



Treasurer's Annual Report

Dobcross Village Society Ltd

Annual Members' Meeting 13 September 2026

Treasurer's Report

Year 2 (2025-6) has been more straightforward than Year 1 when acquisition costs and the Grant complicated the annual accounts. After a small trading loss in that year, it was thought that a sales increase of only £200 per week (+5% on average sales) should turn this into a small surplus. As you will hear this objective has not been achieved and we believe that inflation has been responsible for the shortfall.

Financial Compliance Activity

As last year, we continue to bank with the Co-operative Bank PLC, our accountants are again Jackson, Brierley, Harthan of Uppermill (who also manage payroll) and we are registered for VAT with HMRC (VAT No. 483 2175 85).

Trading Income

Retail sales for the year were £205,571 ex VAT, an increase of nearly 8% on Year 1. Average weekly sales therefore work out at £3,953, and increase of approx.7%. Our best week's sales were £6,918 and included Whit Friday with our worst of £2,692 just after Christmas. Post Office income increased from £10,770 to £12,791 excluding VAT (up 18%).

Trading Expenditure

Stock purchased in the year totalled £169,341, up nearly 18%. There was not a stock check before year end. It had been wrongly believed that the EPOS system (the till) could produce a stock figure but it proved far too onerous to input the rapidly changing cost prices so that plan was shelved. It was estimated that stock was up marginally on the 2024-25 year-end so an estimate of £10,800 was used in the accounts.



Dobcross Village Society Ltd

The 'Dobcross Village Society Ltd' is a Community Benefit Society registered with the Financial Conduct Authority under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Registration no. 9169. Trading as the Dobcross Village Store and Post Office. A member of The Plunkett Foundation.



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Running costs excluding staff and rent were up from £11,386 to £15,747 (up 39%) and were not unexpected bearing in mind inflation and increased turnover. The biggest increases related to insurance, power and a misallocation in last year's accounts and whilst the percentage seems huge in the wider scheme of things the increase is fairly small. Generally, expenses were what was expected.

Staffing costs including tax and pensions were £54,958, up 4.5%, again in line with expectations. Rent in the period would have been £8,000 but had been pre-paid and accounted for last year.

Year End Accounts

We await delivery of these, however, from a basic P&L it seems that there will be a trading loss of around £4000 over the year. In spite of this we have a healthy cash position with £41,400 at the 2026 year-end versus £35,500 at the previous year-end. This is acknowledged to be a good indicator of future viability. After all we are a community asset so staying in business is key and running out of cash would be the biggest risk.

The current management committee are well aware of the situation and are formulating plans to drive forward the business. There will be an effort to increase the number of shareholders now that the entry threshold has been lowered and a greater focus on increasing awareness of just what the shop has to offer. A small group is looking at initiatives to boost both customer visits and the average spend per visit. Even without an increase in shareholders it will only take a small increase in average spend to turn a small loss into a small profit so by also increasing the number of customers we can only gain.

John Warham and Jackie Perry

Co-Treasurers, Dobcross Village Society Limited

September 2025



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