

Trustees' annual report for the period

from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

Reference and administrative details

Charity name	Peak and Northern Footpaths Society
Other names charity is known by	PNFS
Registered charity number	212219
Charity principal address	Taylor House 23 Turncroft Lane Stockport SK1 4AB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the society

Trustee name	Office (if any)
David Hurrell	Chairman
Gavin Miller	
Paul Easthope	Treasurer
David Brown	Secretary
David Morton	
Mel Bale	
David Gosling	
Jenny Allen	(Appointed 4 March 2018)

Names and addresses of advisors

Bank	Cooperative Bank, PO Box 250, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT
Direct debits	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4TA
Financial advisor	Gideon Foster at Charles Stanley, 6 th Floor, Sunlight House, Quay Street, Manchester, M3 3JZ

Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document	Constitution adopted 04 April 2018
How the charity is constituted	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection method	Trustees are elected or reappointed at the AGM in April

Additional governance issues

The Society is a statutory consultee on all proposed changes to public rights of way in our area, which comprises the ceremonial counties of Lancashire (south of the River Kent), Cheshire, West Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Staffordshire.

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document

- a) Creating, preserving and improving open spaces, public access rights and rights of way (other than for mechanically propelled vehicles); particularly in Cheshire, Derbyshire, Lancashire and Staffordshire, the former Metropolitan Counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South and West Yorkshire and in Blackburn & Darwen, Blackpool, Derby, Halton, Stoke-on-Trent and Warrington
- b) Preventing the abuse of such rights
- c) Monitoring, supporting and opposing proposals and orders for the creation, closure, diversion and regrading of public rights of way
- d) Erecting and maintaining direction posts, signs, footbridges and commemorative and other structures which improve access

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects

- Scrutinising proposals to modify the public right of way network in our area
- Arranging a programme of inspection for that network
- Taking legal action to deal with faults on that network
- Funding improvements to that network
- Erecting signposts
- Funding footbridges

Additional details of objectives and activities

We are grateful for the many hours volunteers have spent working, both inside and outside. Without these volunteers the Society would be unable to function.

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As statutory consultees we have examined 148 public paths orders and dealt with 145 consultations, 6 public space protection orders, 7 objections and 171 other matters.

We have 112 Inspectors covering 522 parishes (up from 330 in 2013). They inspect the footpaths in their parishes under the guidance of 9 Area Officers and have discovered 2,009 faults. Only 17% of these have been resolved, largely because financial cutbacks mean that local authorities rarely have the manpower to deal with them all.

But we do not hesitate to be robust about dangerous or persistent faults and our 6 Courts and Inquiries Officers (C&IOs) have been authorised on 22 occasions to serve notice (under s56 or s130A of the Highways Act) on highway authorities. We always precede serving the notice with sending a letter before action. This often prompts them to repair the fault without our needing recourse to serving the order.

The Society has been involved in a number of cases to claim paths on behalf of the walking public where the route is not recorded on the definitive map (DMMOs). This involves extensive work in collecting both verbal and historic evidence and in one case we have instructed counsel to present our case

26 new signposts have been erected throughout our area. Twelve of these have been privately funded. The programme of inspecting and maintaining each signpost every three years remains on track. A few vandalised signposts have been repaired or replaced.

Two footbridges and boardwalks have been funded by the Society at a cost of £4,586. We hand these over to the appropriate highway authority as we are unable to guarantee to maintain them in perpetuity. Highway authorities seem to be increasingly reluctant to take ownership of bridges.

Financial review

Brief statement of the Society's policy on reserves

Our balance sheet at year end 2018 was £426,952, held in a combination of cash, investments and fixed assets (our office building, computer equipment, furniture and fittings).

Within this figure we have restricted funds of £62,510 and fixed assets of £60,654. We maintain a contingency fund of £10,000 for repairs to the aging office building and have ring-fenced legacy funds of £104,598.

This leaves a reserve of £189,190. We look to maintain our reserves at between £154,500 and £206,000. These figures are reviewed annually and increased in line with RPI.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details

Our main sources of income are subscriptions (gift aided where possible); dividends from investments; donations; and legacies. Since donations and legacies are sporadic and not guaranteed, we strive successfully to meet our day-to-day running costs from subscriptions and dividends and use other income to fund our programmes.

Since we are an unincorporated charity, we have vested title to our office building with the Official Custodian for Charities. The building is valued in the accounts at its purchase price rather than its current market value.

Other optional information

Future plans

We are attempting to widen the demographic of the Society, which is currently dominated by retired people. We are attempting to reach out to universities, Duke of Edinburgh award groups and other younger people.

The right to fund improvements to the public rights of way network was only approved at the AGM in April. We intend to make this a major part of our work in the future.

We will continue instigating DMMOs and anticipate taking some of the current applications to public inquiry.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees.

Name	<u>David C Brown</u>
Position	<u>Honorary Secretary</u>
Date	<u>06 March 2019</u>





Peak & Northern Footpaths Society

No 212219

Receipts and payments accounts

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For the period
from

01/01/2018 to 31/12/2018

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts				
Subscriptions	12,461		12,461	12,580
Affiliations	1,662		1,662	1,714
Legacies, bequests	40,182		40,182	54,912
A members restricted donation	0		0	50,010
Donations general	9,460		9,460	9,387
Donations signposts & footbridges		3,993	3,993	3,201
Gift Aid tax	3,613		3,613	16,421
Interest/Dividends	10,587		10,587	8,686
Miscellaneous	105		105	0
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	78,070	3,993	82,063	156,911
A2 Asset and investment sales				
John Laing Infrastructure	10,331		10,331	1,227
			0	0
Sub total	10,331	0	10,331	1,227
Total receipts	88,401	3,993	92,394	158,138
A3 Payments				
Taylor House running costs	4,501		4,501	5,366
Signpost & Footbridges	9,122	3,993	13,115	7,159
Travel & Subsistence	6,762		6,762	7,145
Printing, Copying, newsletter	5,177		5,177	4,882
Postage Telephone Stationary	3,059		3,059	3,047
Computer, Software & maintenance	2,858		2,858	3,021
Functions / Fundraising costs	1,285		1,285	1,163
Insurance	1,363		1,363	1,381
Subscriptions, Donations, Training	1,098		1,098	297
Commemorative projects, structures	181		181	1,605
Legal Professional & Secretarial	4,040	1,500	5,540	3,000
Sundries	120		120	281
Sub total	39,566	5,493	45,059	38,347
P & L SURPLUS			37,004	118,564
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)				
		0	0	39,280
	0	0	0	
Sub total	0	0	0	39,280
Total payments	39,566	5,493	45,059	77,627
Net of receipts/(payments)	48,835	-1,500	47,335	80,511
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	118,848	62,510	181,358	100,847
Cash funds this year end	167,683	61,010	228,693	181,358

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Savings accounts	219,960	61,010
			0
	Current accounts & petty cash	8,733	0
	Total cash funds	228,693	61,010
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK

	Details	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Government stocks		19,127
	Corporate bonds		67,153
	Equities		29,375
	Inv.trusts,pref shares,ETF funds		44,689
	TOTAL	0	160,344

	Details	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Taylor House building	60,153	
	Computer Equipment	13,458	
	Furniture fittings & other	4,351	
	P A sound system	1,509	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print name	Date of approval
	P Easthope	04/02/2019
	D C Brown	04/02/2019

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Peak and Northern Footpaths Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Peak and Northern Footpaths Society (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Elizabeth Hudson ACA
30 Howey Lane, Congleton CW12 4AE
7th March 2019