

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date: **18 July 2023**

Report By: **Chief Operating Officer**

Title of Report: **Ashdown Forest Trust Fund**

Purpose of Report: **To inform Cabinet of the movements on the Trust Fund during 2022/23 and the closing position as at 31 March 2023.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1). Cabinet is recommended to note the report and the Ashdown Forest's Trust Income and Expenditure Account for 2023/23 and Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023.
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1. Background

- 1.1. The Ashdown Forest Trust, a registered charity, was set out by declaration of Trust in 1988. East Sussex County Council is the trustee and agrees grants made to the Ashdown Forest Conservators, from the Ashdown Forest Trust Fund.

2. Supporting Information

2021/22 Accounts

- 2.1. Subsequent to the 2021/22 accounts being approved, the independent Examination process has now been completed in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011.
- 2.2. The Examiner's report is attached as Appendix A. It does not identify any issues that require any further action by the Council as the trustees.

2022/23 Accounts

- 2.3. The Trust's Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are set out in the attached Appendix B. The Income and Expenditure Account shows a surplus in 2022/23 of £5,019.
- 2.4. The main sources of income to the Trust are rental income from the Royal Ashdown Golf Club at £70,000 per annum and bank interest, which has seen a significant increase, reflecting the rise in base rates.
- 2.5. The expenditure primarily relates to the £65,100 grant paid to the Ashdown Forest Conservators, with remaining expenditure being audit fees.
- 2.6. The accumulative General Reserve totalled £172,088 at 31 March 2023.
- 2.7. A formal annual report and statement of accounts will be compiled in accordance with the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) by the end of January 2024, once the Independent Examiner report has been received.

3. Conclusion and Recommendation

- 3.1. The trust made an operating surplus of £5,019 during 2022/23. The General Reserve as at 31 March 2023 amounts to £172,088. This fund is available to finance expenditure which meets the Trust's objectives.
- 3.2. Cabinet is recommended to note the final accounts for the Ashdown Forest Trust.

ROS PARKER
Chief Operating Officer

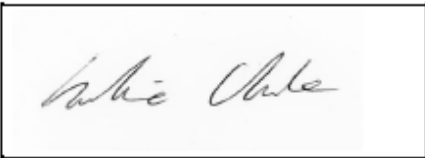
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LOCAL MEMBERS
Galley, Howell, Lunn & Georgia Taylor



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A		Independent Examiner's Report	
Report to the trustees/ members of	Charity Name ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST		
On accounts for the year ended	31 st March 2022	Charity no (if any)	800437
Set out on pages	1-22		
	I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2022.		
Responsibilities and basis of report	As the charity's trustees, 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 Trust'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	<p>I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination. <p>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.</p> <p><i>* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.</i></p>		
Signed:		Date:	26/1/2023
Name:	Caroline Clarke		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACA		

Address: 99 Western Road

Lewes

BN7 1RS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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ASHDOWN FOREST TRUST

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended
31 March 2023

2021/22	Income	2022/23
£		£
(70,000)	Rent of Golf Course	(70,000)
(16)	Bank Interest	(659)
(70,016)		(70,659)
	Less Expenditure	
65,100	Conservators of Ashdown Forest - Grants	65,100
540	Fees	540
(4,376)	(Surplus)/Deficit	(5,019)

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

2021/22		2022/23
£		£
1,200,000	Fixed Assets: Land and Buildings	1,200,000
	Current Assets:	
167,709	Cash at Bank	172,728
	Current Liabilities:	
(540)	Sundry creditors	(540)
1,367,169		1,372,188
	Representing:	
	Reserves:	
1,200,100	Endowment Fund	1,200,100
167,069	General Reserve	172,088
1,367,169		1,372,188