

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2015



H. L. BARNES
AND SONS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2015

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STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2015

INTRODUCTION

This Statement of Accounts provides a report on the political and financial activities of the Stratford on Avon Conservative Association.

Registered address

4, Matthew Parker Street
London
SW1H 9HQ

Elected Officials

As at 31 December 2015:

Nadhim Zahawi MP for Stratford upon Avon
22 Local area Councillors

Responsible Officers

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000 the responsible officers are:-

Mr B Tustain	-	Registered Treasurer
Cllr S Lawton	-	Deputy Registered Treasurer

REVIEW OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Overview

The main focus of activity for the Association this year has been the "General Election" and "District Council election" campaigns. The campaigns were held in early May. The MP was returned with a substantially increased majority. In the local council elections following new local boundaries there were 5 more seats and we contested 27 of the 27 District Council Wards up for election. Considerable time and expense is taken with the selection of candidates, preparing and training candidates and the election campaign. The election campaign yielded the retention or gain of 22 District Wards.

Membership

At the end of the year, the Association's membership was as follows:

	2015	2014
Membership type:		
Full members living inside the Constituency	667	614
Full members living outside of the Constituency	4	2
Total	<u>671</u>	<u>616</u>

Branches and Clubs

The branch structure of the Association has been reorganised in relation to the new District Council ward boundaries and the Association now has 16 branches (previously 24) and three clubs under its direct control. The branches and clubs are responsible for managing their accounts which are subject to independent examination. Donations generated from fund raising events from the branches and clubs to the Association and all membership subscriptions received are included in the Association's accounts.

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Further to the report presented by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England the numbers of Councillors on Stratford on Avon District Council was reduced to 36. 27 seats are in the Association and 9 seats are in the neighbouring Association. Other changes made by the Local Government Boundary Commission were that the District Council came up for election as a whole this year, rather than one third. Councillors were elected as a whole council on 7 May 2015. All District wards are single member wards and future elections will be every 4 years. As a consequence there has been an internal reorganisation of the Party organisation to reflect the new ward boundaries.

Committees

The Association's Executive Council met twice during the year. The Committee is responsible for managing the business of the Association. The strategy is developed and delivered by the 3 sub committees whose respective roles are to increase and encourage new members, promote fund raising activity, promote and develop policy, oversee the selection of all Conservative candidates and to implement the Association's campaign strategy.

Campaigning

Political activities during the year focused on the General Election and the District Council Elections. The current MP was seeking to return and was therefore the choice for Parliamentary Candidate for the General Election. Our election strategy was based upon previous campaigns. This involved the early selection of 27 District Council candidates and a high profile doorstep and telephone canvass campaign addressing the main issues that the electors want to see resolved.

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Overview

We continue to focus upon the direct mail approach, with a continuing emphasis on emailing, for raising funds through donations and also encourage village and ward branch members to be proactive towards approaching supporters to become Party members and in addition to generate additional funds for the Association through the means of social and political fund raising events. This strategy is proven with the goodwill of dedicated volunteers and professional staff.

Income

The Association has had a more promising financial year. Income in the year increased in comparison with the previous financial year. Much of this increase was for fundraising and appeals to fund the General Election and District Election activities. Otherwise income was much the same as the previous year although there was a 10% increase in membership. While predicting a substantial deficit the Association recorded a surplus of income over expenditure.

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REVIEW OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Expenditure

There was a significant increase in expenditure in respect of fund raising activities, particularly relating to the special events creating the income mentioned above, plus increased costs for the General Election and Local Government election campaigns. Excluding these, the general expenses of the Association are broadly consistent year on year although some have increased in line with inflation.

The Association has an administrative grouping with the Kenilworth and Southam unit. The two units share an office, equipment, a Professional Conservative Party Agent, one full-time member of staff and a part-time staff member. The arrangement is working successfully. The group expenditure budget is met by the two units.

Balance sheet

In line with the Association's operating performance, the capital position increased slightly and similarly in relation to the overall cash reserves.

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION**

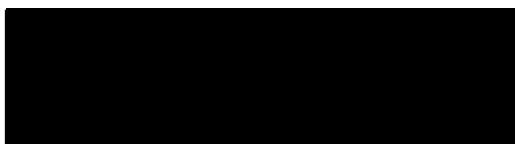
In accordance with our engagement, and in order to assist you to fulfil your duties, we have compiled the statement of accounts of the Association as set out on pages 5 to 9 comprising the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given us.

This report is made to the Association's Members, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the statement of accounts that we have been engaged to compile, report to the Association that we have done so, and state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Association, as a body, for our work or this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with technical guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and have complied with the ethical guidance laid down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales relating to members undertaking the compilation of financial statements.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the statement of accounts. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statement of accounts.

We have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31 December 2015 together with the underlying accounting records and confirm that the accounts are in accordance therewith.



P L Woodward FCA
Independent Examiner

24 March 2016

H. L. BARNES AND SONS
Chartered Accountants

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
INCOME			
Membership		36,973	33,539
Donations		32,559	18,627
Contributions from branch	10	30,000	30,000
Fundraising	12	59,899	20,866
Investment income		9,056	9,221
Trust income		621	719
Appeals		15,239	2,083
Notional income	11	2,520	2,520
TOTAL INCOME		<u>186,867</u>	<u>117,575</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Rates and water		6,906	6,697
Repairs and renewals		3,154	2,609
Postage		3,572	1,883
Telephone		1,465	1,338
Printing and stationery		3,881	2,879
Computer expenses		645	2,529
Insurance		1,747	1,824
Light and heat		1,788	1,248
Accountancy		2,760	2,640
Bank charges		393	356
Sundry expenses		275	284
Salaries	9	79,089	78,138
Membership Levy to Central Party		3,010	2,855
Campaign costs		21,424	6,540
Advertising and publicity		5,327	2,725
Fund-raising expenses		41,684	7,829
Depreciation	5	1,029	1,287
Notional expenditure	11	2,520	2,520
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>180,669</u>	<u>126,181</u>
Excess income over expenditure/(expenditure over income) before taxation		6,198	(8,606)
Taxation on investment income	4	1,529	1,444
EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE/(EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME) AFTER TAXATION		<u>£ 4,669</u>	<u>£(10,050)</u>

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET
31 DECEMBER 2015

	Notes	2015 £	2014 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Property	5	30,803	30,803
Computer and office equipment	5	4,117	5,146
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		<u>34,920</u>	<u>35,949</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Loan to Conservative Central Office	6	20,000	20,000
Debtors (including prepayments)	7	16,978	16,796
Cash at bank and in hand		94,441	88,572
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		<u>131,419</u>	<u>125,368</u>
CREDITORS: falling due in less than one year			
Creditors (including accruals)	8	3,121	2,853
Corporation tax		1,529	1,444
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>4,650</u>	<u>4,297</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>126,769</u>	<u>121,071</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>161,689</u>	<u>157,020</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>£161,689</u>	<u>£157,020</u>
FINANCED BY:			
Accumulated fund		157,020	167,070
Excess income over expenditure/(expenditure over income) after taxation		4,669	(10,050)
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>£161,689</u>	<u>£157,020</u>

I confirm that the Statement of Accounts have 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:

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 B TUSTAIN
 REGISTERED TREASURER
 10 March 2016

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

2. ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The statements are prepared on a historical cost basis and uses accruals accounting as previous year.

3. CHANGE IN BASIS

There have not been any material changes to the Statement of Accounts, since last year's return.

4. TAX ON INVESTMENT INCOME

	2015	2014
	£	£
Current tax		
Corporation tax at 20% (2014 : 20%)	1,529	1,444
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

5. FIXED ASSETS

Changes to the tangible asset basis of the organisation during the year:

	Property	Computer and office equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Asset cost:			
Balance brought forward	30,803	16,084	46,887
Additions in the year	-	-	-
Disposals in the year	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Balance carried forward	30,803	16,084	46,887
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Depreciation:	Nil	20% reducing balance	
Balance brought forward	-	10,938	10,938
Charge for the year	-	1,029	1,029
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Balance carried forward	-	11,967	11,967
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net book value brought forward	£30,803	£ 4,117	£34,920
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net book value carried forward	£30,803	£ 5,146	£35,949
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

In the opinion of the Finance and General Purpose Committee, the freehold property has a value substantially in excess of book value but no formal valuation has been obtained.

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

6.	LOAN		At cost
	Loan to Conservative Central Office		£20,000

The loan is repayable on demand. Interest at 1.5% is paid on the loan.

7.	DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS	Amounts falling due within one year	
		2015	2014
		£	£
	Other debtors	15,300	15,019
	Prepayments	1,678	1,777
	Accrued income	-	-
	Totals	<u>£16,978</u>	<u>£16,796</u>

8. CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

	Accruals	3,121	2,853
	Totals	<u>£ 3,121</u>	<u>£ 2,853</u>

9. SALARIES

The Association employs 3 staff (2014 : 3). The breakdown of salaries and pension contributions was:

		2015	2014
		£	£
	Salary costs	67,809	66,448
	Social security costs	5,073	4,900
	Pension costs	4,717	4,468
	Expenses	1,490	2,322
	Totals	<u>£79,089</u>	<u>£78,138</u>

STRATFORD ON AVON CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION
NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

10. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM OTHER CONSTITUENCIES

The Association has received contributions from another local Association and is providing advice and support to that Association. The amounts received are:

	2015	2014
	£	£
Kenilworth and Southam	£30,000	£30,000
	<u>£30,000</u>	<u>£30,000</u>

11. NOTIONAL EXPENDITURE AND INCOME

The Association was provided with accountancy services at reduced rates by H. L. Barnes and Sons. The difference between the commercial rate and the amount billed for services provided during the year ended 31 December 2015 was £2,520 (including VAT) (2014 : £2,520) and this is included as notional expenditure and notional income in the Income and Expenditure Account.

12. FUNDRAISING

The Association runs a number of fundraising activities, these include:

- Seasonal parties
- Raffles
- Dinners

13. DONATIONS REPORTED TO THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

During the year the Association had donations totalling £17,045 (2014 : £6,128) that were reportable to the Electoral Commission.

Under PPERA single or aggregate donations for an individual greater than £1,500 in any calendar year are reportable to the Electoral Commission.