

# BEXHILL & BATTLE CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

## Statement of Accounts

Statement Date: 31 December 2023

<b>Administrative information</b>	
<b>Registered address</b>	
4 Matthew Parker St, London, SW1H 9HQ	
<b>Elected Representatives</b>	
Name	Position
Huw Merriman	MP
Nuala Geary	Chairman
Paul Redstone	Treasurer
<b>Responsible Officers</b>	
For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000 the responsible officers are:	
Name	Position
Nuala Geary	Chairman & Registered Treasurer
Paul Redstone	Association Treasurer and Deputy Registered Treasurer
<b>Political activities</b>	
<b>Overview of political activities</b>	
<p>We secured 10 seats in the May 2023 Rother election but only one seat, Stone Cross, in Wealden. We experienced changes with managing our political activities as [REDACTED] left BBCA as the campaign manager in September 2023. Whilst an admin assistant was appointed, BBCA does not have a dedicated campaign manager, nor can we afford one. Going into the general and county elections the DC Political supported by other officers will need to take a more hands on role. Work has been ongoing to understand our membership, encourage new members and increase engagement in consultations and events. The Chairman has had regular updates with the MP.</p>	
<b>Branches</b>	
<p>There are now 2 active branches, one of which is the new Bexhill branch replacing multiple branches in Bexhill, and</p>	

Eastern Rother. The Heathfield branch is no longer in the constituency due to boundary changes. The Burwash branch is quiescent due to the sad passing of the chairman.

## **Financial Activities**

### **Income overview**

The number of fundraising events has increased, during the second half of the year as members continued to return after the pandemic. The trend is to smaller number of events, but a number made significant surpluses, notably the summer garden party, Christmas lunch and some branch-organised events in Bexhill and Eastern Rother.

Membership continued to decline in the year leading to decreased regular income. However, the increase in membership to a (minimum of £39 from £25 in 2024 will certainly help.

### **Expenditure overview**

The first half of the year has more significant expenditure due to staff costs. Coupled with decreased income this meant that we ran at a lost of about £12,000 (after accrual change - see below). In the second half of the year this changed, as costs decreased due to reduced staffing and incoming increased from fundraising, leading to a surplus of about £1000. Overall we are now making break even/small surplus on a month-by-month basis which is much more sustainable.

### **Outlook for 2024**

In 2024 some important changes are occurring:

- Membership increases to a minimum of £39 which provides crucial regular income
- The general election is almost certain to be held in 2024 which will incur extra expenditure estimated at £10k to £15k. This will need a special fundraising campaign.
- As a result of the boundary changes we will be transferring a proportion of assets to Wealden Conservative Association. This is because of the boundary changes where Heathfield and surrounding areas moved out of the constituency. The transfers are based on the percentage of voters lost. We have calculated and agreed a sum of £2328 to be transferred. We also gained voters from Brede and Udimore from Hastings and lost some from Peasmarch, also to Hastings. The associated asset transfers for these are very small, estimated at about £250 so we have agreed with Hastings to ignore these.

Additional investment	
There were no additional investments made or received in the accounting year 2023.	
Balance sheet overview	
The net assets and total Reserves amount to £18877, a decrease of £11595 compared to 2022. (See note on the change to cash from accrual accounting below).	
<b>Accounting notes</b>	
Cash Accounting	
<p>Although we have stated in the past that we used accrual accounting, in practice this was only so due to the way some assets were handled and the way some costs incurred in the 5-6 weeks after the end of the financial year were included in that year. This year we have made the change to use normal cash accounting which is simpler and less reliant on judgement and is also the recommendation from CCHQ.</p> <p>Under Accrual accounting £1050 net of costs occurring in January 2023 and early February 2023 was counted in the 2022 accounts. Under cash accounting these come into the 2023 accounts. Following CCHQ guidance an adjustment of value to the 2022 figures for accurate comparison has been made.</p> <p>In doing so we identified an error of £180 in the balances for 2022 which has been included in the balance sheet as a correction.</p> <p>This year we moved from an Excel-based accounting system to Aduno, the new CCHQ web-based accounting system. This has needed a lot of work to enter data but now seems to be working reasonably well. It will make some tasks such as tracking campaigning expenditure much easier.</p>	

<b>Income and Expenditure Account</b>				
		Note	2023	2022 Adj.
<b>Income</b>				
Membership		1	11630	13545
Affiliations		2		
Donations		3	2474	1460
Branch		4		5091
Fundraising income		5	9679	7494
Investment income		6	164	6
Transfers in		7		0
Property and rental income/Office services		8		
Miscellaneous		9	229	296
Total income			24176	27892
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Premises		-	4943	580
Office costs		-	8881	5326
Branch Expenditure		4		1904
Staff costs		10	12762	22079
Transfers out		7	299	
Campaigning costs		-	2285	95
Fundraising Costs		5	5253	4263
Financing charges and taxation		11		1149
Depreciation		12	251	252
Miscellaneous		9		0
Software			719	
Staff Other			378	
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets		16		
Total expenditure			35771	35648
Deficit/surplus			(11595)	(7756)



Balance Sheet				
		Note	2023	2022 Adj.
Fixed assets				
Property	12			
Fixtures and fittings	12		0	0
Office equipment	12		0	252
Investment property	6			
Other investments	6			
Total fixed assets			0	252
Current assets				
Cash in hand and at bank	6		18877	30221
Stock	13			
Debtors and Prepayments	14			
Total current assets			18877	30221
Liabilities				
Creditors and Accruals	17		0	0
Loans outstanding	15			
Total liabilities			NIL	NIL
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)			18877	30473
Reserves				
Accumulated fund at start of year			30472	38408
Deficit/surplus			(11595)	(7756)
Accumulated fund at end of year			18877	30652
Asset Revaluation Reserve				
Other funds (Provision)	17			
Correction from previous years				-180
Total Reserves			18877	30472

**Note 1: Membership**

Description		2023	2022
Membership fees received directly by the accounting unit.		4762	4575
Membership fees received via/paid to the central party		6868	8970
<b>Total Membership</b>		<b>11630</b>	<b>13545</b>

**Note 2: Affiliations**

Affiliate		2023	2022
None			
<b>Total</b>			

**Note 3: Donations**

Donations	2023		2022	
	Cash	Non Cash	Cash	Non Cash
General Donations	728		35	
Councillor Fees	50		1300	
District Council Campaign	1696		0	
Leaving present			125	
County Council Campaign			0	
General Election Campaign			0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2474</b>		<b>1460</b>	

During the year the unit had no donations that were **reportable to the Electoral Commission**, ie that were over £1,500 from the same donor in the year.

The total donation figure shown under income above is greater than this because of donations received that were below the PPERA reporting threshold.

#### Note 4: Branch Income and Expenditure

	Income	2023		2022		
		Of which: paid to assoc as quota	Expend	Income	Of which: paid to assoc as quota	Expend
BATTLE	0	0	0			
EASTERN ROTHER	1030	0	945	1920	500	1516
BURWASH	0	0	0	1200	1200	0
CCDAP	0	0	0			
ETCHINGHAM	10	0	0	10	0	0
BEXHILL <sup>2</sup>	1238	1000	0	1690	0	360
HEATHFIELD/C.HAND <sup>1</sup>	0	300	0			
HERSTMONCEUX/WARTLING*						
HURST GR'N/BODIAM*						
KEWHURST*						
KING						
OFFA/COLLINGTON*						
NINFIELD/HOOE*						
ST. MARKS *						
TICEHURST/*						
STONEGATE						
SACKVILLE*						
ST.STEPHENS*						
BEXHILL CENTRAL*						
WESTHAM & STONECROSS*						
CWO*	0	0	0	0	0	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>2278</b>	<b>1300</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>4820</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>1904</b>

\*Denotes Non-Fund-Raising Branch.

<sup>1</sup>During the year Heathfield become part of another constituency due to boundary changes

<sup>2</sup>Bexhill branch banking is done as part of the Main BBCA current account

**Note 5: Fundraising Income and Expenditure**

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>
Summer Party	1804	434
Christmas Lunch	3146	1898
Ladies Lunch Club	579	0
BBCA 200 PLUS CLUB	725	825
Bexhill Coffee and Cake	433	0
Bexhill Garden Party	489	0
Bexhill Shiplu Evening (Net)	316	0
Eastern Rother lunch Flackley Ash	975	750
Back Tie Dinner (cancelled)	1375	1375
Adjustments	(163)	(29)
<b>Total</b>	<b>9679</b>	<b>5253</b>

**Note 6: Investment Income**

	2023		2022	
Investment Income from Fixed Assets and Other Investments				
	Value as at 31/12/23	Dividend Received	Value as at 31/12/22	Dividend Received
Share Holdings	None		None	
Capital Gain/(Loss)				

	<b>2023</b>			<b>2022</b>		
<b>Trust Property</b>	<b>Net Asset Value of Trust as 31/12/23</b>	<b>Value of Holding</b>	<b>Income Rec'd</b>	<b>Net Asset Value of Trust as 31/12/22</b>	<b>Value of 50% Holding</b>	<b>Income Rec'd</b>
None						



**Note 6: Investment Income continued**

Investment income from current assets:				
Bank Accounts	Balance as at 31/12/23	Interest Received	Balance as at 31/12/22	Interest Received
Barclays	12631	164	23467	6
Current A/C	1207		1959	
200 PLUS CLUB	2380		1870	
Branch Balances	2659		2925	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18877</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>30221</b>	<b>6</b>

Note: Branch Balances include £1659 held in the main BBC current account as BBCA provides a virtual bank for some branches, in particular Bexhill, to avoid bank charges

**Note 7: Transfers**

Transfer From/To	Purpose of Transfer	Amount	
		Incoming	Outgoing
Heathfield	Balance of Heathfield as it moves to Wealden Conservatives as part of boundary changes		299
<b>Total</b>			

**Note 8: Property and rental income/Office services**

Source	2023	2022
<b>Total</b>		

**Note 9: Miscellaneous Income Expenditure**

Source	2023		2022	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
Leaving present	125			
Other	104		296	
<b>Total</b>	<b>229</b>		<b>296</b>	

Note: councillor fees were collected in 2024, rather than late 2023

**Note 10: Salary Costs**

		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022 Adj.</b>
Salary Costs		<b>11734</b>	19033
National Insurance/Social Security Costs		<b>576</b>	1812
Conference costs/Agent Expenses		<b>0</b>	457
NEST Pension		<b>451</b>	777
<b>Total</b>		<b>12761</b>	22079
		<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
Number of staff (88/260 +25/260)		<b>0.43</b>	1.33

### Note 11: Financing charges and taxation

	2023	2022
Printing Equipment	812	1149
<b>Total</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>1149</b>

### Note 12 Fixed Assets

Asset Cost	Property	Fixtures and Fittings	IT Equipment	Total
Balance B/fwd (A)		3175	755	3930
Additions				
Disposals				
Revaluation		n/a	n/a	
Balance C/fwd (B)		3175	755	3930

Depreciation	Property	Fixtures and Fittings	IT Equipment	Total
	N/A	Straight Line over 5 years	Straight Line over 3 years	
Balance B/fwd (C)	-	3175	504	3427
Disposals	-			
Charge for the year	-	0	251	251
Balance C/fwd (D)	-	3175	755	3679

Net Book Value B/fwd(A-C)		0	251	0
Net Book Value C/fwd. (B-D)		0	0	0

### Note 13 Stock

	2022	2021
Opening Balance		
Movements		
Increase		
Decrease		
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>

### Note 14 Debtors and Pre-Payments

Description	2023	2022
Pre-Payments	NIL	NIL
Debtors	NIL	NIL
<b>Total</b>	<b>NIL</b>	<b>NIL</b>

**Note 15: Loans**

		2023	2022
Outstanding amount at start of year			
Capital Repayment			
New loans or mortgages			
Outstanding amount at end of year		NIL	NIL

**Note 16: Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Assets**

Item	NBV at Date of Disposal	Sale Proceeds	Profit/(Loss) on Disposal
Total			NONE


**Note 17: Debtors/Creditors List**

Detail		2023	2022
Ground Rent/Water		0	0
Rates/Buildings Insurance			
Total		0	0




## Declarations

I confirm that the above Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and is correct to the best of my knowledge. In addition I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the Executive Council:

Signature	Position	Date
	Chairman/Registered Treasurer or deputy	13/4/24

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2023 together with the underlying accounting records and confirm that the accounts are in accordance therewith.

Signature	Position	Date
		13/4/24
FULL	Independent verifier	