

2025 - 2026 Annual General Meeting of Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust 27th April 2026, 7 pm

Draft Approval for
Public Circulation

Held – The Victoria, Union Rd, Lincoln

Present: Trustees; Phil Cragg (Chair), Richard Bayles (Treasurer), Alison Griffiths
Penny Toone, David Royle, Mel Marsh.
+ 6 members of the public (see list page 2)

		ACTION
1	Apologies	
	S. Carson	
2	Previous Minutes	
	2024/2025 AGM Minutes (held 14 th April 2025) were approved as a true record. Proposed: A Griffiths, Seconded: D Royle	
3	Matters Arising	
	None	
4	Chairman’s Report	
	Overview of year – P Cragg gave an overview of the 25/26 year (Copy Attached, page 3) – No questions/issues raised	
5	Treasures Report	
	R Bayles presented the 2025-2026 end of year accounts. No objections raised. He then set out the 2026 – 2027 proposed spend and an analysis of the financial risks (Copy Attached, page 5).	
	Financial summary document will be added to the park’s web site once the provisional minutes have been approved. No questions/issues raised	RB
6	Volunteer Report	
	A Griffiths presented the report (Copy Attached, page 8). No questions/issues raised	
7	A.O.B / Discussion	
	M. Marsh gave updates on two planned events; 1) The “Wonderland Event” is mainly in the city but they have proposed some events in the park. Exact details aren’t known yet.	

	<p>2) Open Day planned for Sunday 28th June 11:00 to 15:00. Generally coming together well now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J Welsh offered to hold a writing workshop. To contact Mel with details 							
	<p>J Welsh asked about park cameras. Currently just have the one but trustees will discuss potentially adding to this.</p> <p>Previous discussion with council/residents regarding cameras has ended and there will be no cameras on or near the park.</p>	Trustees						
8	Meeting Closed approx. 7:45 PM							
9	List of Public Attendees.							
	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">David Willows</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Paul Griffiths</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Welsh</td> <td>Emma Krasinska</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Fisher</td> <td>Frances Carson</td> </tr> </table>	David Willows	Paul Griffiths	John Welsh	Emma Krasinska	David Fisher	Frances Carson	
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RB 29/4/26

Chairman's Report – AGM 2026

There is no doubt that it seems like only yesterday since we held our last AGM in April last year. They say that years come around quicker as you get older; I prefer to say that time flies when you are having fun.

This is my eighth AGM as Chairman. This meeting is an opportunity for us all to reflect on what a lovely resource Liquorice Park is for our community. I celebrated this AGM by walking around the park today, and I must say it is looking in top form. The sounds and colours of the birds and flowers are wonderful in spring, and we are very lucky to have this space for our enjoyment.

This past year marked the 25th anniversary of the Park, and we held a special Open Day celebration to mark the event. Yet again, the weather was kind to us, and it was great to see the event attended by so many people from our community. The Open Day was a great success, and I want to express my appreciation today for the hard work and energy that our trustee, Mel, put into its organisation.

This year saw a lot of work on the allotment; with the new beds, we are now looking forward to our first harvest of produce. The area is looking so tidy and clean. It is hard to believe that it had been so neglected for many years. We also saw the old viewing platform being demolished (like me, it had seen better days), and we now have a new platform in place for people to enjoy the wonderful vistas across the southern part of the city.

Financially, the Trust is in a very good place, thanks to the sterling efforts of our treasurer, Richard Bayles. We now have contingency funds set aside for any unexpected events, as well as solid budgets for regular expenditure. Richard is also our minutes secretary and general all-round handyman—all of which, I think, deserves a good round of applause.

As usual, I want to pay tribute to our volunteers who come out in all weathers and work to keep the park in the condition that we have come to expect and enjoy. You should all be very proud of the work you do. On behalf of the trustees, it is a big thank you from me. As ever, the volunteers are ably led by Alison, who retains that boundless energy and enthusiasm we have all come to know and appreciate. Thanks, Alison.

On a sad note, Sue Parker—the widow of Councillor Rob Parker and herself a big supporter of the Park—sadly died earlier in the year. We were pleased to agree that the memorial bench erected for Rob below the viewing platform should be rededicated to both Rob and Sue.

It is important to the trustees that we listen to views and suggestions from the wider community. Many of you speak directly to us, and we are always grateful for your comments. This year, we conducted a survey of our Facebook followers and those on the Liquorice Park mailing list. The results were very encouraging, with over 93% saying they were happy or very happy with what we are doing in the park. The survey also produced a host of suggestions and ideas, which we are really grateful

for and will be considering over the coming year. Thank you to all those who took part.

I also want to say a special thank you to one of our trustees. She is our newest (and by some distance, youngest) trustee: Mel. The work she does organising the Open Days is huge, and how she pulls it off, I don't know. What I do know is that we are all very appreciative of her efforts, all performed in a calm, measured, and organised fashion. Thanks, Mel.

Finally, I want to say thank you to everyone in the community who comes and enjoys the Park. Whether you come to listen to the birds, enjoy the colours, walk through on your way to work, or just sit on a bench and ponder, you are all welcome. Please continue to enjoy this lovely, special jewel that we have in our city centre.

Phil Cragg

Chair

27.4.26

Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust

Annual Accounts - 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026



Brought forward

Co-operative account	£4,048.30
Paypal Account	£10.00

Income

Cash Donations	£38.37
Pay Pal donations	£343.79
Siemens Energy	£1,000.00
Mystery Play Donation	£50.00
25year Community Fete Donations	£852.66
Dawber Donation	£5,000.00

Expenditure

		New Viewing Platform	£5,520.00
		Public Liability & Indemnity Insurance	£268.06
		Open Day Expenses	£138.00
		Tree Surgeon	£400.00
		Rat Bait	£23.95
		Tools & Equipment	£77.76
		Water Bill	£89.08
		Refreshments & Equipment	£101.04
		Hedging	£53.10
		Domain Renewal	£9.59
		Display Board	£92.99
Donated Item Contributions	£170.00	Donated Items Inventory	£170.00
Total Income of PayPal account	£343.79	From PayPal to main Account	£353.79

Carry Forward

Co-operative Account	£4,559.55
PayPal Account	£0.00

Totals	£11,856.91		£11,856.91
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Notes:

- Overall Income for year = £7285
- Overall outgoings for year = £6774
- Surplus / Deficit for year = -£511

Ring Fenced Monies

- £1000 for Operating contingency (in line with Charity Commission guidance).
- £2000 emergency operating pot



2025 - 2026 End of Year Financial Accounts Report

Accounts – Over the last financial year the accounts show an overall decrease in funds of £511, with the final figures being:

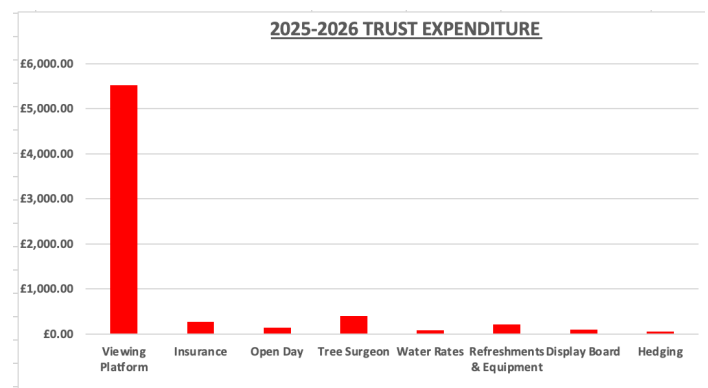
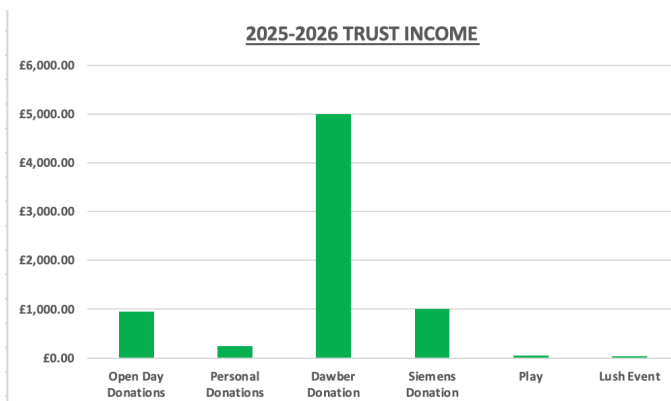
Co-op account £4560

PayPal Account £0

This shows a reasonably healthy balance for FY26/27. It should be noted that we have ring fenced £3000 for contingencies (see later).

Incomes (£7285) – The main incomes this year were £5000 from the Dawber Trust, £1000 from Siemens and £950 from the Open day, which was a great success again. We also received cash donations of £238, £50 from the Mystery Play and £40 from Lush with their Earth Day Event.

Expenses (£6774) – The main expenses were £5520 for the new Viewing Platform, £400 for a tree surgeon, £268 for Insurance cover, £212 Sundries (Tools, paint, refreshments etc), £138 for Open day expenses, £90 for water rates, £93 for a Display board and £53 for Hedging.



Donations in Kind (£170) - Non-monetary donations are recorded and added to the accounts. The total figure is shown on both sides of the accounts as Contributions and Inventory. Last year’s donations were mainly made up of Woodchip with several smaller donations (Bulbs, Tools, Petrol, and Plants).

As always, many thanks to all those contributing to the park finances, both monetary and non-monetary. Without this support we could not maintain the park.

Ring Fenced Monies (£3000) – Comprising

- £1000 ring fenced for operating reserve (see applicable heading below).
- £2000 ring fenced for possible emergency costs (tree surgeons for example). Note – Trustees added £1500 to this fund during FY25/26.



Operating Reserves - The agreed minimum amount that we should hold in the current account to cater for unforeseen circumstances is £1000. At the end of the 2025-2026 year this was achieved.

Equipment – Cost of equipment owned by the Trust is estimated to be approximately £355.

Future, Year 2026-2027, as of 1/4/2026

General

At start of year, excluding ring fenced monies we have approximately £1560 of funds for general park use. From this, if we take the planned spend into account (Insurance, water rates, repairs allocation, refreshments etc.), we currently have approximately £150 un-allocated.

Income

Grants / funding will be applied for as opportunities / needs arise.

Potential income sources:

- Planning for Open Day – provisionally Sunday 28th of June 2026.

Major Expenditure

Several major projects have been highlighted (Planned and un-planned)

- Yarborough Rd Lower Retaining wall requires replacement. Need to obtain quotations to understand the scale of what will be required – NOT FUNDED
-
- Step repairs (mainly topping up, although we are suffering water damage to the western steps). Currently £450 FUNDED

Financial Risks

- All current on-going & planned projects, excluding Yarborough Rd lower retaining wall, are all considered to be within our current financial capability and therefore low financial risk.
- Retaining Wall; Concerns over the integrity of the lower eastern end section of the Yarborough Rd boundary wall are high financial risk. Long term future expenditure therefore currently unknown and will be outside of our current financial capabilities. Expenditure would require specific fund raising. Required work pack has been created to aid quotations/fund raising.

Liquorice Park Millennium Green Trust

Volunteers Report

AGM April 2026

Alison Griffiths – Volunteers CO-ordinator

The Park continues to have great support from 20 regular volunteers. Some attend twice a week, some once a week and others come when they can. Each session has an average attendance of 8 volunteers.

The Lincoln Conservation Volunteers come twice a year usually around 12 volunteers attending who work for a whole day. A local Brownie pack and Scout group are also planning to come over the summer.

Trustees are always pro-active in encouraging the younger generations to become involved with the park as they are its future.

Unemployed young adults from a local organisation, The Network, benefit through confidence being gained by being with other adults and experiencing the health-giving benefits of a special green space. This partnership has proved to be successful and very rewarding for all concerned.

Regarding Park management, it is an ongoing challenge to ensure an appropriate balance between managed and unmanaged areas. Park users frequently talk to the volunteers and express their appreciation for all the hard work undertaken and pass on helpful comments and suggestions.

Keeping a 4.5-acre area with a mosaic of habitats and an allotment is no easy task, especially when the use of mechanical equipment is kept to a minimum for conservation purposes. Maintaining the two long flights of steps is challenging and expensive in its self and special thanks must go to Trustee Richard and my husband Paul for taking responsibility for this ongoing work.

The allotment is a relatively new project which is progressing steadily after a couple of false starts. Broad beans, peas and potatoes are now growing in the newly created beds. Help and advice has generously been given by Lynn Ritson – a Trustee of the Dawber Garden and experienced allotmenteer. It is hoped that eventually, local school children will be invited to have the experience of tending an allotment.

Recently, volunteers were saddened to hear that Trustee David Royale's very special dog Tess is no longer with us after a very long and happy life. For several years, Tess was the park mascot, taking the responsibility of rounding up the volunteers at 11.30 for the scheduled tea break. Her reward was a ginger biscuit or two. She is much missed by all the tea break is getting later!!

The year ahead will no doubt bring challenges with weather, normal turnover of volunteers as peoples' circumstances change and occasional unwanted acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

For 26 years, Liquorice Park has created its own special magic, which will hopefully continue for many years into the future for people to experience and enjoy. As always, I thank all the volunteers and supporters who make this happen.