

CHARLBURY COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR TO 21 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. The charity and its trustees

Charlbury Community Workshop (CCW, Registered Charity No 1202551) is housed in a new building at:

The Spendlove Centre, Enstone Road, Charlbury OX7 3PQ.

Its initial trustees are:

Chris Potts, Chair

William Robinson, Secretary

Grace Cahill, Treasurer

Dave Court

Colin Critch

Tony Merry

Lucy Overs

Matthew Scott

Simon Walker

2. Structure and management

The CCW has been set up as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is an Association CIO and so it has members (like a club) who elect the trustees. The Constitution was approved by the Charity Commission and the CIO was registered on 30 March 2023.

The 9 initial trustees are all members of the working group formed in June 2022 which got the project up and running. They are a mix of working professionals and people who are retired. They were appointed as trustees by the Charity Commission. At the AGM on 21 September 2023 they will retire as trustees and put themselves forward for re-election by the members. Under its Constitution the CCW can have up to 12 trustees.

3. Activities and objectives

The working group sought to involve the local community as much as possible in the project from the outset by holding open meetings and barbeques and posting its ideas and requests for suggestions, as well as frequent updates, on the Charlbury website.

Taking account of the feedback received, the CCW has been set up to provide an affordable facility for repairing, making and training in a variety of practical crafts such as woodworking, needlecraft, electrical/electronic repairs, stained glass, and upholstery.

The workshop will be opened on prearranged mornings and afternoons, with supervision by coordinators experienced in the safe use of the equipment. All members/volunteers will have to complete a safety induction training for the area that they are going to work in (dusty area or/and clean area) before they can use the facilities.

The CCW will also run courses on practical topics of general interest such as bicycle maintenance.

4. Achievements and performance

The CCW is housed in a purpose-built workshop, a sturdy steel structure on a concrete base, next to the Community Centre. Much of the construction work and the fitting out has been carried out by members of the working group and other volunteers.

The workshop is 9m by 5m, divided into two separate work spaces, one for fabric/materials, with sewing machines and an overlocker, and the other for woodworking and other crafts, with benches and various power tools (drills and lathes) and hand tools (chisels, saws, files, hammers). The equipment and the tools have so far largely been donated by members of the community.

Once the fit out of the building has been completed and the necessary checks carried out, the CCW hopes to start running some sessions by the end of September 2023.

The CCW already has over 30 members and is looking at ways of reaching out to more local people.

5. Finances

The Thomas Gifford Trust, which owns the Charlbury Community Centre, made the land available and contributed substantial initial funding for the construction of the building on that land. So far the CCW has received funding for the building and the fitting out from The Glasgow Foundation, Sustainable Charlbury, Blenheim Palace, the Town Council, and private donations.

Funding for ongoing operations will come from a mixture of annual membership fees (£25 a year), session fees (£1 a session), special fund-raising events, and the sale of items made at the workshop (such as bird boxes and hedgehog houses). There will be no staff costs as everyone will volunteer their time. The CCW has arranged its own insurance covering the operation of the workshop and the building and contents. While the CCW does not yet pay rent to the Thomas Gifford Trust, the intention is that it will pay a modest rent in the future.