**Vyner Park**

**Annual report for June 2024 – June 2025**

It has been a good year for the Charity, continuing to improve the facilities, as well as increasing the financial stability of the organisation. Although I was re-elected as Chairman by the Committee, I was away for much of the year, and relied on the Vice-Chair, Andy Ferguson, to lead the Charity. During this period, Liz Simpson, the Charity Secretary, has alsobeen a great help to me and the organisation and I would like to thanks both Andy and Liz for their help.

The aim of the Charity is to provide a recreational facility for the people of the Parish. I am happy to report that the Committee has very much continued with this objective with groups such as Walking Netball, Football and Bowls using the various facilities on a regular basis. We also have a large number of dog walkers who use the facilities on a daily basis. Many children and parents use the Play area, and it is often busy after school and during the school holidays. Nelson’s at the Park changed its Directors in September last year, with its service continuing in a seamless matter. The organisation continues to be a success, attracting people from outside the area, as well as locally from within the Parish. Infact Nelsons has expanded its operation in that it is now open 7 days a week and we have entered into a 3 year licence deal.

Last year started with a large number of volunteers cutting back the surrounding vegetation on the bowling green to reduce the level of leaf-fall in the Autumn. We also weeded the bowling green gulls and tidied up the vegetation to allow the surrounding viewing benches to be used. The bowling green has been used more frequently this year with users coming up from Ashington and Morpeth during the winter, when their own grass pitch is not useable.

At the start of the review period the Charity replaced the light headers on the MUGA floodlights and upgraded the control mechanism. We specifically used low energy systems to reduce electricity usage. We are pleased to have observed an increase use of the MUGA in the winter and can now provide lighting at a very much reduced hourly cost. The cost of the work was kept to a minimum by the use of volunteers for as much work as possible and good negotiation at the quotation stage.

The facilities are beginning to show their age. This year we had to carryout electrical improvements and upgrades to bring the facilities completely up to current standards. The Play Park equipment is beginning to show its age and we are having to carry out a greater number of repairs or replacements each year. The complete replacement of some pieces of equipment is now being considered which will incur major expenditure. The park paths are showing some signs of deterioration and, with support of an individual, we have submitted a grant application for path refurbishments. We have paid for the removal of a number of dead ash trees during the review period, although at minimal cost. We are facing a similar number of dying trees for future years. Sewage spills from the various manholes in the park, however, continues to be an issue during periods of wet weather. As last year, additional trees were planted in various locations around the park with the help of SNAC and the Charity continues to work with SNAC to optimise the nature of our green space.

Each year groups of dedicated volunteers run a Show and Bonfire on behalf of the Community. The 2024 Show was a great success attracting an increasing number of visitors with profits shared with local good causes. The Bonfire ran for the first time in two years having been cancelled the previous year due to bad weather. It was a great evening supported by a large number of volunteers, attracting similar numbers as previous years.

I would like to thank all the Committee members for their help during the year, in particular the Vice Chair, Andy Ferguson. Our Park Steward, Greg Anderson, spends a lot of time maintaining the Park quietly in the background and we should acknowledge the large amount of works he carries out above and beyond that to which is contracted. I work closely with our Secretary, Liz Simpson, and would like to thank her for her help. She spends a lot of time supporting the Committee, as well as Show and Bonfire events, often having to navigate through some very difficult processes and procedures. I would, of course, like to thank the Parish Council for their support. Finally, a lot of the routine maintenance work of the park is carried out by one or two volunteers, at no cost to the community. These people donate large amounts of their time and I would like to thank them for their help.

Steve Woolfrey

Chairman – Vyner Park Charity 2024/2025

Written 01 July 2025

**VYNER PARK CHARITY**

(Regd Charity No. 1163835)

**Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Income** | **£** |
|  |  |
| Parish Council Grants | 5,612 |
| Nelson's Licence Fee (Rent) | 1,500 |
| Nelson's Utilities | 5,010 |
| Other Grants | 2,300 |
| Swarland Show | 16,275 |
| Events | - |
| Donations & Bookings | 3,000 |
| Other | 715 |
|  |  |
| **Total Income** | **36,750** |
|  |  |
| **Expenditure** |  |
|  |  |
| Maintenance | 17,205 |
| Utilities | 6,550 |
| Swarland Show | 10,536 |
| Events | 1,206 |
| Sundry | 798 |
|  |  |
| **Total Expenditure** | **36,295** |
|  |  |
| **Excess of expenditure over income** | **455** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Bank balance 31st March 2023** | **31,689** |
|  |  |
| Less: Excess of expenditure over income | 455 |
|  |  |
| **Bank balance 31st March 2024** | **32,144** |
| **Bank balance** |  |
| Vyner Park account | 16,980 |
| Swarland Show account | 15,164 |
|  | **32,144** |
|  |  |