

Finance Director's report BCCIC - April, 2025

Our main financial aim is to spend any money we make on projects that further our objects in conservation and supporting the National Landscape. That being the case we do not try to make a profit each year. However we would hope not to make a large loss. Our financial year runs from October 1st to September 30th.

The grants we get go wholly towards the purposes for which they were given.

So from our Sustainable Schools grant from 2022/23 we spent the deferred portion of £2,000 together with an additional grant of £1,750 to complete the project. In addition we were fortunate to get a grant of £12,000 (£2,000 to be spent in the year 2023/24 and £10,000 to be spent in 2024/25) towards our Climate and Nature project with the local Primary Schools. This has been very successful enabling them to build on the previous year's work. We have now secured a further £3,500 for next year 2025/26 to carry on this work with the schools.

We try to minimise our overheads but some of these are inevitable. We save quite a bit by doing all our own accountancy work as well as our filings with Companies House and the Inland revenue. Our main annual overheads are for our web site, our AGM costs and our insurance. These are unavoidable. They come to around £700 a year. The main ways in which we cover these costs are by the Feed-in tariff we share with Silverdale School for the solar panels we put on the school roof in 2014. This runs until 2034 and our share is around £400 a year. In addition we make money from the sales of our atlases, around £1.75 an atlas if we sell it direct and 85p if we sell it through RSPB.

In 2023/24, part of the Sustainable Schools grant enabled us to give several sets of atlases to each of the schools and this meant our takings from the atlases were higher than normal. I would expect these to return to around £400 this year. However it also meant that we had to replace our stock of atlases which was getting rather low leading to an expenditure of £675 for printing costs. We now have a healthy stock to carry us over the next year. These printing costs mean that we made a loss of £291 which is rather higher than I would have hoped for.

We do not charge for our fact sheets and if these are to be redone then we will either need to look for grant money or donations from shareholders.

So as of the 14th April 2025 we have £6,847 of our own money but while we have paid most of our overheads we have not yet had the Feed-in Tariff for the summer months and the book sales for May to Sept. Thus I expect to break even and perhaps claw back a little of last years loss. As far as our Grant money we have £9,277 left to cover our costs of our schools' Climate and Nature Project this financial year and in addition will have a further grant £3,500 for October 2025.