreased slightly this year to £451,037 (2020: £475,095).

Most significantly this was in respect to the Almshouses at George Gibson Close where expenditure decreased to £379,220 (2020: £401,164). This was mostly attributable to the reorganisation of the Foundation's operational structure in the previous year, which resulted in the redundancy of the former warden and a consolidation of those duties with the former clerk to the trustees, as a manager. As a consequence the warden's salary costs (including redundancy costs) in 2020 of £55,531 were not incurred in the current year.

Almshouses maintenance expenditure has increased this year to £131,838 (2020: £119,146). This year's expenditure includes the refurbishment cost for two bungalows of £50,757 (2020: £82,997 for one bungalow and the manager's house). General repairs at £18,047 (2020: £20,994) and redecoration costs at £16,148 (2020: £15,155) were similar to last year, whilst additional costs were incurred this year in respect to the replacement of gutters of £31,342 (2020: £Nil) and the replacement of gates of £15,544 (2020: £Nil).

Whilst most other Almshouse costs were similar to last year garden, woodland and path maintenance was increased at £56,022 (2020: £38,168) due to some significant woodlands and other grounds work undertaken in the year.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Financial review (continued)

Other Almshouse expenditure has been broadly similar to the previous year with the exception of: a reduction in street lighting costs due to an overcharge for electricity last year and to repairs undertaken last year being £192 (2020: £5,182). Insurance costs increased to £17,379 (2020: £14,596) and council taxes to £40,404 (2020: £36,818) but generally costs before the allocation of support costs reduced to £295,269 (2020: £319,030).

Costs in relation to insurance and repairs, were incurred in respect to the property at Persimmon Walk of £1,103 (2020: £535) for occupancy by a former warden in their capacity as a beneficiary.

Costs in relation to charitable support of the Newmarket Day Centre was decreased compared to the previous year at £5,119 (2020: £7,071) as a consequence of the professional fees incurred this year in relation to the replacement of the conservatory at the Centre being included in the capital cost rather than as an expense (2020: £2,031).

Total support costs were slightly higher this year at £89,309 (2020: £87,375). This was largely as a consequence of increased payments to the new manager of £57,819 (2020: £43,664) following the reorganisation of the Foundation's operations; together with decreased legal and professional fees of £8,187 (2020: £27,200) as a consequence of the former warden's redundancy and particularly given the changes to the charity going forward made last year; and increased audit and accountancy costs of £19,375 (2020: £11,780) resulting from accounting for those changes.

The proportion of support costs treated as other support costs increased to £46,207 (2020: £32,790) as a consequence of the manager taking on the role of the former warden for the entire year as following the reorganisation of the Foundation's operations last year, whilst those costs treated as governance costs decreased to £43,102 (2020: £54,585) as a consequence of the reduced legal and professional fees and increased audit and accountancy costs resulting from this. Given the nature of the Foundation's activities the bulk of the total of these support cost are allocated to the Almshouses being £83,951 (2020: £82,134).

Investment management costs were incurred this year in respect to: repairs of £1,310 (2020: £4,252) to the investment property at Vincent Close and management of the investment portfolio of £58,927 (2020: £56,832) by EFG Harris Allday.

An increase of £1,890,357 (2020: £495,652 decrease) represents the movement in value of the Foundation's investment portfolio. As detailed below in the Foundation's investment policy and performance this largely resulted from the impact that the Covid-19 virus pandemic had on stock markets.

This results in an overall net inward movement of funds of £1,819,306 (2020: £550,399 outward) for the year.

The Foundation continues to hold the majority of its net assets in fixed asset investments which amounted to a total of £10,744,167 (2020: £8,911,822) at the year end as detailed below.

The fixed assets of the Foundation are held for the charitable purposes of the Foundation and aside from the costs incurred to date for the replacement conservatory at the Newmarket Day Centre of £66,256 have shown no significant changes in the past year aside from normal depreciation being £1,393,779 (2020:£1,346,099).

Together with net current assets after provisions for liabilities of £87,525 (2020: £148,244) total funds of the charity at the year end were £12,225,471 (2020: £10,406,165).

The Foundation would anticipate its activities and financial performance to be broadly similar in future years given its ongoing commitments, aside from the exceptional expenditure referred to above. The biggest single risk factor therein is investment performance as discussed below.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Financial review (continued)

Reserves policy

Total funds at the year end were £12,225,471 (2020: £10,406,165). As detailed in note 13 to these financial statements the Foundation has designated funds equivalent to the value of tangible fixed assets and investments to create reserve funds to provide a basis for the provision of those assets, and generation of investment income to further its charitable objectives.

In so doing the trustees recognise that the level of the Designated Capital Fund reserve may fluctuate somewhat, especially due to market factors as discussed below, but that these fluctuations are reasonable in the circumstances, and are likely to be mitigated in the longer term.

Levels of annual income and expenditure in recent years have been such that additional funds have been added to total reserves, principally in the form of additional investments. Some of these funds have been utilised to fund the building of the new community room and office, the John East Centre, in 2017. Consequently funds previously designated within the Designated Capital Fund, and utilised for this purpose, have now become a part of the Designated Charitable Fixed Asset Fund.

It is the Foundation's policy to aim to cover each year's total expenditure from income generated, although this has not been achieved in either of the past two years. In the current year a fall in investment income combined with significant ongoing maintenance expenditure have contributed to a deficit of £71,051. In the previous year the additional costs associated with the redundancy of the former warden, and professional fees in connection with this and the future of the Foundation contributed to a deficit of £54,747. In both years these were exceptional factors and it is anticipated that broadly similar levels of income and expenditure to those of recent years will result in positive annual net income before investment gains and losses in future years.

There are no restricted funds held by the Foundation.

Investment policy and performance

The trustees have the power to invest in such assets as they see fit. The Foundation holds a large portfolio of investments that have continued to produce the majority of its income from dividends and interest. Investment income from these sources was £278,680 (2020: £346,344) in the year.

A freehold investment property is also let to provide additional investment rental income of £9,540 (2020: £8,070). This has been re-valued at the year-end by the trustees at £226,800, a gain of £20,800 on last year's value.

The trustees, through an investment manager (EFG Harris Allday), manage stock market investments on an unconstrained "Managed Discretionary" basis on a higher risk approach aimed at achieving balanced returns. There have been a number of changes in investments during the year as the trustees seek to maximise investment income whilst maintaining market value.

The fall in interest rates during recent years has led to a significant reduction in the income from this source and the trustees have invested funds previously held on deposit into the stock market where a better return is anticipated.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Financial review (continued)

Investment policy and performance (continued)

The Foundation manages these risks by retaining expert advisors and in consultation with them operating a policy that provides a high degree of diversification of holdings within investment classes that are quoted on recognised stock exchanges. Consequently, there is a very low risk to liquidity. The Foundation principally holds its investment portfolio with a view to maintaining a balanced return and as such would expect short term volatility will be corrected in the longer term.

The stock market investment portfolio gave rise to significant investment gains of £1,869,557 (2020: losses of £499,852) during the year, which is indicative of this policy and general market factors at the year end. In particular this was as a consequence of market reactions to the Covid-19 Pandemic at the previous year end and the subsequent stock market recovery by this year end.

Grant making policy

The trustees make grants to third parties in accordance with the charitable objectives of the Foundation. No grants were made in the current or previous year.

Risk management

The trustees actively review the major risks which the Foundation faces on a regular basis and believe that such reviews of the Foundation's activities and financial performance, together with the established systems in place, are sufficient to mitigate significant risks.

In particular, the trustees monitor all aspects of health and safety, fire, and risks generally appropriate to their charitable activities. The provision of the Almshouses to elderly beneficiaries gives rise to particular risks that the trustees seek to address through the: provision of an on-site Manager, the Medequip Monitoring and Response System that gives each resident an emergency pendant, and the ongoing maintenance of all bungalows and grounds to a very high standard, and in accordance with all appropriate standards and regulations.

The trustees have also considered the impact of the Covid-19 virus on their activities and believe they have taken appropriate additional measures to ensure that the Foundation is Covid-19 secure. The trustees are pleased to report that there have been no cases of Covid-19 on the Almshouses site.

Financial risks are covered by appropriate insurance and the employment of professional advisors as appropriate. The most significant financial risk surrounds investments which are covered as detailed above. In connection with this and the potential impact of the Covid-19 virus, the Foundation believes that their use of experienced professional advisors is the most appropriate way to limit any potential impact on investment income that may stem from the economic impact of the virus on investment returns.

Whilst the Foundation ordinarily relies upon its investment income to fund its activities year on year, it does hold significant reserves should these be required to assist in maintaining ongoing activities.

The trustees have met virtually when appropriate given the Covid-19 virus to ensure appropriate governance of the charity is maintained, and most fortunately the presence of an on-site manager and office has allowed the Foundation to operate largely as before despite the impact of the Covid-19 virus.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Financial review (continued)

Going concern

The trustees have not identified any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees consider that the Foundation has more than adequate resources to fund its activities into the future.

The trustees have also considered the impact of the Covid-19 virus on the going concern basis and as is detailed in this report do not believe that the control measures or duration of those measures have or will impact, at present time, in a manner that would require any adjustments as a consequence.

Plans for future periods

The Foundation aims to continue its support of all existing projects into the future given the nature of its objectives. These require long-term provision and continued investment in the assets to provide these. The Foundation will also continue to consider areas of support appropriate to its objectives.

Specifically this will see the completion of the replacement conservatory (Orangery) at the Newmarket Day Centre. Building works in this respect were ongoing at the Foundation's year end.

The Foundation will also continue its current programme of replacing all gutters and associated materials on the George Gibson Almshouses bungalows that were started in the past year in addition to the usual pattern of maintenance and refurbishment as circumstances dictate.

The trustees will consider the possibility of building some one bedroom properties at George Gibson Close as there is an increasing number of applications from single people.

The property owned by the Foundation at Persimmon Walk and occupied by a former warden as a beneficiary of the charity has been sold following the death of the occupant.

The Foundation whilst being mindful of the ongoing implications of the Covid-19 virus control measures and the potential duration of those control measures, does not believe that this should fundamentally impact upon its ability to continue to undertake its operations in future periods at the present time.

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

Statement of responsibilities of the Trustees

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed
 and explained in the financial statements; and prepare the financial statements on the going concern
 basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Michael : Julie

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf on 25 January 2022

RE May Chairman MJ Drake
Trustee

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, Cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We have been appointed as auditors under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report of the Trustees other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Report of the Trustees. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust (Continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the Trustees' Report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' responsibilities set out on page 8, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust (Continued)

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- the charity operate in and how the charity is complying with the legal and regulatory framework;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Charities SORP (FRS 102), Charities Act 2011 and the charity's governing document. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing the financial statements including the Trustees' Report and remaining alert to new or unusual transactions which may not be in accordance with the governing documents.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls as the area where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing any manual journal entries and other adjustments, and evaluating the business rationale in relation to any significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging any judgments and estimates.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is provided on the Financial Reporting Council's website at http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees as a body, in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSH UK AUCUL LUP

RSM UK Audit LLP
Claire Sutherland
Chartered Accountants
Blenheim House
Newmarket Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP33 3SB
Date 31 January 2022

RSM UK Audit LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	fu	ed and total nds 021	Unrestricte fur 20	nds
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Investments - Equity holdings - Bank deposit interest - Rents receivable Charitable activities			278,626 54 9,540		345,690 654 8,070
- Service charges Other			91,761		65,929
- Wayleaves receivable			5		5
Total income			379,986		420,348
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds Investment management costs – Vincent Close – Equity holdings			1,310 58,927		4,252 56,832
Charitable activities Activities undertaken directly: - George Gibson Close – Almshouses - Persimmon Walk	2	379,220	60,237	401,164	61,084
- Newmarket Day Centre - Exning Court		2,889 6,905 1,786		2,282 8,818 1,747	
Total expenditure			390,800 451,037		414,011
Net gains/(losses) on investments	8		1,890,357		(495,652)
Net movement in funds			1,819,306		(550,399)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward			10,406,165		10,956,564
Total funds carried forward	13		12,225,471		10,406,165

The Foundation has no recognised gains or losses other than those shown above in either 2020 or 2021. All amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 14 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet at 31 March 2021

	Note		2021		2020
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets:		ı.	L	L	L
Tangible assets Investments	7 8		1,393,779 10,744,167		1,346,099 8,911,822
Total fixed assets			12,137,946		10,257,921
Current assets:					
Debtors Cash at bank	9	82,903 101,262		58,852 145,076	
Total current assets		184,165		203,928	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	81,535		31,039	
Net current assets			102,630		172,889
Total assets less current liabilities			12,240,576		10,430,810
Provisions for liabilities	11		(15,105)		(24,645)
Total net assets	12		12,225,471		10,406,165
The funds of the charity:					
Unrestricted funds - Designated charitable fixed assets fund - Designated capital fund - General fund	13		1,393,779 10,744,167 87,525		1,346,099 8,911,822 148,244
Total charity funds			12,225,471		10,406,165

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 25 January 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

RE May Chairman

d

Michael V. Greeke.

MJ Drake Trustee

Trustee

The notes on pages 14 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

(a) Basis of accounting and assessment of going concern

The financial statements (accounts) have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), and the Charities Act 2011.

The George Gibson Almshouses Foundation Trust is a charitable incorporated organisation domiciled and registered in England, which constitutes a Public Benefit entity as defined by FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

As noted on page 1 the charity has taken on the trade and assets of the George Gibson Almshouses Foundation (charity registration 234807) an unincorporated charity with effect from 1 April 2020 as a new charitable incorporated organisation, in accordance with an order obtained from the Charity Commission. Although the charity has changed its legal form, the purposes and beneficiaries remain substantially unchanged. Consequently in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 have been prepared in accordance with the merger method of accounting and these accounts show the whole of the results, assets, liabilities and funds of the merged charities, regardless of the actual merger date.

No additional disclosure of the pre and post merger components of the Statement of Financial Activities has been made in these financial statements, given that nothing has fundamentally changed as a result of the merger, the only change being the legal form of the charity. The amounts shown in the financial statements for the current year relate entirely to the new charity including the balances transferred on 1 April 2020, and the comparative amounts for the previous year relate entirely to the old charity. No adjustments to net assets arose as a consequence of the transfer. These financial statements have consequently been prepared on a going concern basis.

In forming their conclusion in respect of going concern, the trustees have considered the financial position of the charity, including the level of free reserves, the level of the investment portfolio and the budget to 31 March 2023. The charity has net current assets of £102,630 and further cash deposits within the investment portfolio of £147,132 at 31 March 2021. In addition, the investment portfolio holds significant assets that could be realised should additional funds be required. As a consequence, the trustees believe the charity is well placed to manage its business risks and there are no material uncertainties in relation to going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

(b) Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Equity income is recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend receivable from the investment manager.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

(b) Income recognition (continued)

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably, this is normally upon notification of the interest payable or paid by the bank.

Rents receivable are recognised when receivable by reference to occupancy of the investment property.

Service charge income is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity, by reference to current occupancy levels of the Almshouses.

(c) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to note (e) below

(d) Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(e) Allocation of support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit, and legal and professional fees together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Support costs including governance costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on an estimation of staff and trustee time spent on each area of charitable activity. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 3.

(f) Costs of raising funds

Costs of raising funds relate to investment management costs associated with the freehold investment property and equity holdings, which are held to generate investment income.

(g) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities include grants, the cost of activities undertaken directly, and support costs including governance costs as detailed in note 2.

(h) Taxation

The Foundation, as a registered charity, is not considered liable for assessment to tax on its results.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

(i) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All assets costing more than £500 are capitalised. Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold property (with the exception of the John East Centre) at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual values, of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

Freehold property – John East Centre - 50 years
Leasehold property – Newmarket Day Centre - 99 years
Motor vehicle - 4 years
Garden machinery - 5 years
Office & Centre equipment - 5 years

No depreciation charge is made in respect of freehold property (with the exception of the John East Centre), as in the opinion of the trustees the residual value of the properties exceeds cost. The trustees conduct an impairment review annually, and have concluded that the estimated residual value of the properties exceeds the book value. Leasehold property includes assets in the course of construction, which are not depreciated as they are not yet in use.

(j) Fixed asset investments

Investments excluding investment properties and cash deposits, are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year.

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost, including any directly attributable expenses. Subsequently investment properties are carried at their fair value at each reporting date, with changes in valuation accounted for through the Statement of Financial Activity. Cash deposits held as investments are stated at cost.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

(k) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year.

Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(l) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised and the settlement due after any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

1 Accounting policies (Continued)

(m) Cash at bank

Cash at bank includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account

(n) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(o) Financial instruments

The charity holds financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

The charity also holds financial assets measured at fair value through the Statement of Financial Activity- see detail of these assets in point (j).

(p) Funds

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements together with details of transfers between funds.

2 Analysis of charitable expenditure

	George Gibson Close	Persim- -mon Walk	Newmar - ket Day Centre	Exning Court	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff costs	-	-	-	-	-	55,531
Property and maintenance	275,779	1,103	2,724	-	279,606	252,185
Depreciation	19,490	-	2,395		21,885	18,920
Support and governance costs	83,951	1,786	1,786	1,786	89,309	87,375
Total	379,220	2,889	6,905	1,786	390,800	414,011

The Foundation undertook direct charitable activities through the operation of the Almshouses at George Gibson Close and a property at Persimmon Walk. In addition, it provided support to the Newmarket Day Centre for the elderly, and the Exning Court sheltered housing project in the year. No other charitable donations were made in the year.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

3 Allocation of	support	costs
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Support cost	Other Support Costs £	Governance Costs	Total Allocated 2021 £	Total Allocated 2020 £
Staff costs	43,364	14,455	57,819	43,664
PPS, IT, telephone & office costs	2,216	738	2,954	2,854
Depreciation of office equipment	627	209	836	1,196
Audit and accountancy - audit	-	11,725	11,725	5,405
- other costs	-	7,650	7,650	6,375
Legal and professional fees	-	8,187	8,187	27,200
Trustee meeting & sundry costs		138	138	681
	46,207	43,102	89,309	87,375

Other support costs are allocated on the basis of an estimate of staff time consistent with the use of resources. Total support costs are then allocated to charitable activities based on an estimate of time spent on each charitable activity as follows:

		2021 £	2020 £
	The George Gibson Almshouses 94% (2020: 94%)	83,951	82,134
	Persimmon Walk 2% (2020: 2%)	1,786	1,747
	Newmarket Day Centre 2% (2020: 2%)	1,786	1,747
	Exning Court 2% (2020: 2%)	1,786	1,747
	Total allocated	89,309	87,375
4	Employment costs	2021	2020
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	50,542	93,365
	Social security costs	5,761	4,487
	Other pension costs	1,516	1,343
		57,819	99,195

The Foundation had one (2020: two) employees, with all employee time involved in providing either support to charitable activities or the governance of the Foundation. During the course of the previous year the Foundation's warden was made redundant and all duties are now performed by the manager. Costs of £Nil (2020: £48,620) associated with the redundancy are included above. The Foundation considers that its key management personnel comprise the trustees and the manager, who deals with the day to day management of the Foundation. Total employment benefits paid to the manager in the year amounted to £57,819 (2020: £43,664).

5 Auditor's remuneration

The auditor's remuneration constituted an audit fee of £9,000 (2020:£4,500).

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

6 Related party transactions and trustees' expenses and remuneration

During the year professional fees of £8,187 (2020: £16,712) were paid to Edmondson Hall Solicitors, of which MJ Drake was a consultant. At the year end £1,820 (2020: £1,388) was outstanding. There were no other related party transactions with any trustees in either year. No other trustee received any remuneration or had any expenses reimbursed in either year.

7 Tangible fixed assets

Freehold property	Leasehold property	Garden machinery	Office & Centre equipment	Total
£	£	£	£	£
1,235,967	237,168	19,607	16,545	1,509,287
-	66,256	4,332	2,859	73,447
1,235,967	303,424	23,939	19,404	1,582,734
60,266	75,929	19,126	7,867	163,188
18,384	2,395	1,106	3,882	25,767
78,650	78,324	20,232	11,749	188,955
4 455 045	205 100	0.505		1 202 550
1,157,317	225,100	3,707	7,055	1,393,779
1 175 701	161 239	481	8.678	1,346,099
1,173,701	.0.,237			.,510,077
	1,235,967 1,235,967 60,266 18,384	f f f f f f f f f f f f f f f f f f f	property property machinery £ £ £ 1,235,967 237,168 19,607 66,256 4,332 1,235,967 303,424 23,939 60,266 75,929 19,126 18,384 2,395 1,106 78,650 78,324 20,232 1,157,317 225,100 3,707	property property machinery & Centre equipment £ £ £ £ 1,235,967 237,168 19,607 16,545 2,859 16,545 2,859 1,235,967 303,424 23,939 19,404 60,266 75,929 19,126 7,867 1,106 3,882 3,882 78,650 78,324 20,232 11,749 11,749 1,157,317 225,100 3,707 7,655

Leasehold property includes assets in the course of construction of £66,256 (2020: £Nil) which are not depreciated as they are not yet in use.

8 Fixed asset investments

Market value	Freehold investment property £	UK listed equity investments	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
At 1 April 2020 Additions Disposal proceeds Reclassified as cash at bank Revaluation/net investment	206,000	8,705,822 1,519,235 (1,577,247)	8,911,822 1,519,235 (1,577,247)	
gains/(losses)	20,800	1,869,557	1,890,357	(495,652)
At 31 March 2021	226,800	10,517,367	10,744,167	8,911,822
Cost at 31 March 2021	158,178	9,344,252	9,502,430	8,935,614

The freehold investment property in Vincent Close, Newmarket has been re-valued by the trustees at the year end by reference to housing price indices, and believe that a reasonable estimate of the fair value for the freehold investment property at 31 March 2021 is now £226,800.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

8 Fixed asset investments (Continued)

All listed investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange. The basis for fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to market value, using the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their market value).

The significance of financial instruments on the ongoing financial sustainability of the Foundation is considered in the financial review and investment policy and performance sections of the trustees' annual report.

The main risk to the Foundation from financial instruments lies in a combination of uncertain markets and volatility of equity income. The Foundation manages these risks by retaining expert advisors and operating a policy that provides a high degree of diversification of holdings within investment classes that are quoted on recognised stock exchanges. Consequently, there is a very low risk to liquidity. The Foundation also principally holds its investment portfolio with a view to maintaining a balanced return and as such would expect short term volatility will be corrected in the longer term.

9 Debtors

,	Debtors		
		2021 £	2020 £
	Other debtors Prepayments and accrued income	12,659 70,244	31,760 27,092
		82,903	58,852
10	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
		2021 £	2020 £
	Trade creditors	6,421 2,299	4,822
	Other taxes and social security Accruals and deferred income	72,815	1,566 24,651
		81,535	31,039
11	Provisions for liabilities		
		2021 £	2020 £
	Balance at 1 April 2020	24,645	-
	Provision in the year Charged in the year	(9,540)	28,620 (3,975)
	Balance at 31 March 2021	15,105	24,645

A licence to occupy the Foundation's investment property for a maximum period of three years rent free was granted in 2020 and a provision based on the estimated rental value of the property was made which will be released across that period of three years or until such time as the arrangement ceases.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

12 Analysis of net	assets	between	funds
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Current year	Designated charitable fixed assets fund	Designated capital fund £	General fund £	Total Funds 2021
Tangible assets Investments Net current assets Provisions for liabilities	1,393,779	10,744,167	102,630 (15,105) ————————————————————————————————————	1,393,779 10,744,167 102,630 (15,105) 12,225,471
Prior year	Designated charitable fixed assets fund £	Designated capital fund	General fund £	Total Funds 2020 £
Tangible assets Investments Net current assets Provisions for liabilities	1,346,099 - - -	8,911,822	172,889 (24,645)	1,346,099 8,911,822 172,889 (24,645)
	1,346,099	8,911,822	148,244	10,406,165

13 Unrestricted funds

Current year	Designated charitable fixed asset fund	Designated capital fund	General fund £	Total 2021 £
Balance at 1 April 2020	1,346,099	8,911,822	148,244	10,406,165
Net movement in funds	-	-	1,819,306	1,819,306
Transfers between funds	47,680	1,832,345	(1,880,025)	-
Balance at 31 March 2021	1,393,779	10,744,167	87,525	12,225,471

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (Continued)

13 Unrestricted funds (Continued)

Prior year	Designated charitable fixed asset fund £	Designated capital fund £	General fund £	Total 2020 £
Balance at 1 April 2019 Net movement in funds	1,366,143	9,472,444	117,977 (550,399)	10,956,564 (550,399)
Transfers between funds	(20,044)	(560,622)	580,666	-
Balance at 31 March 2020	1,346,099	8,911,822	148,244	10,406,165

The Foundation has two designated funds as follows:

- Designated charitable fixed assets fund to represent the net book value of tangible fixed assets. In each year an amount is transferred to or from the fund representing the movement in net book value of tangible fixed assets in the year.
- Designated capital fund to represent the value of investments held by the Foundation to provide investment income to fund its charitable objectives. In each year an amount is transferred to or from the fund representing the movement in value of investments in the year.

14 Financial Instruments

The carrying amounts of the Charity's financial instruments at 31 March were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Financial assets: Instruments measured at fair value through the SOFA	10,370,235	8,492,340

15 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised and contracted for but not provided in these financial statements, in relation to the replacement of the conservatory at the Newmarket Day Centre and associated works, amounts to £40,965 (2020: £Nil).