

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1080038

## Details

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**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [03937576](#)

**Registered** 2000-03-28

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Northamptonshire A C R E  
Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

**Phone** 01604765888

**Email** [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

**Website** [www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSES TO IMPROVE THE LIFE OF THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTY OF NORTHAMPTON PARTICULARLY THE RURAL COMMUNITIES

**Activities:** We are a countywide, independent charity, working with rural communities in Northamptonshire to improve their quality of life. Through community engagement and development we support communities to reduce rural isolation and vulnerability and work with them to create a vibrant, sustainable future for all. We are one of 38 Rural Community Councils working across England, making up the ACRE Network

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Accommodation/housing, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NORTHAMPTON
- Northamptonshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£362,660	£307,066	-	-
2024-03-31	£205,200	£377,188	-	-
2023-03-31	£399,791	£383,514	-	-
2022-03-31	£237,907	£251,353	-	-
2021-03-31	£248,548	£145,970	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>GARETH JOHN LUGAR-MAWSON</b>	Chair	
JON COURTNEY-THOMPSON		2024-06-12
Miranda Wixon		2020-03-04
Oliver Symons		2025-05-10
Richard Hollingum		2017-05-17

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1080038

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# Accounts

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## **Northamptonshire ACRE**

### **Trustees Report and Annual Accounts 2024 – 2025**

## Mission Statement

Northamptonshire ACRE, an independent charitable organisation, works with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. We help rural communities to help themselves, to value diversity and to work to create a vibrant, sustainable future.

## Strategic Aims

- To deliver the charity's purpose for the public benefit of people who live, work and visit rural Northamptonshire.
- Support the identification of rural needs and assist communities to develop sustainable solutions.
- Champion green solutions and provide a connection to their wider understanding.
- Encourage and develop a sense of place through community-led engagement.
- Be a valued member of the ACRE network supporting at a national and local level the advocacy of rural matters ensuring rural proofing is embedded in all policies.
- Renovate and develop the historic site of the Hunsbury Hill Farm for the future benefit of all
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Board of Trustees

Northamptonshire ACRE

(Action with Communities in Rural England)

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## THE OFFICIALS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is an independent voluntary organisation, registered charity (**no. 1080038**) and company limited by guarantee (**no. 3937576**) working to support rural communities and community groups throughout the County.

### President

James Saunders Watson, Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire

### Vice-Presidents

Lord Boswell of Aynho

Mr Jeffrey Greenwell

Mrs Catherine Lomax

### Independent Examiners

Messrs Jervis & Partners

### Board of Directors

#### Chair

Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson

#### Vice-Chair

Mr Ken Christy

### Members

Mr David Scudamore

Mr Richard Hollingum

Mr Cameron Waldron (*resigned 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025*)

Mrs Miranda Prentice

Mr Jon Courtney-Thompson  
(*appointed July 2024*)

### Observers

From West and North Northamptonshire Local Authorities and Voluntary Sector Agencies

### Bankers

Virgin Bank (was known as Yorkshire Bank plc)

### Principal Address

The Hunsbury Hill Centre

Harksome Hill

Northampton

NN4 9QX

Telephone (01604) 765888

Email: [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

Website: [www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northantsacre/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthantsACRE>

## THE STAFF OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

### Chief Executive

Nicola Toms

### Village Halls Adviser

Frances Harris

### Rural Housing Enabler/ Officer

Jennifer Hedges

### Good Neighbour Fieldworkers

Joanna Browning *(left 28/06/2024)*

Claire Yow *(left 31/12/2024)*

### Rural Support Officer

Alex Wildman *(left 31/03/2025)*

### Office Manager

Kerri Marshall-Duckett *(left 20/12/2024)*

### The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

#### Events Team Manager

Nicola Toms

#### Events Co-Ordinator

Sarah Clarke

#### Communications Administrator

Charlene Browne *(left 31/03/2025)*

#### Maintenance Person / Caretaker

Blaze King *(stated 25/06/2024)*

## **VOLUNTEERS WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

### **Project Volunteers**

Friendship Visits

Warm Homes

### **Hunsbury Hill Centre Volunteers**

Moulton College Students

### BACKGROUND

Northamptonshire ACRE has been delivering services and working with rural communities in Northamptonshire for over 79 years. We were originally known as Northamptonshire Rural Community Council and changed our name to Northamptonshire ACRE in 2000.

Rural Community Councils were set up by the Government, one in each county, with the aim of ensuring the needs of rural communities were known about and supported. There are 38 RCCs across England and with our national body, ACRE, we make up the ACRE Network.

Northamptonshire ACRE is a company limited by guarantee (company number 3937576) and registered charity (charity number 1080038).

Northamptonshire ACRE has a strategic business and implementation plan, which is reviewed and revised regularly.

The reviews look at the success of each key activity carried out by the charity and the public benefits they have brought to the groups of people with whom we work. These reviews also help us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissions General Guidance on Public Benefit when carrying out our review and in planning our future activities.

### REVIEW OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

Northamptonshire ACRE purchased The Hunsbury Hill Centre from Northampton Development Corporation in 1977 and has owned the 13-acre property since then.

The main activities and achievements of the charity from April 2024 to March 2025 are detailed in the 2024 – 2025 Trustees Annual Report, which is available to download from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/> and via the Charity Commission.

#### **Application and source of Funds**

The charity's income is generated from a mixture of funding streams.

The core rural work undertaken by Northamptonshire ACRE is funded by consultancy and membership work, from project income (management/overheads/support fees) and rent, staff-cost contributions, and any donations from The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd, the charity's trading arm, also known as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. These funds are used to raise awareness of issues affecting people living in rural communities throughout the county and supporting community groups, including village hall committees and parish councils, on issues relating to sustainable development, transport, fund-raising and rural service provision.

Under restricted funds are the income and expenditure relating to a number of specific projects; Through the development of an excellent working

relationship with DEFRA, our national body, ACRE, has been able to secure funding for all the ACRE Network members. We use this funding to deliver services against many of DEFRA's 8 national priorities. We also receive DEFRA funding for our Rural Housing Enabler project as part of an ACRE Network grant. North Northants Council through our collaborative partnership within Aspire NN and UKSPF funds for our Greener Works project. As well as our grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for our Hunsbury Hill Farm regeneration project.

The breakdown of unrestricted expenditure between cost of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs is based initially on the nature of the expense and whether it falls directly into one of these categories. Should it fall across several categories it is allocated based on either an individual staff member's percentage allocation or the overall staff percentage allocation.

### **Assets**

Northamptonshire ACRE's key asset is the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The Centre provides office accommodation for Northamptonshire ACRE's staff. It provides the community and us with an affordable and unique setting in which to host events. The Centre is professionally revalued every 5 years or so. It was revalued in 2018 at £1,262,000. A new valuation will be carried out in 2025/2026.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Board established a policy where the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should ideally be equivalent to approximately three months of the resources expended. In addition, the Board established a Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund in the 2017-18 financial year, which would be used to build up reserves to cover future major repair and maintenance costs of the Hunsbury Hill Centre buildings.

The charity agreed that funds would be added to the Dilapidation Fund as applicable, depending upon the current economic situation. The Dilapidation Fund stood at £25,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The charity's aim is to continue building up the Dilapidation Fund each year as the economic situation permits until the Fund reaches a limit of £50,000.

### **Risk Management**

Northamptonshire ACRE has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has put in place a Risk Management Policy and systems devised to mitigate those risks. External risks to funding have been mitigated by diversification of funding and activities including a robust approach to discussions with funders with the aim of covering infrastructure costs i.e. full cost recovery. Internal risks are minimised by the devising and implementing of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company as well as the refinement and improvement

of Human Resources and Health and Safety policies. The procedures and policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

**Financial Dependence**

The charity's income is generated from a mixture of funding streams and means it is not financially dependent on one source only.

**Independent Examination**

A resolution proposing that Jervis & Partners be re-appointed to conduct an independent examination of the Charity was passed at the 2025 Annual General Meeting.

**Approval**

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors at the 2025 AGM on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and signed on their behalf:

Gareth Lugar-Mawson, Chair



## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

We report on the accounts of Northamptonshire ACRE for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, which are set out on pages 12 to 24.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 486 of the 2006 Act: or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jervis & Partners  
Chartered Accountants  
30 Harborough Road  
Kingsthorpe  
Northamptonshire  
NN2 7AZ

Date: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## STATEMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law and Charity Law requires the trustees/directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees/directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board of Directors



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2024 - 2025

(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

Income and Expenditure Account			2024/25			2023/24
	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total	
		£	£	£	£	
<b>Income</b>						
From Generated Sources						
Hunsbury Hill Centre		41,500	0	41,500	48,045	
Generated income		103,053	0	103,053	74,672	
Office Accommodation		2,450	0	2,450	2,000	
Donations		259	0	259	80	
		<b>147,262</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>147,262</b>	<b>124,797</b>	
From Charitable Activities	3	0	215,398	215,398	80,403	
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>147,262</b>	<b>215,398</b>	<b>362,660</b>	<b>205,200</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Cost of Raising Funds						
Hunsbury Hill Centre		38,383		38,383	£47,149	
Fundraising & Publicity		76,767		76,767	£94,297	
		<b>115,150</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>115,150</b>	<b>£141,446</b>	
Charitable Activities		(764)	115,914	115,150	£141,446	
Other Costs		76,767		76,767	£94,297	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4	<b>191,152</b>	<b>115,914</b>	<b>307,066</b>	<b>£377,188</b>	
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>(43,890)</b>	<b>99,484</b>	<b>55,594</b>	<b>(171,988)</b>	
Transfers between Funds		40,280	(40,280)	0	0	
<b>Net Income after transfers</b>		<b>(3,610)</b>	<b>59,204</b>	<b>55,594</b>	<b>(171,988)</b>	
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)						
Unrealised gain on property valuation		0		0	0	
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(3,610)</b>	<b>59,204</b>	<b>55,594</b>	<b>(171,988)</b>	
Revaluation in year	9	0		0	0	
Total Funds Brought forward prior year	9	1,229,604	2,338	1,231,942	1,403,930	
<b>Total Funds carried forward at year-end</b>		<b>1,225,994</b>	<b>61,542</b>	<b>1,287,536</b>	<b>1,231,942</b>	

**Continuing Operations** All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

**As at 31st March 2025**

<b>Balance Sheet</b>				
	Note		As at 31/3/25 £	As at 31/3/24 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>				
Tangible Fixed Assets	6		1,262,000	1,262,000
Investment in Subsidiary	6		1	1
			<u>1,262,001</u>	<u>1,262,001</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Debtors	7		20,193	1,204
Short Term Deposits			2,608	21,810
Cash at Bank & in Hand			79,794	9,672
			<u>102,595</u>	<u>32,686</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	8		77,060	62,745
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)			<u>25,535</u>	<u>(30,059)</u>
<b>Assets Less Current liabilities</b>			<u>1,287,536</u>	<u>1,231,942</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due after one year	8		0	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>			<u>1,287,536</u>	<u>1,231,942</u>
<b>Funds</b>				
Unrestricted - General/dilapidation	9		34,174	37,784
Unrestricted - Capital	9		1,191,820	1,191,820
Total Unrestricted			<u>1,225,994</u>	<u>1,229,604</u>
Restricted	9		61,542	2,338
<b>Total Funds</b>			<u>1,287,536</u>	<u>1,231,942</u>

### BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

The directors' statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown below, which form part of this balance sheet.

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charitable company we hereby confirm:

- (a) That for the year stated above the charitable company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;

- (b) That no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the charitable company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025; and
- (c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - a. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - b. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair



## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **a) General information and basis of preparation**

Northamptonshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per trustee of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 5 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the report of the Directors/Trustees on pages 7 – 8.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### **b) Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**c) Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

**d) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs includes the expenditure costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows: -

Description	Depreciation Period
Hunsbury Hill Centre (freehold)	Nil
Office equipment	Over 2 to 10 years
Trophies	Nil
IT equipment	100% in year of purchase
Fixtures & fittings	Over 5 to 10 years

As detailed in note 6, certain fixed assets have been re-valued in previous years. These valuations have been adopted as the historical costs.

Depreciation is not charged on the buildings at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, as the residual value is considered to be not less than the carrying value.

**f) Investment**

The Charity owns The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, which was incorporated on 26th March 2013. The investment represents the entire share capital of that company.

**g) Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Charity will have sufficient resources to continue its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

**NOTE 2: ACTIVITIES**

The activities of this organisation, which is a registered Charity (registered no. 1080038), continue to be the support of the rural communities of Northamptonshire through the provision of advice and support on issues affecting them.

**NOTE 3: INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

Incoming resources from Charitable Activities	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
	£	£		
DEFRA - ACRE	0	40,280	40,280	40,280
Rural Housing Enabler	0	55,241	55,241	16,662
Rural Friendship Van	0	0	0	10,000
Warm Home Packs (Nat Grid)	0	4,905	4,905	9,461
Household Support Fund	0	0	0	4,000
NNH Sustainable Food Income	0	17,602	17,602	0
Aspire NN - Infrastructure NN Income	0	3,250	3,250	0
UKSPF Greener Works NN Income	0	16,000	16,000	0
TNLHF Heritage Lottery Income	0	78,120	78,120	0
	0	215,398	215,398	80,403

The charity's charitable activities are either ringfenced or the funding goes into the core (General) fund. The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funding covers core activities. Defra funds each Rural Community Council through the ACRE network to deliver projects and outcomes against 8 priority areas. Each RCC, such as Northamptonshire ACRE, uses the DEFRA funding to provide support to rural communities in as many of the priority areas as possible. Information on our work against the

priorities is provided to DEFRA by each RCC in quarterly reports, collated by national ACRE. DEFRA (and other departments) is able to use this rural evidence in developing future government policies. Please contact Northamptonshire ACRE for more details.

Our Rural Housing Enabler (RHE) project is funded by DEFRA through National ACRE. The funding is used to employ a Rural Housing Enabler worker and offers independent support and advice to help rural communities deliver small scale affordable housing schemes in Northamptonshire. This was a two grant which has rolled over to 2025/26. The project funded support from Midlands Rural Housing.

The National Grid funded a project that allowed us to distribute needed “Warm Homes” packs across North Northants.

The National Lottery funded our partnership project with Made in Northamptonshire, which funded a project worker (one day/week) from each partnership to build and strengthen the North Northants Sustainable Food Network.

North Northamptonshire Council provided 3 years funding for the new VCSE Infrastructure Collaborative, Aspire NN, of which NACRE is one of six partners. Quarterly reports are given to the council. Our aim is to build the capacity of the sector for stronger delivery, financial stability and strength and higher quality services to support diverse communities with good profile, recognition and social value.

NNC gave funds through UKSPF for a small project Greener Works to help people for where not in employment find work or seek further education which would increase their chances of work in the future. Our project was aimed at people leaving in rural areas gain skills and confidence by creating their own group community projects. This project gave staff time of one day a week.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund have given NACRE £156,000.00 of funds over the 12 months November 2024 – November 2025. Our project endeavours to connect the people of Northamptonshire with the rich stories embedded within this heritage site.

**NOTE 4: TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

Expenditure - includes all costs for restricted projects						
	Fund raising	Charitable Activities	Governan. other costs	HHC	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
	£	£	£			£
Staff Costs	57,647	86,470	57,647	28,823	230,587	219,849
Premises	5,037	7,555	5,037	2,518	20,147	24,297
Insurance	3,926	5,889	3,926	1,963	15,704	14,476
Professional Services	3,559	5,339	3,559	1,780	14,237	36,128
Telephones	644	966	644	322	2,576	2,083
Postage, Printing & Stationery	402	603	402	201	1,607	119
Equipment & Materials	968	1,452	968	484	3,871	3,682
Advertising	947	1,420	947	473	3,787	4,420
Other Expenses	1,884	2,826	1,884	942	7,537	64,960
Subscriptions inc. ACRE	1,625	2,438	1,625	813	6,500	6,408
Loan interest	128	192	128	64	513	766
	<b>76,767</b>	<b>115,150</b>	<b>76,767</b>	<b>38,383</b>	<b>307,066</b>	<b>377,188</b>

Total expenditure on Charitable Activities includes expenditure from restricted funds. Refer to Note 9 for breakdown of expenditure from restricted funds.

Staff costs include the costs spent on core NACRE staff as well as the expenditure on salaries for restricted projects (i.e. LAG DEFRA grant, RHE project, North Northants Sustainable Food Network, UKSPF Greener Works, NNC AspireNN, TNLHF Hunsbury Hill Centre Regeneration project).

**NOTE 5: RESOURCES EXPENDED INCLUDES:-**

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year or preceding year.

	2023/24	2024/25
The average number of employees calculated on a full time equivalent basis was:-	5	4

NACRE Staff Costs	2024/2025	2023/2024
Salaries	£ 139,728.00	£ 118,701.00
Employers National Insurance	£ 6,077.00	£ 4,048.00
Payroll provision costs	£ 480.00	£ 504.00
Pension Contribution	£ 2,550.00	£ 2,351.00
Training	£ 223.00	£ 80.00
Travel mileage allowance	£ 3,008.00	£ 238.00
Travel - other costs (train, parking)		£ -
Recruitment costs	£ 90.00	£ 3,875.00
	<b>£ 152,156.00</b>	<b>£ 129,797.00</b>

Other Expenses	2023/24	2023/2024
	£	£
The director/trustees receive no emoluments but were paid expenses	1,047	1,421
Independent Examiners Fee	1,307	1,307

## NOTE 6: FIXED ASSETS

Fixed Assets		HHC	F&F	Office Equip	Trophies	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost/Valuation</b>	As at 1 April 2024	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
	Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Revaluation in the year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	As at 31 March 2025	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
<b>Depreciation</b>	As at 1 April 2024	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
	Provided in Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals					0	0
	As at 31 March 2025	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
<b>Net Book Value</b>	As at 1 April 2024	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000
	As at 31 March 2025	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000

- 1) All the above assets are used for direct charitable purposes
- 2) The historical cost of the fixed assets is £89,422.
- 3) The Hunsbury Hill Centre and its surrounding site is professionally revalued every five years or so. The site and centre was valued in November 2018 by Godfrey Payton Chartered Surveyors, with the valuation as at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Centre and site was valued at £1,262,000 at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The property was due to be revalued in 2023-24 but will be revalued in 2025-26.
- 4) The trustees consider that the current values are not less than the value as stated in the accounts.

Investments		
	As at 31/03/25	As at 31/03/24
	£	£
Investment in the wholly owned subsidiary company	1	1

Northamptonshire ACRE owns the whole of the issued share capital of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, a company incorporated in England. The company's principal activity is the provision of event facilities.

**NOTE 7: DEBTORS**

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Control account	106	401
Prepayments	1,098	
Amounts due from subsidiary	0	35,252
	<u>1,204</u>	<u>35,653</u>

**NOTE 8: CREDITORS**

Creditors	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Creditors control account	3,575	2,100
RIA - PC subs	1,820	700
RIA - VH subs	1,800	2,913
RIA - Donations	97	42
RIA - NVA	0	0
RIA - Other	0	0
Accruals	1,500	2,350
Other tax and social security	2,273	1,322
Pension creditors	899	1,238
Amounts due to Subsidiary	52,080	27,960
Yorks. Bank Bounce Back Loan	13,016	24,120
	<u>77,060</u>	<u>62,745</u>

## NOTE 9: FUND ANALYSIS

Fund analysis	b/forward 1 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Revaluation	Incoming Transfers	Outgoing Transfers	Net Transfers	Balances c/forward 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>								
General fund	12,784	147,262	191,152		40,280	0	40,280	9,174
Capital Fund	1,191,820			0	0		0	1,191,820
Dilapidation/Reserves Fund	25,000				0		0	25,000
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>1,229,604</b>	<b>147,262</b>	<b>191,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>1,225,994</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>								
DEFRA - ACRE	£0	40,280	0	0		40,280	(40,280)	£0
Rural Housing Enabler	£1,338	55,241	56,580	0				-£1
Rural Friendship Van	£1,000	0	999	0				£1
Warm Home Packs (Nat Grid)	£0	4,905	4,906	0				-£1
Household Support Fund	£0	0	0	0				£0
NNH Sustainable Food	£0	17,602	16,339	0				£1,263
Aspire NN - Infrastructure NN	£0	3,250	3,250	0				£0
UKSPF Greener Works NN Income	£0	16,000	15,998	0				£2
HHF	£0	0	1,800	0				-£1,800
TNLHF Heritage Lottery	£0	78,120	16,042	0				£62,078
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>£2,338</b>	<b>215,398</b>	<b>115,914</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>(40,280)</b>	<b>£61,542</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,231,942</b>	<b>362,660</b>	<b>307,066</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,287,536</b>

## Fund Analysis Explanation

### Unrestricted Funds

The General Fund represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes. The General Fund is used to cover the charity's core costs.

The General Fund is made up from several sources including membership fees from our Parish Council and Community Facility members, the donation from the trading arm, office rentals and the bulk oil membership scheme that Northamptonshire ACRE runs for off gas rural communities.

The Hunsbury Hill Centre is an established event venue and was incorporated as a trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, to take over the non-primary activities of the charity. The trading arm is marketed as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill.

The Capital Fund represents the fixed asset revaluation fund for tangible fixed assets that were re-valued as required by the Companies Act of 2006. The reserve reflects the amount by which the fixed assets exceed their historical cost.

As at 31st March 2025 the Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund was in surplus by £25,000. The reserve will be capped at £50,000. As at 31st March 2025, the General Fund was in surplus by £25,000.

### Restricted Funds

These are funds received by the charity to deliver a specific project. Refer to Note 3 for details about the restricted funds the charity received and the projects delivered during 2024 and 2025.

## NOTE 10: CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS

The charitable company is controlled by the Board of Directors/Trustees.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1080038

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# Accounts

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## **Northamptonshire ACRE**

### **Trustees Report and Annual Accounts 2023 – 2024**

## Mission Statement

Northamptonshire ACRE, an independent charitable organisation, works with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. We help rural communities to help themselves, to value diversity and to work to create a vibrant, sustainable future.

## Strategic Aims

- To deliver the charity's purpose for the public benefit of all rural residents in Northamptonshire
- Support the identification of rural needs and assist communities to develop sustainable solutions.
- Champion green solutions and provide a connection to their wider understanding.
- Encourage and develop a sense of place through community-led engagement.
- Be a valued member of the ACRE network supporting at a national and local level the advocacy of rural matters ensuring rural proofing is embedded in all policies.
- Renovate and develop the historic site of the Hunsbury Hill Farm for the future benefit of all
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Board of Trustees

Northamptonshire ACRE

(Action with Communities in Rural England)

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## **THE OFFICIALS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is an independent voluntary organisation, registered charity (**no. 1080038**) and company limited by guarantee (**no. 3937576**) working to support rural communities and community groups throughout the County.

### **President**

James Saunders Watson, Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire

### **Vice-Presidents**

Lord Boswell of Aynho

Mr Jeffrey Greenwell

Mrs Catherine Lomax

### **Independent Examiners**

Messrs Jervis & Partners

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Chair**

Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson

#### **Vice-Chair**

Mr Ken Christy

### **Members**

Mr David Scudamore

Mr Richard Hollingum

Mr Cameron Waldron

Mrs Miranda Prentice

### **Observers**

From West and North Northamptonshire Local Authorities  
and Voluntary Sector Agencies

### **Bankers**

Yorkshire Bank plc

**Principal Address**

The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

Telephone (01604) 765888

Email: [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

Website: [www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northantsacre/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthantsACRE>

## THE STAFF OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

### Chief Executive

Nicola Toms

Elaine O'Leary

(left 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024)

### Village Halls Adviser

Frances Harris

### Rural Officer

Jennifer Hedges

### Good Neighbour Fieldworkers

Joanna Browning

Claire Yow

### Rural Support Officer

Alex Wildman

### Office Manager

Kerri Marshall-Duckett

### The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

#### Events Team Manager

Nicola Toms

#### Events Co-Ordinator

Sarah Clarke

#### Communications Administrator

Charlene Browne

## **VOLUNTEERS WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

### **Project Volunteers**

Good Neighbour Scheme

Friendship Visits

Warm Homes

### **Hunsbury Hill Centre Volunteers**

Moulton College Students

## BACKGROUND

Northamptonshire ACRE has been delivering services and working with rural communities in Northamptonshire for over 79 years. We were originally known as Northamptonshire Rural Community Council and changed our name to Northamptonshire ACRE in 2000. We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Rural Community Councils were set up by the Government, one in each county, with the aim of ensuring the needs of rural communities were known about and supported. There are 38 RCCs across England and with our national body, ACRE, we make up the ACRE Network.

Northamptonshire ACRE is a company limited by guarantee (company number 3937576) and registered charity (charity number 1080038).

Northamptonshire ACRE has a strategic business and implementation plan, which is reviewed and revised regularly.

The reviews look at the success of each key activity carried out by the charity and the public benefits they have brought to the groups of people with whom we work. These reviews also help us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissions General Guidance on Public Benefit when carrying out our review and in planning our future activities.

## REVIEW OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

Northamptonshire ACRE purchased The Hunsbury Hill Centre from Northampton Development Corporation in 1977 and has owned the 13-acre property since then.

The main activities and achievements of the charity from April 2023 to March 2024 are detailed in the 2023 – 2024 Trustees Annual Report, which is available to download from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/> and via the Charity Commission.

### Application and source of Funds

The charity's income is generated from a mixture of funding streams. Through the development of an excellent working relationship with DEFRA, our national body, ACRE, has been able to secure funding for all the ACRE Network members. We use this funding to deliver services against DEFRA's 8 national priorities.

The core rural work undertaken by Northamptonshire ACRE is also funded by consultancy and membership work, from project income (management/overheads/support fees) and rent, staff-cost contributions, and any donations from The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd, the charity's trading arm, also known as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. These funds are used to raise awareness of issues affecting people living in rural communities throughout the county and supporting community groups, including village hall

committees and parish councils, on issues relating to sustainable development, transport, fund-raising and rural service provision.

Under restricted funds are the income and expenditure relating to a number of specific projects including the National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbour Schemes project, Rural Friendship Visits, The Rural Housing Enabler Scheme, Warm Homes and The Household Support Fund.

The breakdown of unrestricted expenditure between cost of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs is based initially on the nature of the expense and whether it falls directly into one of these categories. Should it fall across several categories it is allocated based on either an individual staff member's percentage allocation or the overall staff percentage allocation.

### **Assets**

Northamptonshire ACRE's key asset is the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The Centre provides office accommodation for Northamptonshire ACRE's staff. It provides the community and us with an affordable and unique setting in which to host events. The Centre is professionally revalued every 5 years. It was revalued in 2018 at £1,262,000. A new valuation will be carried out in 2024/2025.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Board established a policy where the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should ideally be equivalent to approximately three months of the resources expended. In addition, the Board established a Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund in the 2017-18 financial year, which would be used to build up reserves to cover future major repair and maintenance costs of the Hunsbury Hill Centre buildings.

The charity agreed that funds would be added to the Dilapidation Fund as applicable, depending upon the current economic situation. The Dilapidation Fund stood at £25,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The charity's aim is to continue building up the Dilapidation Fund each year as the economic situation permits until the Fund reaches a limit of £50,000.

### **Risk Management**

Northamptonshire ACRE has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has put in place a Risk Management Policy and systems devised to mitigate those risks. External risks to funding have been mitigated by diversification of funding and activities including a robust approach to discussions with funders with the aim of covering infrastructure costs i.e. full cost recovery. Internal risks are minimised by the devising and implementing of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company as well as the refinement and improvement of Human Resources and Health and Safety policies. The procedures and

policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

### **Financial Dependence**

The charity's income is generated from a mixture of funding streams and means it is not financially dependent on one source only.

### **Independent Examination**

A resolution proposing that Jervis & Partners be re-appointed to conduct an independent examination of the Charity was passed at the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

### **Approval**

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors at the 2024 AGM on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and signed on their behalf:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson, Chair

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

We report on the accounts of Northamptonshire ACRE for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 24.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 486 of the 2006 Act: or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jervis & Partners  
Chartered Accountants  
30 Harborough Road  
Kingsthorpe  
Northamptonshire  
NN2 7AZ

Date: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## STATEMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law and Charity Law requires the trustees/directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees/directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board of Directors



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2023 - 2024

(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

	Note	2023/24			2022/23
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
From Generated Sources					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		48,045	0	48,045	61,096
Generated income		74,672	0	74,672	52,290
Office Accommodation		2,000	0	2,000	2,300
Donations		80	0	80	2,904
		<u>124,797</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>124,797</u>	<u>118,590</u>
From Charitable Activities	3	40,280	40,123	80,403	281,201
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>165,077</b>	<b>40,123</b>	<b>205,200</b>	<b>399,791</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of Raising Funds					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		47,149		47,149	£47,939
Fundraising & Publicity		94,297		94,297	£95,879
		<u>141,446</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>141,446</u>	<u>£143,818</u>
Charitable Activities		(23,822)	165,267	141,446	£143,818
Other Costs		94,297		94,297	£95,879
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4	<b>211,921</b>	<b>165,267</b>	<b>377,188</b>	<b>£383,514</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>(46,844)</b>	<b>(125,144)</b>	<b>(171,988)</b>	<b>16,277</b>
Transfers between Funds		0	0	0	0
<b>Net Income after transfers</b>		<b>(46,844)</b>	<b>(125,144)</b>	<b>(171,988)</b>	<b>16,277</b>
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)					
Unrealised gain on property valuation		0		0	0
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(46,844)</b>	<b>(125,144)</b>	<b>(171,988)</b>	<b>16,277</b>
Revaluation in year	9	0		0	
Total Funds Brought forward prior year	9	1,276,449	127,481	1,403,930	1,387,653
<b>Total Funds carried forward at year-end</b>		<b>1,229,605</b>	<b>2,337</b>	<b>1,231,942</b>	<b>1,403,930</b>

### Continuing Operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2024

	Note	As at 31/3/24 £	As at 31/3/23 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	6	1,262,000	1,262,000
Investment in Subsidiary	6	1	1
		<u>1,262,001</u>	<u>1,262,001</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7	1,204	35,653
Short Term Deposits		21,810	21,377
Cash at Bank & in Hand		9,672	131,962
		<u>32,686</u>	<u>188,992</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	8	62,745	47,063
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		<b>(30,059)</b>	141,929
<b>Assets Less Current liabilities</b>		<u>1,231,942</u>	<u>1,403,930</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due after one year	8	0	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u>1,231,942</u>	<u>1,403,930</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted - General/dilapidation	9	37,784	84,629
Unrestricted - Capital	9	1,191,820	1,191,820
Total Unrestricted		<u>1,229,604</u>	<u>1,276,449</u>
Restricted	9	2,338	127,481
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,231,942</u>	<u>1,403,930</u>

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

The directors' statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown below, which form part of this balance sheet.

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charitable company we hereby confirm:

- (a) That for the year stated above the charitable company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) That no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the charitable company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024; and
- (c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - a. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - b. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **a) General information and basis of preparation**

Northamptonshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per trustee of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 5 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the report of the Directors/Trustees on pages 7 – 8.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### **b) Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**c) Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

**d) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs includes the expenditure costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows: -

Description	Depreciation Period
Hunsbury Hill Centre (freehold)	Nil
Office equipment	Over 2 to 10 years
Trophies	Nil
IT equipment	100% in year of purchase
Fixtures & fittings	Over 5 to 10 years

As detailed in note 6, certain fixed assets have been re-valued in previous years. These valuations have been adopted as the historical costs.

Depreciation is not charged on the buildings at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, as the residual value is considered to be not less than the carrying value.

**f) Investment**

The Charity owns The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, which was incorporated on 26th March 2013. The investment represents the entire share capital of that company.

**g) Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Charity will have sufficient resources to continue its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

**NOTE 2: ACTIVITIES**

The activities of this organisation, which is a registered Charity (registered no. 1080038), continue to be the support of the rural communities of Northamptonshire through the provision of advice and support on issues affecting them.

**NOTE 3: INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
	£	£		
DEFRA - ACRE	40,280	0	40,280	40,280
Rural Housing Enabler	0	16,662	16,662	0
Rural Friendship Van	0	10,000	10,000	0
Northants Village Awards	0	0	0	4,940
Warm Home Packs (Nat Grid)	0	9,461	9,461	0
NLCF GNS project	0	0	0	95,014
Community Renewal Fund		0	0	85,967
Household Support Fund		4,000	4,000	55,000
	40,280	40,123	80,403	281,201

The charity's charitable activities are either ringfenced or the funding goes into the core (General) fund. The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funding covers core activities. Defra funds each Rural Community Council through the ACRE network to deliver projects and outcomes against 8 priority areas. Each RCC, such as Northamptonshire ACRE, uses the DEFRA funding to provide support to rural communities in as many of the priority areas as possible. Information on our work against the priorities is provided to DEFRA by each RCC in quarterly reports, collated by national ACRE. DEFRA (and other departments) is able to use this rural evidence in developing future government policies. Please contact Northamptonshire ACRE for more details.

Our National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbours project was a 3-year programme that began on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The funding from The National Lottery Community Fund distributes money raised by National Lottery players

for good causes - it is the largest community funder in the UK. The funding was used to employ two fieldworkers who are tasked with setting up 30 Good Neighbour schemes in North Northamptonshire over a 3-year period. These schemes are run by local volunteers providing day to day low level support to fellow residents in their community to meet individual local needs. By the end of March 2023, 23 schemes had been set up in North Northants and 2 in West Northants as the National Lottery had agreed we could also support the set up of the schemes in West Northants. GNS support may involve informal general help, befriending or activities, either on an occasional or regular basis.

2022-23 is the last year of the GNS funding but as there was an underspend on the project, the National Lottery has agreed this could be carried forward into 2023-24. The project will finish at the end of January 2024.

North Northants awarded us £55k in February 2023 to help residents in rural areas in the north who were experiencing energy issues or needed support to purchase food. The funding covered the period from February 2023 to the end of December 2023 and was used to provide a small amount of funding to help pay for energy costs and food vouchers of between £20 to £60 for individuals and families in need.

#### NOTE 4: TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Fund raising	Charitable Activities	Governan. other costs	HHC	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
	£	£	£		£	£
Staff Costs	54,962	82,443	54,962	27,481	219,849	207,154
Premises	6,074	9,111	6,074	3,037	24,297	31,202
Insurance	3,619	5,429	3,619	1,810	14,476	15,030
Professional Services	9,032	13,548	9,032	4,516	36,128	44,924
Telephones	521	781	521	260	2,083	2,870
Postage, Printing & Stationery	30	45	30	15	119	2,702
Equipment & Materials	921	1,381	921	460	3,682	5,545
Advertising	1,105	1,658	1,105	553	4,420	6,390
Other Expenses	16,240	24,360	16,240	8,120	64,960	57,631
Subscriptions inc. ACRE	1,602	2,403	1,602	801	6,408	9,024
Loan interest	192	287	192	96	766	1,042
	<b>94,297</b>	<b>141,446</b>	<b>94,297</b>	<b>47,149</b>	<b>377,188</b>	<b>383,514</b>

Total expenditure on Charitable Activities includes expenditure from restricted funds. Refer to Note 9 for breakdown of expenditure from restricted funds.

Staff costs include the costs spent on core NACRE staff as well as the expenditure on salaries for restricted projects (i.e. National Lottery Good Neighbour scheme project, Rural Friendship Van, Rural Housing, Warm Home Packs, Household Support Fund and Grassroots project).

#### NOTE 5: RESOURCES EXPENDED INCLUDES:-

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year or preceding year.

## Trustees Report & Annual Accounts 2023-2024

	2023/24	2022/23
The average number of employees calculated on a full time equivalent basis was:-	5	5

NACRE Staff Costs	2023/24	2022/23
		£
Salaries	118,701	123,528
Employers National Insurance	4,048	1,961
Payroll provision costs	504	576
Pension Contribution	2,351	2,023
Training	80	179
Travel mileage allowance	238	0
Travel - other costs (train, parking)	0	0
Recruitment costs	3,875	0
	129,797	128,267

Other Expenses	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
The director/trustees receive no emoluments but were paid expenses	1,421	1,533
Independent Examiners Fee	1,307	1,680

### NOTE 6: FIXED ASSETS

		HHC	F&F	Office Equip	Trophies	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost/Valuation</b>	As at 1 April 2023	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
	Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Revaluation in the year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	As at 31 March 2024	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
<b>Depreciation</b>	As at 1 April 2023	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
	Provided in Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals					0	0
	As at 31 March 2024	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
<b>Net Book Value</b>	As at 1 April 2023	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000
	As at 31 March 2024	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000

- 1) All the above assets are used for direct charitable purposes
- 2) The historical cost of the fixed assets is £89,422.
- 3) The Hunsbury Hill Centre and its surrounding site is professionally revalued every five years. The site and centre was valued in November

2018 by Godfrey Payton Chartered Surveyors, with the valuation as at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Centre and site was valued at £1,262,000 at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The property was due to be revalued in 2023-24 but will be revalued in 2024-25.

- 4) The trustees consider that the current values are not less than the value as stated in the accounts.

<b>Investments</b>			
		<b>As at 31/03/24</b>	<b>As at 31/03/23</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Investment in the wholly owned subsidiary company	1	1

Northamptonshire ACRE owns the whole of the issued share capital of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, a company incorporated in England. The company's principal activity is the provision of event facilities.

In the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd made a profit of £10,315 but as it was carrying a deficit of £32,985 from the previous financial year of 2022/23, the total equity was a deficit of £22,669. During 2020 the trading arm was unable to hold any Weddings due to a nationwide Covid-19 Pandemic. The deficit was a result of this pandemic and the cancellation of all weddings and events in 2020-21 and into 2022.

### **NOTE 7: DEBTORS**

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Control account	106	401
Prepayments	1,098	
Amounts due from subsidiary	0	35,252
	1,204	35,653

**NOTE 8: CREDITORS**

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
HHC Loan account		
Creditors control account	2,100	284
RIA - PC subs 2023/2024	700	35
RIA - VH subs 2023/2024	2,913	160
RIA - Donations 2023/2024	42	0
RIA - NVA 2023/2024	0	0
RIA - Other	0	0
Accruals	2,350	3,531
Other tax and social security	1,322	7
Pension creditors	1,238	714
Amounts due to Subsidiary	27,960	7,080
Yorks. Bank Bounce Back Loan	24,120	35,252
	<b>62,745</b>	<b>47,063</b>

**NOTE 9: FUND ANALYSIS**

	b/forward 1 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Revaluation	Incoming Transfers	Outgoing Transfers	Net Transfers	Balances c/forward 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>								
General fund	59,629	165,076	211,921		0	0	0	12,784
Capital Fund	1,191,820			0	0			1,191,820
Dilapidation/Reserves Fund	25,000				0		0	25,000
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>1,276,449</b>	<b>165,076</b>	<b>211,921</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,229,604</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>								
Northants Village Awards	£0	0	0	0	0		0	£0
Nat Lottery GNS project	£74,099	0	74,099	0	0		0	£0
Rural Friendship Van	£0	10,000	9,000	0	0		0	£1,000
Grass roots grant	£1,443	0	1,443	0	0		0	£0
Rural Housing Enabler	£0	16,662	15,324	0	0		0	£1,338
Warm Home Packs (Nat Grid)	£0	9,461	9,461	0	0		0	£0
Household Support Fund 3	£51,940	4,000	55,940	0	0		0	£0
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>£127,481</b>	<b>40,123</b>	<b>165,267</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>£2,338</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,403,930</b>	<b>205,199</b>	<b>377,188</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,231,942</b>

**Fund Analysis Explanation**

**Unrestricted Funds**

The General Fund represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes. The General Fund is used to cover the charity's core costs.

The General Fund is made up from several sources including membership fees from our Parish Council and Community Facility members, a yearly grant

from DEFRA (made through the national ACRE network), the donation from the trading arm, office rentals and the bulk oil membership scheme that Northamptonshire ACRE runs for off gas rural communities.

The Hunsbury Hill Centre is an established event venue and was incorporated as a trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, to take over the non-primary activities of the charity. The trading arm is marketed as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill.

The Capital Fund represents the fixed asset revaluation fund for tangible fixed assets that were re-valued as required by the Companies Act of 2006. The reserve reflects the amount by which the fixed assets exceed their historical cost.

As at 31st March 2024 the Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund was in surplus by £25,000. The reserve will be capped at £50,000. As at 31st March 2024, the General Fund was in surplus by £12,784.

### ***Restricted Funds***

These are funds received by the charity to deliver a specific project. Refer to Note 3 for details about the restricted funds the charity received and the projects delivered during 2023 and 2024.

### **NOTE 10: CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS**

The charitable company is controlled by the Board of Directors/Trustees.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1080038

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# Accounts

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## **Northamptonshire ACRE**

### **Trustees Report and Annual Accounts 2022 – 2023**

## Mission Statement

Northamptonshire ACRE, an independent charitable organisation, works with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. We help rural communities to help themselves, to value diversity and to work to create a vibrant, sustainable future.

## Strategic Aims

- To deliver the charity's purpose for the public benefit of all rural residents in Northamptonshire
- Support the identification of rural needs and assist communities to develop sustainable solutions.
- Champion green solutions and provide a connection to their wider understanding.
- Encourage and develop a sense of place through community-led engagement.
- Be a valued member of the ACRE network supporting at a national and local level the advocacy of rural matters ensuring rural proofing is embedded in all policies.
- Renovate and develop the historic site of the Hunsbury Hill Farm for the future benefit of all
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Board of Trustees  
Northamptonshire ACRE  
(Action with Communities in Rural England)

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## **THE OFFICIALS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is an independent voluntary organisation, registered charity (**no. 1080038**) and company limited by guarantee (**no. 3937576**) working to support rural communities and community groups throughout the County.

### **President**

James Saunders Watson, Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire

### **Vice-Presidents**

The Right Reverend Donald Allister Bishop of Peterborough  
(retired 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022)  
Lord Boswell of Aynho  
Mr Gordon Shorley  
(retired 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022)  
Mr Jeffrey Greenwell  
Mr David Laing  
Mrs Catherine Lomax

### **Independent Examiners**

Messrs Jervis & Partners

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Chair**

Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson

#### **Vice-Chair**

Mr Ken Christy

### **Members**

Mr David Scudamore  
Mr Richard Hollingum  
Mr Cameron Waldron  
Mrs Miranda Prentice

### **Observers**

From West and North Northamptonshire Local Authorities  
and Voluntary Sector Agencies

### **Bankers**

Yorkshire Bank plc

**Principal Address**

The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

Telephone (01604) 765888

Email: [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

Website: [www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northantsacre/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthantsACRE>

## THE STAFF OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

### Chief Executive

Elaine O'Leary

### Village Halls Adviser

Frances Harris

### Rural Officer

Jennifer Hedges

### Project Administrator

Natasha Jimenez Sanchez  
(left 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022)

### Communications Administrator

Charlene Browne

### Administration Officer NACRE

Sarah Clarke

### Good Neighbour Fieldworkers

Joanna Browning  
Claire Yow

### Rural Support Officer

Alex Wildman

### Office Manager

Kerri Marshall-Duckett  
(started 7<sup>th</sup> November 2022)

### Food Project Worker (Fixed Term Post)

Craig Severn  
(Started 31st January 2022, left 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022)

### The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

#### Events Team Manager

Elaine O'Leary

#### Events Co-Ordinator

Sarah Clarke

## **VOLUNTEERS WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

### **Northamptonshire Village Awards Volunteers**

Village of the Year Judges

### **Other volunteers**

Good Neighbour Volunteers

Moulton College Students

## BACKGROUND

Northamptonshire ACRE has been delivering services and working with rural communities in Northamptonshire for over 76 years. We were originally known as Northamptonshire Rural Community Council and changed our name to Northamptonshire ACRE in 2000. We celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Rural Community Councils were set up by the Government, one in each county, with the aim of ensuring the needs of rural communities were known about and supported. There are 38 RCCs across England and with our national body, ACRE, we make up the ACRE Network.

Northamptonshire ACRE is a company limited by guarantee (company number 3937576) and registered charity (charity number 1080038).

Northamptonshire ACRE has a strategic business and implementation plan, which is reviewed and revised regularly.

The reviews look at the success of each key activity carried out by the charity and the public benefits they have brought to the groups of people with whom we work. These reviews also help us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissions General Guidance on Public Benefit when carrying out our review and in planning our future activities.

The main activities and achievements of the charity from April 2022 to March 2023 are detailed in this 2022 – 2023 Trustees Annual Report, which is also available to download from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/> and the Charity Commission.

## REVIEW OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

Northamptonshire ACRE purchased The Hunsbury Hill Centre from Northampton Development Corporation in 1977 and has owned the 13-acre property since then.

The main activities and achievements of the charity from April 2022 to March 2023 are detailed in the 2022 – 2023 Trustees Annual Report, which is available to download from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/> and the Charity Commission.

### Application and source of Funds

The charity's income is generated from a mixture of funding streams. Through the development of an excellent working relationship with DEFRA, our national body, ACRE, has been able to secure regular funding for all the ACRE Network members. We use this funding to deliver services against DEFRA's 8 national priorities.

The core rural work undertaken by Northamptonshire ACRE is also funded by consultancy and membership work, from project income

(management/overheads/support fees) and rent, staff-cost contributions, and any donations from The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd, the charity's trading arm, also known as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. These funds are used to raise awareness of issues affecting people living in rural communities throughout the county and supporting community groups, including village hall committees and parish councils, on issues relating to sustainable development, transport, fund-raising and rural service provision.

Under restricted funds are the income and expenditure relating to a number of specific projects including the Northamptonshire Village Awards, the National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbour Schemes project, the Postcode Places Trust orchard fund, Community Renewal Fund and the West Northants grassroots project.

The breakdown of unrestricted expenditure between cost of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs is based initially on the nature of the expense and whether it falls directly in to one of these categories. Should it fall across several categories it is allocated based on either an individual staff member's percentage allocation or the overall staff percentage allocation.

### **Assets**

Northamptonshire ACRE's key asset is the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The Centre provides office accommodation for Northamptonshire ACRE's staff. It provides the community and us with an affordable and unique setting in which to host events. The Centre is professionally revalued every 5 years. It was revalued in 2018 at £1,262,000. A new valuation will be carried out in 2023/2024.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Board established a policy where the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should ideally be equivalent to approximately three months of the resources expended. In addition, the Board established a Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund in the 2017-18 financial year, which would be used to build up reserves to cover future major repair and maintenance costs of the Hunsbury Hill Centre buildings.

The charity agreed that funds would be added to the Dilapidation Fund as applicable, depending upon the current economic situation. The Dilapidation Fund stood at £25,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The charity's aim is to continue building up the Dilapidation Fund each year as the economic situation permits until the Fund reaches a limit of £50,000.

### **Risk Management**

Northamptonshire ACRE has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has put in place a Risk Management Policy and systems devised to mitigate those risks. External risks to funding have been mitigated by diversification of funding and activities including a robust approach to discussions with funders with the aim of covering infrastructure

costs i.e. full cost recovery. Internal risks are minimised by the devising and implementing of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company as well as the refinement and improvement of Human Resources and Health and Safety policies. The procedures and policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

### **Financial Dependence**

The charity's income is generated from a mixture of funding streams and means it is not financially dependent on one source only.

### **Independent Examination**

A resolution proposing that Jervis & Partners be re-appointed to conduct an independent examination of the Charity was passed at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

### **Approval**

The accounts were approved by the Board of Directors at the 2023 AGM on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and signed on their behalf:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson, Chair

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

We report on the accounts of Northamptonshire ACRE for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, which are set out on pages 11 to 23.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 486 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jervis & Partners  
Chartered Accountants  
30 Harborough Road  
Kingsthorpe  
Northamptonshire  
NN2 7AZ

Date:

## STATEMENT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law and Charity Law requires the trustees/directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees/directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board of Directors



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2022 - 2023

(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

	Note	2022/23			2021/22
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
From Generated Sources					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		61,096	0	61,096	41,774
Generated income		52,290	0	52,290	46,893
Office Accommodation		2,300	0	2,300	2,300
Donations		2,904	0	2,904	680
		<u>118,590</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>118,590</u>	<u>91,647</u>
From Charitable Activities	3	40,280	240,921	281,201	146,260
<b>Total Income</b>		<b><u>158,870</u></b>	<b><u>240,921</u></b>	<b><u>399,791</u></b>	<b><u>237,907</u></b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of Raising Funds					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		47,939		47,939	£31,419
Fundraising & Publicity		95,879		95,879	£62,838
		<u>143,818</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>143,818</u>	<u>£94,257</u>
Charitable Activities		(2,003)	145,821	143,818	£94,257
Other Costs		95,879		95,879	£62,838
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4	<b><u>237,693</u></b>	<b><u>145,821</u></b>	<b><u>383,514</u></b>	<b><u>£251,353</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b><u>(78,823)</u></b>	<b><u>95,100</u></b>	<b><u>16,277</u></b>	<b><u>(13,446)</u></b>
Transfers between Funds		30,778	(30,778)	0	0
<b>Net Income after transfers</b>		<b><u>(48,045)</u></b>	<b><u>64,322</u></b>	<b><u>16,277</u></b>	<b><u>(13,446)</u></b>
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)					
Unrealised gain on property valuation		0		0	0
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b><u>(48,045)</u></b>	<b><u>64,322</u></b>	<b><u>16,277</u></b>	<b><u>(13,446)</u></b>
Revaluation in year	9	0		0	
Total Funds Brought forward prior year	9	1,324,495	63,158	1,387,653	1,401,099
<b>Total Funds carried forward at year-end</b>		<b><u>1,276,450</u></b>	<b><u>127,480</u></b>	<b><u>1,403,930</u></b>	<b><u>1,387,653</u></b>

### Continuing Operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2023

	Note	As at 31/3/23 £	As at 31/3/22
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	6	1,262,000	1,262,000
Investment in Subsidiary	6	1	1
		<u>1,262,001</u>	<u>1,262,001</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7	35,653	66,891
Short Term Deposits		21,377	21,280
Cash at Bank & in Hand		131,962	92,095
		<u>188,992</u>	<u>180,266</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	8	47,063	54,614
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>141,929</u>	<u>125,652</u>
<b>Assets Less Current liabilities</b>		<u>1,403,930</u>	<u>1,387,653</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due after one year	8	0	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u>1,403,930</u>	<u>1,387,653</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted - General/dilapidation	9	84,629	132,674
Unrestricted - Capital	9	1,191,820	1,191,820
Total Unrestricted		<u>1,276,449</u>	<u>1,324,494</u>
Restricted	9	127,481	63,159
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,403,930</u>	<u>1,387,653</u>

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

The directors' statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown below, which form part of this balance sheet.

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charitable company we hereby confirm:

- (a) That for the year stated above the charitable company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) That no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the charitable company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023; and
- (c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - a. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - b. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **a) General information and basis of preparation**

Northamptonshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per trustee of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 5 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the report of the Directors/Trustees on pages 7 – 8.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### **b) Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds that are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds that are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**c) Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

**d) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs includes the expenditure costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows: -

Description	Depreciation Period
Hunsbury Hill Centre (freehold)	Nil
Office equipment	Over 2 to 10 years
Trophies	Nil
IT equipment	100% in year of purchase
Fixtures & fittings	Over 5 to 10 years

As detailed in note 6, certain fixed assets have been re-valued in previous years. These valuations have been adopted as the historical costs.

Depreciation is not charged on the buildings at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, as the residual value is considered to be not less than the carrying value.

**f) Investment**

The Charity owns The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, which was incorporated on 26th March 2013. The investment represents the entire share capital of that company.

**g) Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Charity will have sufficient resources to continue its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

**NOTE 2: ACTIVITIES**

The activities of this organisation, which is a registered Charity (registered no. 1080038), continue to be the support of the rural communities of Northamptonshire through the provision of advice and support on issues affecting them.

**NOTE 3: INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
	£	£		
DEFRA - ACRE	40,280		40,280	40,280
Northants Village Awards		4,940	4,940	0
NLCF GNS project		95,014	95,014	87,928
Defra LA food fund		0	0	8,606
NBC grass roots grant		0	0	3,000
Peoples Trust - orchard		0	0	6,446
Community Renewal Fund		85,967	85,967	
Household Support Fund 3		55,000	55,000	
	40,280	240,921	281,201	146,260

The charity's charitable activities are either ringfenced or the funding goes into the core (General) fund. The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funding covers core activities. Defra funds each Rural Community Council through the ACRE network to deliver projects and outcomes against 8 priority areas. Each RCC, such as Northamptonshire ACRE, uses the DEFRA funding to provide support to rural communities in as many of the priority areas as possible. Information on our work against the priorities is provided to DEFRA by each RCC in quarterly reports, collated by national ACRE. DEFRA (and other departments) is able to use this rural evidence in developing future government policies. Please contact Northamptonshire ACRE for more details.

The Northamptonshire Village Awards funding is the final year of funding from CPRE Northamptonshire and covers the awards for 2022. It also includes fees from awards entries. The funding from CPRE finished at the end of 2022.

Our National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbours project was a 3-year programme that began on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The funding from The National Lottery Community Fund distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes - it is the largest community funder in the UK. The funding was used to employ two fieldworkers who are tasked with setting up 30 Good Neighbour schemes in North Northamptonshire over a 3-year period. These schemes are run by local volunteers providing day to day low level support to fellow residents in their community to meet individual local needs. By the end of March 2023, 23 schemes had been set up in North Northants and 2 in West Northants as the National Lottery had agreed we could also support the set up of the schemes in West Northants. GNS support may involve informal general help, befriending or activities, either on an occasional or regular basis.

2022-23 is the last year of the GNS funding but as there was an underspend on the project, the National Lottery has agreed this could be carried forward into 2023-24. The project will finish at the end of January 2024.

We were successful in obtaining funding from the UK Community Renewal Fund for the North Northants Sustainable Food Network, which is a partnership of organisations working to improve the food chain in the north of the county. NACRE set up the network with Made in Northamptonshire in January 2021 and is currently the chair of the network. The CRF funding was used to pay for a fixed term food worker to develop an interactive food map, report on the gaps in the food chain and provide licences for food apps to help businesses reduce waste and their carbon footprint. It also covered the cost of funding the licences and to develop the [North Northants Sustainable Food Network](#) website for the network. Work on the CRF project finished at the end of December 2022.

North Northants awarded us £55k in February 2023 to help residents in rural areas in the north who were experiencing energy issues or needed support to purchase food. The funding will cover the period from February 2023 to the end of December 2023 and will be used to provide a small amount of funding to help pay for energy costs and food vouchers of between £20 to £60 for individuals and families in need.

**NOTE 4: TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	Fund raising	Charitable Activities	Governan. other costs	HHC	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
	£	£	£		£	£
Staff Costs	51,789	77,683	51,789	25,894	207,154	140,234
Premises	7,801	11,701	7,801	3,900	31,202	16,106
Insurance	3,758	5,636	3,758	1,879	15,030	14,501
Professional Services	11,231	16,847	11,231	5,616	44,924	3,312
Telephones	718	1,076	718	359	2,870	2,725
Postage, Printing & Stationery	676	1,013	676	338	2,702	1,143
Equipment & Materials	1,386	2,079	1,386	693	5,545	6,066
Advertising	1,598	2,396	1,598	799	6,390	1,274
Other Expenses	14,408	21,612	14,408	7,204	57,631	58,683
Subscriptions inc. ACRE	2,256	3,384	2,256	1,128	9,024	7,309
Loan interest	261	391	261	130	1,042	0
	<b>95,879</b>	<b>143,818</b>	<b>95,879</b>	<b>47,939</b>	<b>383,514</b>	<b>251,353</b>

Total expenditure on Charitable Activities includes expenditure from restricted funds. Refer to Note 9 for breakdown of expenditure from restricted funds.

Staff costs include the costs spent on core NACRE staff as well as the expenditure on salaries for restricted projects (i.e. National Lottery Good Neighbour scheme project, Northants Village Awards, Postcode Places Trust and Grassroots project).

**NOTE 5: RESOURCES EXPENDED INCLUDES:-**

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year or preceding year.

	2022/23	2021/22
The average number of employees calculated on a full time equivalent basis was:-	5	5

NACRE Staff Costs	2022/23	2021/22
		£
Salaries	123,528	112,959
Employers National Insurance	1,961	2,308
Payroll provision costs	576	444
Pension Contribution	2,023	1,749

Training		179	540
Travel mileage allowance		0	39
Travel - other costs (train, parking)		0	39
Recruitment costs		0	0
		128,267	118,078

<b>Other Expenses</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
The director/trustees receive no emoluments but were paid expenses	1,533	911
Independent Examiners Fee	1,680	1,530

**NOTE 6: FIXED ASSETS**

		HHC	F&F	Office Equip	Trophies	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost/Valuation</b>	As at 1 April 2022	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
	Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Revaluation in the year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	As at 31 March 2023	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
<b>Depreciation</b>	As at 1 April 2022	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
	Provided in Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals					0	0
	As at 31 March 2023	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
<b>Net Book Value</b>	As at 1 April 2022	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000
	As at 31 March 2023	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000

- 1) All the above assets are used for direct charitable purposes
- 2) The historical cost of the fixed assets is £89,422.
- 3) The Hunsbury Hill Centre and its surrounding site is professionally revalued every five years. The site was valued in November 2018 by Godfrey Payton Chartered Surveyors, with the valuation as at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Centre and site was valued at £1,262,000 at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The property is due to be revalued in 2023-24.
- 4) The trustees consider that the current values are not less than the value as stated in the accounts.

<b>Investments</b>		<b>As at 31/03/23</b>	<b>As at 31/03/22</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Investment in the wholly owned subsidiary company	1	1

Northamptonshire ACRE owns the whole of the issued share capital of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, a company incorporated in England. The company's principal activity is the provision of event facilities.

In the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd made a profit of £19,182 but as it was carrying a deficit of £52,167 from the previous financial year of 2021/22, the total equity was a deficit of £32,985. During 2020 the trading arm was unable to hold any Weddings due to a nationwide Covid-19 Pandemic. The deficit was a result of this pandemic and the cancellation of all weddings and events in 2020-21.

#### **NOTE 7: DEBTORS**

		<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
1100	Control account	401	20,507
	Amounts due from subsidiary	0	0
2107	HHC Loan account	35,252	46,384
		<b>35,653</b>	<b>66,891</b>

£35,252 is the amount owed by the trading arm, Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd for the Bounce Back Loan to Northamptonshire ACRE. This was originally £50,000 and is paid back each year.

**NOTE 8: CREDITORS**

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
HHC Loan account	7,080	0
Creditors control account	284	972
RIA - PCI subs 2022/2023	35	1,400
RIA - VH subs 2022/2023	160	2,570
RIA - Donations 2022/2023	0	110
RIA - NVA 2022/23	0	730
RIA - Other	0	20
Accruals	3,531	1,850
PAYE creditors	7	0
Pension creditors	714	578
Amounts due to Subsidiary		0
Yorks. Bank Bounce Back Loan	35,252	46,384
	<b>47,063</b>	<b>54,614</b>

**NOTE 9: FUND ANALYSIS**

	b/forward 1 April 2022	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Revaluation	Incoming Transfers	Outgoing Transfers	Net Transfers	Balances c/forward 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>								
General fund	107,674	158,870	237,693		30,778	0	30,778	59,629
Capital Fund	1,191,820			0	0		0	1,191,820
Dilapidation/Reserves Fund	25,000				0		0	25,000
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>1,324,494</b>	<b>158,870</b>	<b>237,693</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,778</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,778</b>	<b>1,276,449</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>								
Northants Village Awards	(739)	4,940	3,461	0	0	740	(740)	£0
Nat Lottery GNS project	61,508	95,014	63,638		0	18,785	(18,785)	£74,099
DEFRA food fund	400	0	86		0	314	(314)	£0
Grass roots grant	1,516	0	74	0	0	0	0	£1,442
Peoples Postcode Lottery	474	0	161		0	313	(313)	£0
Community Renewal Fund	0	85,967	78,091			7,876	(7,876)	£0
Household Support Fund 3	0	55,000	310			2,750	(2,750)	£51,940
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>63,159</b>	<b>240,921</b>	<b>145,821</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,778</b>	<b>(30,778)</b>	<b>£127,481</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,387,653</b>	<b>399,791</b>	<b>383,514</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>30,778</b>	<b>30,778</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,403,930</b>

**Fund Analysis Explanation**

**Unrestricted Funds**

The General Fund represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes. The General Fund is used to cover the charity's core costs.

The General Fund is made up from several sources including membership fees from our Parish Council and Community Facility members, a yearly grant

from DEFRA (made through the national ACRE network), the donation from the trading arm, office rentals and the bulk oil membership scheme that Northamptonshire ACRE runs for off gas rural communities.

The Hunsbury Hill Centre is an established event venue and was incorporated as a trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, to take over the non-primary activities of the charity. The trading arm is marketed as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill.

The Capital Fund represents the fixed asset revaluation fund for tangible fixed assets that were re-valued as required by the Companies Act of 2006. The reserve reflects the amount by which the fixed assets exceed their historical cost.

As at 31st March 2023 the Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund was in surplus by £25,000. The reserve will be capped at £50,000. As at 31st March 2023, the General Fund was in surplus by £59,629.

### ***Restricted Funds***

These are funds received by the charity to deliver a specific project. Refer to Note 3 for details about the restricted funds the charity received and the projects delivered during 2022 and 2023.

## **NOTE 10: CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS**

The charitable company is controlled by the Board of Directors/Trustees.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1080038

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# Accounts

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## **Northamptonshire ACRE**

### **Trustee Annual Report and Accounts 2021 – 2022**

## Mission Statement

Northamptonshire ACRE, an independent charitable organisation, works with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. We help rural communities to help themselves, to value diversity and to work to create a vibrant, sustainable future.

## Strategic Aims

- To encourage and support community-led planning such as neighbourhood plans and rural community action.
- To facilitate the identification of rural needs, particularly for the disadvantaged through community consultation and engagement
- To raise awareness of rural issues, lobby and influence policy
- To support the provision of affordable, accessible rural services
- To work in partnership with others, encouraging co-operation and influencing the allocation of resources
- To monitor our performance and provide value for money to our funders
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Board of Directors  
Northamptonshire ACRE  
(Action with Communities in Rural England)

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## **THE OFFICIALS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is an independent voluntary organisation, registered charity (**no. 1080038**) and company limited by guarantee (**no. 3937576**) working to support rural communities and community groups throughout the County.

### **President**

James Saunders Watson, Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire

### **Vice-Presidents**

The Right Reverend Donald Allister Bishop of Peterborough

Lord Boswell of Aynho

Mr Gordon Shorley

Mr Jeffrey Greenwell

Mr David Laing

Mrs Catherine Lomax

### **Independent Examiners**

Messrs Jervis & Partners

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Chair**

Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson

#### **Vice-Chair**

Mr Ken Christy

### **Members**

Mr Bernard Lock (stood down at 2021 AGM)

Mr David Scudamore

Mr Richard Hollingum

Mr Cameron Waldron

Mrs Miranda Prentice

### **Observers**

From West and North Northamptonshire Local Authorities  
and Voluntary Sector Agencies

### **Bankers**

Yorkshire Bank plc

**Principal Address**

The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

Telephone (01604) 765888

Email: [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

Website: [www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northantsacre/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthantsACRE>

## **THE STAFF OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

### **Chief Executive**

Elaine O'Leary

### **Village Halls Adviser**

Frances Harris

### **Rural Officer**

Jennifer Hedges (Maternity Leave from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

### **Project Administrator**

Natasha Jimenez Sanchez

### **Communications Administrator**

Charlene Browne

### **Administration Officer NACRE**

Sarah Clarke

### **Good Neighbour Fieldworkers**

Joanna Browning (started 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

Claire Yow (started 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021)

### **Rural Support Officer**

Alex Wildman (started 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021)

### **The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.**

#### **Events Team Manager**

Elaine O'Leary

#### **Events Co-Ordinator**

Sarah Clarke

## **VOLUNTEERS WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

### **Northamptonshire Village Awards Volunteers**

Village of the Year Judges

### **Other volunteers**

Good Neighbour Volunteers

Moulton College Horticultural students

## REVIEW OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

### Background

Northamptonshire ACRE has been delivering services and working with rural communities in Northamptonshire for over 75 years. We were originally known as Northamptonshire Rural Community Council and celebrated our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2021. In recognition of such a milestone, a celebration evening was held on the anniversary for present and past staff, trustees, rural members and councillors, complete with cake and our own bottled beer, The Hunsbury Hill Ale, provided by Phipps Brewery. A series of online free sessions were also held over the week beginning 26<sup>th</sup> July for anyone with an interest in rural affairs. More details of the celebration evening and the online sessions can be found on our website at: <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk/nacres-75th-anniversary>. We changed our name to Northamptonshire ACRE in 2000.

Rural Community Councils were set up by the Government, one in each county, with the aim of ensuring the needs of rural communities were known about and supported. There are 38 RCCs across England and with our national body, ACRE, we make up the ACRE Network.

Northamptonshire ACRE purchased The Hunsbury Hill Centre from Northampton Development Corporation in 1977 and has owned the property since then.

### Strategic Aims

Northamptonshire ACRE is a company limited by guarantee (company number 3937576) and registered charity (charity number 1080038).

Northamptonshire ACRE's aims are:

- To encourage and support community-led planning such as neighbourhood plans and rural community action.
- To facilitate the identification of rural needs, particularly for the disadvantaged through community consultation and engagement
- To raise awareness of rural issues, lobby and influence policy
- To support the provision of affordable, accessible rural services
- To work in partnership with others, encouraging co-operation and influencing the allocation of resources
- To monitor our performance and provide value for money to our funders
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Northamptonshire ACRE has a strategic business and implementation plan, which is reviewed and revised regularly.

The reviews look at the success of each key activity carried out by the charity and the benefits they have brought to the groups of people with whom we work. These reviews also help us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the

guidance contained in the Charity Commissions General Guidance on Public Benefit when carrying out our review and in planning our future activities.

The main activities and achievements of the charity from April 2021 to March 2022 are detailed in this 2021 – 2022 Trustees Annual Report, which is also available to download from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/> and the Charity Commission.

### **Application and source of Funds**

The core rural work undertaken by Northamptonshire ACRE is funded by funding from DEFRA, consultancy and membership work, from project income (management/overheads/support fees) and rent, staff-cost contributions, and any donations from The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd, the charity's trading arm, also known as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. These funds are used to raise awareness of issues affecting people living in rural communities throughout the county and supporting community groups, including village hall committees and parish councils, on issues relating to sustainable development, transport, fund-raising and rural service provision.

Under restricted funds are the income and expenditure relating to a number of specific projects including the Northamptonshire Village Awards, the National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbour Schemes project, the Postcode Places Trust orchard fund and the West Northants grassroots project.

The breakdown of unrestricted expenditure between cost of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs is based initially on the nature of the expense and whether it falls directly in to one of these categories. Should it fall across several categories it is allocated based on either an individual staff member's percentage allocation or the overall staff percentage allocation.

### **Assets**

Northamptonshire ACRE's key asset is the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The Centre provides office accommodation for Northamptonshire ACRE's staff. It provides the community and us with an affordable and unique setting in which to host events. The Centre was professionally revalued in 2018 at £1,262,000. Further details of the revaluation are covered in Note 6 Fixed Assets.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Board established a policy where the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should ideally be equivalent to approximately three months of the resources expended. In addition, the Board established a Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund in the 2017-18 financial year, which would be used to build up reserves to cover future major repair and maintenance costs of the Hunsbury Hill Centre buildings.

The charity agreed that funds would be added to the Dilapidation Fund as applicable, depending upon the current economic situation. The Dilapidation Fund stood at £25,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

The charity intends to continue building up the Dilapidation Fund each year as the economic situation permits until the Fund reaches a limit of £50,000.

### **Risk Management**

Northamptonshire ACRE has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has put in place a Risk Management Policy and systems devised to mitigate those risks. External risks to funding have been mitigated by diversification of funding and activities including a robust approach to discussions with funders with the aim of covering infrastructure costs i.e. full cost recovery. Internal risks are minimised by the devising and implementing of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company as well as the refinement and improvement of Human Resources and Health and Safety policies. The procedures and policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

### **Financial Dependence**

The key funders of Northamptonshire ACRE's core unrestricted activities are DEFRA, Parish and Community Facilities members, donations from the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd and Bulk Oil members.

### **Independent Examination**

A resolution proposing that Jervis & Partners be re-appointed to conduct an independent examination of the Charity was passed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and signed on their behalf:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

We report on the accounts of Northamptonshire ACRE for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, which are set out on pages 11 to 24.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 486 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jervis & Partners  
Chartered Accountants  
30 Harborough Road  
Kingsthorpe  
Northamptonshire  
NN2 7AZ

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law and Charity Law requires the trustees/directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees/directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board of Directors



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2021 - 2022

(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

	Note	2021/22			2020/21
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
From Generated Sources					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		41,774	0	41,774	78,763
Generated income		46,893	0	46,893	0
Office Accommodation		2,300	0	2,300	2,300
Donations		680	0	680	35
Covid Gov grant		0	0	0	10,000
		<u>91,647</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>91,647</u>	<u>91,098</u>
From Charitable Activities	3	40,280	105,980	146,260	157,450
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>131,927</b>	<b>105,980</b>	<b>237,907</b>	<b>248,548</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of Raising Funds					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		31,419		31,419	£18,246
Fundraising & Publicity		62,838		62,838	£36,493
		<u>94,257</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>94,257</u>	<u>£54,739</u>
Charitable Activities		7,365	86,892	94,257	£54,739
Other Costs		62,838		62,838	£36,493
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4	<b>164,461</b>	<b>86,892</b>	<b>251,353</b>	<b>£145,970</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>(32,534)</b>	<b>19,088</b>	<b>(13,446)</b>	<b>102,578</b>
Transfers between Funds		31,780	(31,780)	0	0
<b>Net Income after transfers</b>		<b>(754)</b>	<b>(12,692)</b>	<b>(13,446)</b>	<b>102,578</b>
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)					
Unrealised gain on property valuation		0		0	0
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>(754)</b>	<b>(12,692)</b>	<b>(13,446)</b>	<b>102,578</b>
Revaluation in year	9	0		0	
Total Funds Brought forward prior year	9	1,325,249	75,850	1,401,099	1,298,521
<b>Total Funds carried forward at year-end</b>		<b>1,324,495</b>	<b>63,158</b>	<b>1,387,653</b>	<b>1,401,099</b>

### Continuing Operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2022

	Note	As at 31/3/22 £	As at 31/3/21
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	6	1,262,000	1,262,000
Investment in Subsidiary	6	1	1
		<u>1,262,001</u>	<u>1,262,001</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7	66,891	50,326
Short Term Deposits		21,280	20,991
Cash at Bank & in Hand		92,095	158,838
		<u>180,266</u>	<u>230,155</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	8	54,614	91,057
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>125,652</u>	<u>139,098</u>
<b>Assets Less Current liabilities</b>		<u>1,387,653</u>	<u>1,401,099</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due after one year	8	0	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u>1,387,653</u>	<u>1,401,099</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted - General/dilapidation	9	132,674	133,428
Unrestricted - Capital	9	1,191,820	1,191,820
Total Unrestricted		<u>1,324,494</u>	<u>1,325,248</u>
Restricted	9	63,159	75,851
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,387,653</u>	<u>1,401,099</u>

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

The directors' statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown below, which form part of this balance sheet.

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charitable company we hereby confirm:

- (a) That for the year stated above the charitable company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) That no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the charitable company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022; and
- (c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - a. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - b. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **a) General information and basis of preparation**

Northamptonshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per trustee of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 5 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the report of the Directors/Trustees on pages 7 – 10.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### **b) Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**c) Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

**d) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs includes the expenditure costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows: -

Description	Depreciation Period
Hunsbury Hill Centre (freehold)	Nil
Office equipment	Over 2 to 10 years
Trophies	Nil
IT equipment	100% in year of purchase
Fixtures & fittings	Over 5 to 10 years

As detailed in note 6, certain fixed assets have been re-valued in previous years. These valuations have been adopted as the historical costs.

Depreciation is not charged on the buildings at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, as the residual value is considered to be not less than the carrying value.

**f) Investment**

The Charity owns The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, which was incorporated on 26th March 2013. The investment represents the entire share capital of that company.

**g) Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Charity will have sufficient resources to continue its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

**NOTE 2: ACTIVITIES**

The activities of this organisation, which is a registered Charity (registered no. 1080038), continue to be the support of the rural communities of Northamptonshire through the provision of advice and support on issues affecting them.

**NOTE 3: INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
	£	£		
DEFRA - ACRE	40,280		40,280	40,280
NLCF GNS project		87,928	87,928	89,234
SNC GNS project		0	0	3,000
Defra LA food fund		8,606	8,606	24,936
NBC grass roots grant		3,000	3,000	
Peoples Trust - orchard		6,446	6,446	
	40,280	105,980	146,260	157,450

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funds each Rural Community Council through the ACRE network to deliver projects and outcomes against 8 priority areas:

1. Digital infrastructure: helping communities to identify their connectivity challenges and establish community broadband and other solutions.
2. Digital skills and inclusion: helping to actively tackle digital exclusion and support superfast take up by citizens, including through the promotion of local demand stimulation, digital skills and digital inclusion initiatives.
3. Rural life opportunities (childcare, education, health, skills, loneliness, poverty and wellbeing): ensuring rural communities are thriving, sustainable places where people want to live and work together because they provide the support, services and opportunities they require to lead full and contented lives.
4. Social infrastructure: ensuring that community assets incorporating social and economic infrastructure, pubs, shops and Post Offices continue to be hubs of rural communities, and opportunities to increase

- their utilisation are explored and actioned, with best practice being communicated and developed across the network.
5. Rural transport: providing innovative solutions to availability of transport in rural areas, to improve accessibility to services and skills.
  6. Net Zero and affordable energy: helping rural communities to contribute to the UK Government's target of reaching Net Zero by 2050 and providing support and advice on reducing energy costs.
  7. Housing and planning: helping rural communities to grow by identifying suitable sites to meet local housing needs and plan for the future through neighbourhood planning.
  8. Business support and social enterprise development.

Each RCC, such as Northamptonshire ACRE, uses the DEFRA funding to provide support to rural communities in as many of the above areas as possible. Information on our work against the priorities is provided to DEFRA by each RCC in quarterly reports, collated by national ACRE. DEFRA (and other departments) is able to use this rural evidence in developing future government policies. Please contact Northamptonshire ACRE for more details.

The National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbours project is a 3-year programme, which began on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The funding from The National Lottery Community Fund distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes - it is the largest community funder in the UK.

This funding allowed for two fieldworkers to be employed by the charity and these were recruited to the project in June 2021. The fieldworkers, Jo and Claire, are responsible for helping to set up 30 Good Neighbour schemes in North Northamptonshire over a 3 year period. These schemes are run by local volunteers providing day to day low level support to fellow residents in their community to meet individual local needs. GNS support may involve informal general help, befriending or activities, either on an occasional or regular basis. In addition the fieldworkers continue to provide our Rural Wellbeing Service across the whole of the county, offering advice, information and resources as well as signposting people to other organisations and services in order to access the support they need.

The DEFRA Local Authority food fund was to provide food parcels and support to residents in North Northamptonshire. Funding of £24,936 was allocated in March 2021 with work commencing on the project in April 2021. Northamptonshire ACRE purchased food parcels through the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough and distributed the parcels to local community groups in the north, who then allocated to any resident in their community who had a need. Over the 7 weeks the project ran, 501 food boxes were distributed. Approximately 97 families and 4 couples were provided with a food box for at least one or more weeks.

A further amount of £8,606 was allocated to Northamptonshire ACRE in April 2021 to provide meal bags containing food items including fresh meat and veg that could be used to make nutritious meals as shown in the recipe cards that

also went out with the bags. The aim was to help the families learn how to make nutritious meals and become more self-sufficient. 42 families were helped with the meal bags over 6 weeks.

The Grassroots grant was funded through the Northamptonshire Community Foundation and allowed our Rural Support Office to deliver forest schools and outdoor holiday activities to local families with young children, which have been extremely popular and usually oversubscribed. Part of the funding was also used to run outdoor horticultural sessions with students from Moulton Agricultural College, which helped develop their land management skills.

Postcode Places Trust is a grant-giving charity, funded entirely by players of the People's Postcode Lottery. We were successful in obtaining £6,446 from the Trust to develop a heritage orchard and community allotments at the Hunsbury Hill Centre. 8 children and 2 teachers from the local primary school, Moulton College students, councillors from West Hunsbury Council, local residents and staff all met at the Hunsbury Centre at the end of November 2021 to plant 30 heritage fruit trees in an area of scrubland that had been cleared by the Moulton College students. Further work is taking place to develop the allotments.

#### NOTE 4: TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Fund raising	Charitable Activities	Governan. other costs	HHC	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
	£	£	£		£	£
Staff Costs	35,059	52,588	35,059	17,529	140,234	101,490
Premises	4,027	6,040	4,027	2,013	16,106	4,720
Insurance	3,625	5,438	3,625	1,813	14,501	13,252
Professional Services	828	1,242	828	414	3,312	8,292
Telephones	681	1,022	681	341	2,725	3,181
Postage, Printing & Stationery	286	429	286	143	1,143	159
Equipment & Materials	1,517	2,275	1,517	758	6,066	2,512
Advertising	319	478	319	159	1,274	2,801
Catering	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Expenses	14,671	22,006	14,671	7,335	58,683	3,604
Subscriptions inc. ACRE	1,827	2,741	1,827	914	7,309	5,959
	<u>62,838</u>	<u>94,257</u>	<u>62,838</u>	<u>31,419</u>	<u>251,353</u>	<u>145,970</u>

Total expenditure on Charitable Activities includes expenditure from restricted funds. Refer to Note 9 for breakdown of expenditure from restricted funds.

Staff costs include the costs spent on core NACRE staff as well as the expenditure on salaries for restricted projects (i.e. National Lottery Good

Neighbour scheme project, Northants Village Awards, Postcode Places Trust and Grassroots project).

**NOTE 5: RESOURCES EXPENDED INCLUDES:-**

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year or preceding year.

	2021/22	2020/21
The average number of employees calculated on a full time equivalent basis was:-	5	4

NACRE Staff Costs	2020/21	2020
	£	£
Salaries	112,959	95,667
Employers National Insurance	2,308	2,751
Payroll provision costs	444	144
Pension Contribution	1,749	1,830
Training	540	372
Travel mileage allowance	39	0
Travel - other costs (train, parking)	39	0
Recruitment costs	0	0
	118,078	94,934

Other Expenses	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
The director/trustees receive no emoluments but were paid expenses	911	728
Independent Examiners Fee	1,530	3,060

**NOTE 6: FIXED ASSETS**

		HHC	F&F	Office Equip	Trophies	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost/Valuation</b>	As at 1 April 2021	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
	Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Revaluation in the year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	As at 31 March 2022	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
<b>Depreciation</b>	As at 1 April 2021	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
	Provided in Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals					0	0
	As at 31 March 2022	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
<b>Net Book Value</b>	As at 1 April 2021	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000
	As at 31 March 2022	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000

- 1) All the above assets are used for direct charitable purposes
- 2) The historical cost of the fixed assets is £89,422.
- 3) The Hunsbury Hill Centre and its surrounding site is professionally revalued every five years. The site was valued in November 2018 by Godfrey Payton Chartered Surveyors, with the valuation as at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Centre and site was valued at £1,262,000 at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The property is due to be revalued in 2023.
- 4) The trustees consider that the current values are not less than the value as stated in the accounts.

<b>Investments</b>			
		As at 31/03/22	As at 31/03/21
		£	£
Investment in the wholly owned subsidiary company		1	1

Northamptonshire ACRE owns the whole of the issued share capital of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, a company incorporated in England. The company's principal activity is the provision of event facilities.

In the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd made a profit of £12,184 but as it was carrying a deficit of £64,714 from the previous financial year of 2020/21, the total equity was a deficit of £52,167. During 2020 the trading arm was unable to hold any Weddings due to a nationwide

Covid-19 Pandemic. The deficit was a result of this pandemic and the cancellation of all weddings and events in 2020-21.

**NOTE 7: DEBTORS**

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Control account	20,507	326
Amounts due from subsidiary	0	0
HHC Loan account	46,384	50,000
	<u>66,891</u>	<u>50,326</u>

£46,384 is the amount owed by the trading arm, Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd for the Bounce Back Loan to Northamptonshire ACRE. This was originally £50,000 and is paid back each year.

**NOTE 8: CREDITORS**

	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Creditors control account	972	340
RIA - PCI subs 2022/2023	1,400	10,180
RIA - VH subs 2022/2023	2,570	
RIA - Donations 2022/2023	110	
RIA - NVA 2021/22	730	
RIA - Other	20	
Accruals	1,850	1,850
PAYE creditors	0	0
Pension creditors	578	357
Amounts due to Subsidiary	0	28,330
Yorks. Bank Bounce Back Loan	46,384	50,000
	<u>54,614</u>	<u>91,057</u>

**NOTE 9: FUND ANALYSIS**

	b/forward 1 April 2021	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Revaluation	Incoming Transfers	Outgoing Transfers	Net Transfers	Balances c/forward 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>								
General fund	108,428	131,927	164,461		31,780	0	31,780	107,674
Capital Fund	1,191,820			0	0		0	1,191,820
Dilapidation/Reserves Fund	25,000				0		0	25,000
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>1,325,248</b>	<b>131,927</b>	<b>164,461</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,780</b>	<b>1,324,494</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>								
Best Village Competition	2,328	0	684	0	0	2,383	(2,383)	-£739
Nat Lottery GNS project	48,587	87,928	49,727		0	25,281	(25,281)	£61,508
DEFRA food fund	24,936	8,606	32,780		0	362	(362)	£400
Grass roots grant	0	3,000	484	0	0	1,000	(1,000)	£1,516
Peoples Postcode Lottery	0	6,446	3,217		0	2,755	(2,755)	£474
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>75,851</b>	<b>105,980</b>	<b>86,892</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,780</b>	<b>(31,780)</b>	<b>£63,159</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,401,099</b>	<b>237,907</b>	<b>251,353</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>31,780</b>	<b>31,780</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,387,653</b>

**Fund Analysis Explanation**

**Unrestricted Funds**

The General Fund represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes. The General Fund is used to cover the charity's core costs.

The General Fund is made up from several sources including membership fees from our Parish Council and Community Facility members, a yearly grant from DEFRA (made through the national ACRE network), the donation from the trading arm, office rentals and the bulk oil membership scheme that Northamptonshire ACRE runs for off gas rural communities.

The Hunsbury Hill Centre is an established event venue and was incorporated as a trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, to take over the non-primary activities of the charity. The trading arm is marketed as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. During 2020 the trading arm was unable to hold any weddings and this impacted on the income of the income of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd and meant that it made a deficit for the 2020/21 financial year. However, the trading arm was able to hold over 50 weddings in 2021/22 and therefore was able to resume making a donation to the charity during the year.

The Capital Fund represents the fixed asset revaluation fund for tangible fixed assets that were re-valued as required by the Companies Act of 2006. The reserve reflects the amount by which the fixed assets exceed their historical cost.

As at 31st March 2022 the Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund was in surplus by £25,000. The reserve will be capped at £50,000.

As at 31st March 2022, the General Fund was in surplus by £107,674. In total, the unrestricted funds carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 is a significant increase on previous years and is testament to all the hard work and effort all the staff put in during the pandemic with the support of the Trustees of Northamptonshire ACRE.

***Restricted Funds***

These are funds received by the charity to deliver a specific project. Refer to Note 3 for details about the restricted funds the charity received and the projects delivered during 2021 and 2022.

**NOTE 10: CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS**

The charitable company is controlled by the Board of Directors/Trustees.

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

England & Wales - Charity number 1080038

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# Accounts

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## **Northamptonshire ACRE**

### **Trustees Annual Report And Accounts 2020 – 2021**

## Mission Statement

Northamptonshire ACRE, an independent charitable organisation, works with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. We help rural communities to help themselves, to value diversity and to work to create a vibrant, sustainable future.

## Strategic Aims

- To encourage and support community-led planning such as neighbourhood plans and rural community action.
- To facilitate the identification of rural needs, particularly for the disadvantaged through community consultation and engagement
- To raise awareness of rural issues, lobby and influence policy
- To support the provision of affordable, accessible rural services
- To work in partnership with others, encouraging co-operation and influencing the allocation of resources
- To monitor our performance and provide value for money to our funders
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Board of Directors  
Northamptonshire ACRE  
(Action with Communities in Rural England)

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## **THE OFFICIALS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is an independent voluntary organisation, registered charity (**no. 1080038**) and company limited by guarantee (**no. 3937576**) working to support rural communities and community groups throughout the County.

### **President**

James Saunders Watson, Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire

### **Vice-Presidents**

The Right Reverend Donald Allister Bishop of Peterborough  
Lord Boswell of Aynho  
Canon Paul Rose (retired)  
Mr Gordon Shorley  
Mr Jeffrey Greenwell  
Mr David Laing

### **Independent Examiners**

Messrs Jervis & Partners

### **Board of Directors**

#### **Chair**

Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson

#### **Vice-Chair**

Mr Ken Christy

### **Members**

Mr Bernard Lock  
Mr David Scudamore  
Mr Richard Hollingum  
Mr Cameron Waldron  
Mrs Rachael Boyd (resigned 24<sup>th</sup> September 2020)  
Mrs Miranda Prentice (appointed 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020)

### **Observers**

From District & Borough Local Authorities  
and Voluntary Sector Agencies

### **Bankers**

Yorkshire Bank plc

**Principal Address**

The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

Telephone (01604) 765888

Email: [acre@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:acre@northantsacre.org.uk)

Website: [www.northantsacre.org.uk](http://www.northantsacre.org.uk)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/northantsacre/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NorthantsACRE>

## THE STAFF OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

### **Chief Executive**

Elaine O'Leary

### **Village Halls Adviser**

Frances Harris

### **Rural Officer**

Jennifer Hedges

### **Project Administrator**

Natasha Jimenez Sanchez

### **Communications Administrator**

Charlene Browne

### **Administration Officer NACRE**

Sarah Clarke

### **Site Caretaker**

James Davidson (Resigned 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020)

### **The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.**

#### **Events Team Manager**

Elaine O'Leary

#### **Events Co-Ordinator**

Sarah Clarke

## VOLUNTEERS WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

### **Best Village Volunteers**

Village of the Year Judges

### **Other volunteers**

Good Neighbour Volunteers

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

### “Working with rural communities to improve the quality of life for all”

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is a countywide, independent charitable organisation.

We work with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially with the disadvantaged.

We're one of 38 Rural Community Councils working across England, which makes up the ACRE network. Our national body, ACRE, works to make sure that government bodies listen to the needs and voices of rural communities.

- ✓ Our focus is on community development and engagement. If your village or parish wants to carry out any form of community planning, including Neighbourhood Plans, ACRE is there to help and advise. This includes assisting you with accessing funds for projects.
- ✓ We work with local communities to reduce rural isolation and vulnerability and help to make life more affordable for those living in rural areas.
- ✓ We help to deliver improved services for these communities. This can be through better communications links, strong community facilities or more accessible education and health services and supported by a range of training courses.
- ✓ We support and advise rural community groups on a wide range of issues and encourage local action and participation in decision-making.
- ✓ We campaign to ensure that the interests of people living in rural Northamptonshire are taken into account in policy making and strategic planning affecting the County.

Our Chief Executive is Elaine O'Leary and we are based at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, which offers facilities for conferences and social events, including civil weddings and receptions, in a delightful and tranquil setting.

The last year has been particularly difficult for everyone as the Coronavirus Pandemic has had a severe impact on all our lives. At the beginning of the pandemic, the charity's staff moved to home working and have continued to work at home throughout all of 2020 and much of 2021. During this time, we have focussed on 3 key areas of service:

- Supporting all our Village Hall and Community centre members
- Supporting the many Covid-19 groups that set up during the pandemic and enabling a number of them to become Good Neighbour Schemes
- Working with rural communities to evidence food insecurity within rural areas.

More information about the work we carried out during 2020 can be found in our Annual Review: <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk/our-annual-review>

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all the weddings scheduled for 2020 through our trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd, were either moved to 2021 or

2022 or were cancelled. The lack of weddings during the year has had a significant impact on the income of the trading arm and has meant that this year the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd has been unable to make a donation to the charity for 2020-21. Due to the financial situation of HHC Ltd, the Trustees of the charity also decided to waive the annual rent and operating costs made by HHC Ltd to Northamptonshire ACRE.

## REVIEW OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

### Strategic Aims

Northamptonshire ACRE is a company limited by guarantee (company number 3937576) and registered charity (charity number 1080038).

Northamptonshire ACRE's aims are:

- To encourage and support community-led planning such as neighbourhood plans and rural community action.
- To facilitate the identification of rural needs, particularly for the disadvantaged through community consultation and engagement
- To raise awareness of rural issues, lobby and influence policy
- To support the provision of affordable, accessible rural services
- To work in partnership with others, encouraging co-operation and influencing the allocation of resources
- To monitor our performance and provide value for money to our funders
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Northamptonshire ACRE has a strategic business and implementation plan, which is reviewed and revised regularly.

The reviews look at the success of each key activity carried out by the charity and the benefits they have brought to the groups of people with whom we work. These reviews also help us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissions General Guidance on Public Benefit when carrying out our review and in planning our future activities.

The main activities and achievements of the charity from April 2020 to March 2021 are detailed in the 2020 – 2021 Trustees Annual Report, which is available to download from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/> and the Charity Commission.

### Retirement and Recruitment of Trustees

During the year Mrs Rachael Boyd resigned as a trustee and Mrs Miranda Prentice was appointed as a trustee. Northamptonshire ACRE has an established process for the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new trustees and continually works to encourage suitable applicants to apply. There is trustee documentation specific to recruitment and appointment and each new trustee is provided with a comprehensive trustee handbook and induction course.

### **Application and source of Funds**

The core rural work undertaken by Northamptonshire ACRE is funded by funding from DEFRA, consultancy and membership work, from project income (management/overheads/support fees) and rent, staff-cost contributions, and any donations from The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd, the charity's trading arm, also known as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. These funds are used to raise awareness of issues affecting people living in rural communities throughout the county and supporting community groups, including village hall committees and parish councils, on issues relating to sustainable development, transport, fund-raising and rural service provision.

Under restricted funds are the income and expenditure relating to a number of specific projects including the Northamptonshire Village Awards, Daventry Citizens Advice Empowered for Life project and South Northants Good Neighbour schemes. From April 2020 it also includes our National Lottery Good Neighbour Schemes project, which is a 3 year programme to deliver 30 Good Neighbour schemes across North Northamptonshire and ongoing work with the Rural Wellbeing Service across the whole of the county.

The breakdown of unrestricted expenditure between cost of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs is based initially on the nature of the expense and whether it falls directly in to one of these categories. Should it fall across several categories it is allocated based on either an individual staff member's percentage allocation or the overall staff percentage allocation.

### **Assets**

Northamptonshire ACRE's key asset is the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The Centre provides office accommodation for Northamptonshire ACRE's staff. It provides the community and us with an affordable and unique setting in which to host events. The Centre was professionally revalued in 2018 at £1,262,000. Further details of the revaluation are covered in Note 6 Fixed Assets.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Board established a policy where the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should ideally be equivalent to approximately three months of the resources expended. In addition, the Board established a Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund in the 2017-18 financial year, which would be used to build up reserves to cover future major repair and maintenance costs of the Hunsbury Hill Centre buildings.

The charity agreed that funds would be added to the Dilapidation Fund as applicable, depending upon the current economic situation. The Dilapidation Fund stood at £25,000 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

The charity intends to continue building up the Dilapidation Fund each year as the economic situation permits until the Fund reaches a limit of £50,000.

### **Risk Management**

Northamptonshire ACRE has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has put in place a Risk Management Policy and systems devised to mitigate those risks. External risks to funding have been mitigated by diversification of funding and activities including a robust approach to discussions with funders with the aim of covering infrastructure costs i.e. full cost recovery. Internal risks are minimised by the devising and implementing of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company as well as the refinement and improvement of Human Resources and Health and Safety policies. The procedures and policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

### **Financial Dependence**

The key funders of Northamptonshire ACRE's core unrestricted activities are DEFRA, Parish and Community Facilities members, donations from the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd and Bulk Oil members.

### **Independent Examination**

A resolution proposing that Jervis & Partners be re-appointed to conduct an independent examination of the Charity was passed at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

### **Approval**

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and signed on their behalf:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE**

We report on the accounts of Northamptonshire ACRE for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, which are set out on pages 13 to 24.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out our examination we have followed the Directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no matters have come to our attention in connection with the examination giving us cause to believe that in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102).

We have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jervis & Partners  
Chartered Accountants  
30 Harborough Road  
Kingsthorpe  
Northamptonshire  
NN2 7AZ

Date: 17/12/2021

## STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law and Charity Law requires the trustees/directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees/directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

By order of the Board of Directors



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2020- 2021

(Incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

	Note	2020/21			2019/20
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
From Generated Sources					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		0	0	0	70,406
Generated income		78,763	0	78,763	14,650
Office Accommodation		2,300	0	2,300	2,300
Donations		35	0	35	15,055
Covid Gov grant		10,000	0	10,000	
		<u>91,098</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>91,098</u>	<u>102,411</u>
From Charitable Activities	3	40,280	117,170	157,450	51,136
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>131,378</b>	<b>117,170</b>	<b>248,548</b>	<b>153,547</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Cost of Raising Funds					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		18,246		18,246	£20,506
Fundraising & Publicity		36,493		36,493	£41,013
		<u>54,739</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>54,739</u>	<u>£61,519</u>
Charitable Activities		46,508	8,231	54,739	£61,519
Other Costs		36,493		36,493	£41,013
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	4	<b>137,739</b>	<b>8,231</b>	<b>145,970</b>	<b>£164,051</b>
<b>Net Income</b>		<b>(6,361)</b>	<b>108,939</b>	<b>102,578</b>	<b>(10,504)</b>
Transfers between Funds		43,806	(43,806)	0	0
<b>Net Income after transfers</b>		<b>37,445</b>	<b>65,133</b>	<b>102,578</b>	<b>(10,504)</b>
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)					
Unrealised gain on property valuation		0		0	0
<b>Net Movement in Funds</b>		<b>37,445</b>	<b>65,133</b>	<b>102,578</b>	<b>(10,504)</b>
Revaluation in year	9	0		0	
Total Funds Brought forward prior year	9	1,287,804	10,717	1,298,521	1,309,025
<b>Total Funds carried forward at year-end</b>		<b>1,325,249</b>	<b>75,850</b>	<b>1,401,099</b>	<b>1,298,521</b>

### Continuing Operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities. The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

## BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2021

	Note	As at 31/3/21 £	As at 31/3/20
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible Fixed Assets	6	1,262,000	1,262,000
Investment in Subsidiary	6	1	1
		<u>1,262,001</u>	<u>1,262,001</u>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Debtors	7	50,326	15,686
Short Term Deposits		20,991	20,556
Cash at Bank & in Hand		158,838	18,417
		<u>230,155</u>	<u>54,659</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	8	91,057	18,139
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>139,098</u>	<u>36,520</u>
<b>Assets Less Current liabilities</b>		<u>1,401,099</u>	<u>1,298,521</u>
Liabilities: amounts falling due after one year	8	0	0
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<u>1,401,099</u>	<u>1,298,521</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted - General/dilapidation	9	133,428	95,984
Unrestricted - Capital	9	1,191,820	1,191,820
Total Unrestricted		<u>1,325,248</u>	<u>1,287,804</u>
Restricted	9	75,851	10,717
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>1,401,099</u>	<u>1,298,521</u>

## BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

The directors' statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown below, which form part of this balance sheet.

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charitable company we hereby confirm:

- (a) That for the year stated above the charitable company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) That no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the charitable company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021; and
- (c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
  - a. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - b. Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of the financial year and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson  
Chair

## NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### **a) General information and basis of preparation**

Northamptonshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee registered in England. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per trustee of the Charity. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 5 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are given in the report of the Directors/Trustees on pages 7 – 10.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

#### **b) Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

**c) Income**

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial affairs (SOFA) when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the Charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

**d) Expenditure**

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

Fundraising costs includes the expenditure costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include project management carried out at Headquarters. Management and administration costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**e) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are capitalised at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows: -

Description	Depreciation Period
Hunsbury Hill Centre (freehold)	Nil
Office equipment	Over 2 to 10 years
Trophies	Nil
IT equipment	100% in year of purchase
Fixtures & fittings	Over 5 to 10 years

As detailed in note 6, certain fixed assets have been re-valued in previous years. These valuations have been adopted as the historical costs.

Depreciation is not charged on the buildings at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, as the residual value is considered to be not less than the carrying value.

**f) Investment**

The Charity owns The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, which was incorporated on 26th March 2013. The investment represents the entire share capital of that company.

**g) Going Concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes that the Charity will have sufficient resources to continue its charitable activities for the foreseeable future.

**NOTE 2: ACTIVITIES**

The activities of this organisation, which is a registered Charity (registered no. 1080038), continue to be the support of the rural communities of Northamptonshire through the provision of advice and support on issues affecting them.

**NOTE 3: INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
	£	£		£
DEFRA - ACRE	40,280		40,280	40,280
NLCF GNS project		89,234	89,234	0
NVA		0	0	4,330
Empowered for Life		0	0	3,371
SNC GNS project		3,000	3,000	3,155
Defra LA food fund		24,936	24,936	
	40,280	117,170	157,450	51,136

The Empowered for Life (EfL) project is run by Daventry Citizen’s Advice and is aimed at providing support and advice about debt and benefit to people in the Daventry District, particularly those who are unable to visit the office and may be suffering from poor mental wellbeing. Northamptonshire ACRE is working with Daventry CA as part of the project, linking the EfL fieldworkers to Good Neighbour schemes in the district in order to deliver debt and benefit support to people in rural areas. This is an on-going project over 3 years but had to be put on hold for 2020-21 due to the pandemic.

Prior to April 2020, Northamptonshire ACRE was funded by South Northants Council to help set up 7 Good Neighbour schemes within the district. This involved providing support, mentoring, a toolkit and template policies to community groups wishing to start a scheme. They were also helped to access funding from SNC council for start-up costs. Due to the success of this work, South Northants Council funded Northamptonshire ACRE to set up a further 3 Good Neighbour schemes in the district by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The additional 3 schemes are set up and now active.

The Northamptonshire Village Awards (NVA) replaced the Best Village Competition for 2019 and was sponsored by CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England). CPRE intended to sponsor the 2020 Northamptonshire Village Awards but this had to be put on hold during the pandemic as it was not possible to visit villages and communities. The NVA was replaced by the Covid-19 Community Champions Awards during 2020. 76 community groups, parishes and individuals sent in their stories, photos and videos of the support they provided to the more vulnerable members of their community and these details of their amazing work has been collected into a Covid-19 Community Champions booklet. This booklet is available to download at: <https://www.northantsacre.org.uk/covid-19-community-champions>

The next Northamptonshire Village Awards will take place in 2022 and CPRE has confirmed they will sponsor the awards. We are very grateful for CPRE's sponsorship and look forward to working with them again next year.

The National Lottery Community Fund Good Neighbours project is a 3 year programme, which began on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. The funding from The National Lottery Community Fund distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes - it is the largest community funder in the UK.

This funding allows for two fieldworkers to be employed by the charity. The fieldworkers will be responsible to helping to set up 30 Good Neighbour schemes in North Northamptonshire from April 2020 over a 3 year period. These schemes are run by local volunteers providing day to day low level support to fellow residents in their community to meet individual local needs. GNS support may involve informal general help, befriending or activities, either on an occasional or regular basis. In addition the fieldworkers will continue to provide our Rural Wellbeing Service across the whole of the county, offering advice, information and resources as well as signposting people to other organisations and services in order to access the support they need.

The DEFRA Local Authority food fund is to provide food parcels and support to residents in North Northamptonshire. Work commenced on this in April 2021. Northamptonshire ACRE will purchase food parcels through the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough and will distribute the parcels to local community groups in the north who can then allocated to any resident in their community who has a need. Two of the community groups Northamptonshire ACRE will distribute the parcels to new Good Neighbour schemes, which were recently set up in the north of the county as part of the NLCF project (see above).

**NOTE 4: TOTAL EXPENDITURE**

	Fund raising	Charitable Activities	Governan. other costs	HHC	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
	£	£	£		£	£
Staff Costs	25,373	38,059	25,373	12,686	101,490	96,761
Premises	1,180	1,770	1,180	590	4,720	10,882
Insurance	3,313	4,970	3,313	1,657	13,252	12,582
Professional Services	2,073	3,110	2,073	1,037	8,292	17,502
Telephones	795	1,193	795	398	3,181	3,423
Postage, Printing & Stationery	40	60	40	20	159	1,029
Equipment & Materials	628	942	628	314	2,512	2,730
Advertising	700	1,050	700	350	2,801	4,159
Catering	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Expenses	901	1,352	901	451	3,604	7,866
Subscriptions inc. ACRE	1,490	2,235	1,490	745	5,959	7,117
	<b>36,493</b>	<b>54,739</b>	<b>36,493</b>	<b>18,246</b>	<b>145,970</b>	<b>164,051</b>

Total expenditure on Charitable Activities includes expenditure from restricted funds. Refer to Note 9 for breakdown of expenditure from restricted funds.

Staff costs include the costs spent on core NACRE staff as well as the expenditure on salaries for restricted projects (i.e. National Lottery Good Neighbour scheme project, Daventry Empowered for Life, South Northants Good Neighbours and Northants Village Awards).

**NOTE 5: RESOURCES EXPENDED INCLUDES:-**

No employee had emoluments in excess of £60,000 in the year or preceding year.

	2019/20	2019/20
The average number of employees calculated on a full time equivalent basis was:-	4	5

NACRE Staff Costs	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Salaries	95,667	88,290
Employers National Insurance	2,751	3,076
Payroll provision costs	144	144
Pension Contribution	1,830	1,593
Training	372	200
Travel mileage allowance	0	548
Travel - other costs (train, parking)	0	0
Recruitment costs	0	1,083
	<b>100,764</b>	<b>94,934</b>

Other Expenses	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
The director/trustees receive no emoluments but were paid expenses	728	1,827
Independent Examiners Fee	3,060	870

## NOTE 6: FIXED ASSETS

		HHC	F&F	Office Equip	Trophies	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
		£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost/Valuation</b>	As at 1 April 2020	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
	Additions	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Revaluation in the year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	As at 31 March 2021	1,262,000	3,072	11,639	4,531	1,281,242	1,281,242
<b>Depreciation</b>	As at 1 April 2020	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
	Provided in Year	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Disposals					0	0
	As at 31 March 2021	0	3,072	11,639	4,531	19,242	19,242
<b>Net Book Value</b>	As at 1 April 2020	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000
	As at 31 March 2021	1,262,000	0	0	0	1,262,000	1,262,000

- 1) All the above assets are used for direct charitable purposes
- 2) The historical cost of the fixed assets is £89,422.
- 3) The Hunsbury Hill Centre and its surrounding site is professionally revalued every five years. The site was valued in November 2018 by Godfrey Payton Chartered Surveyors, with the valuation as at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Centre and site was valued at £1,262,000 at the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The property is due to be revalued in 2023.
- 4) The trustees consider that the current values are not less than the value as stated in the accounts.

<b>Investments</b>		As at 31/03/21	As at 31/03/20
		£	£
	Investment in the wholly owned subsidiary company	1	1

Northamptonshire ACRE owns the whole of the issued share capital of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, a company incorporated in England. The company's principal activity is the provision of event facilities.

In the financial year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd made a deficit of £64,714 due to the cancellation of all weddings and events in 2020-21 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Trustees of Northamptonshire ACRE decided to waive the annual rent and operating costs that HHC Ltd would normally make to the charity because of the deficit made by the trading arm.

### NOTE 7: DEBTORS

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Control account	326	686
Amounts due from subsidiary	0	15,000
HHC Loan account	50,000	0
	<u>50,326</u>	<u>15,686</u>

For more details about the HHC Loan account refer to Note 8.

### NOTE 8: CREDITORS

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Creditors control account	340	2,004
Receipts in advance	10,180	3,925
Accruals	1,850	1,850
PAYE creditors	0	0
Pension creditors	357	360
Deferred income	0	0
Amounts due to Subsidiary	28,330	10,000
Yorks. Bank Bounce Back Loan	50,000	
	<u>91,057</u>	<u>18,139</u>

Receipts in advance (RIA) of £10,180 cover monies received in the current financial year for services due in 2021/2022 in the following areas: Village Halls and Parish Council subs paid early, donations to the charity, fees from entrants to the Northamptonshire Village Awards 2021/22 and other services.

The amount of £10,000 due to the subsidiary in 2019-20 was an internal loan to the charity from HHC Ltd without interest. The Trustees repaid the £10,000 to HHC Ltd in the current financial year 2020-2021.

The Amounts due to Subsidiary of £28,330 in 2020-21 reflects the amount waived by the charity for rent and salaries paid by HHC Ltd to Northamptonshire ACRE in the financial year and which is due to be paid back to HHC Ltd.

Northamptonshire ACRE applied for a £50,000 Yorkshire Bank Bounce Back Loan, which was taken out on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020. The first 12 months of the loan were interest free (the Government covers the first 12 months of interest) and no repayments were required for the first 12 months. Interest is charged at 2.50% and the loan is for a term of 6 years.

The Bounce Back Loan was provided by Northamptonshire ACRE as a loan to the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd. The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd will be responsible for the interest and capital repayments to Northamptonshire ACRE when the first payments are due. The first capital repayment is due on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and the first interest repayment is due on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

## NOTE 9: FUND ANALYSIS

	b/forward 1 April 2020	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Revaluation	Incoming Transfers	Outgoing Transfers	Net Transfers	Balances c/forward 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>								
General fund	70,984	131,378	137,739		43,806	0	43,806	108,428
Capital Fund	1,191,820			0	0		0	1,191,820
HHF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dilapidation/Reserves Fund	25,000				0		0	25,000
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>1,287,804</b>	<b>131,378</b>	<b>137,739</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,806</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,806</b>	<b>1,325,248</b>
<b>Restricted Funds</b>								
Best Village Competition	3,539	0	0	0	0	1,211	(1,211)	£2,328
Nat Lottery GNS project	0	89,234	7,231		0	33,416	(33,416)	£48,587
Daventry EFL	5,448	0	0	0	0	5,448	(5,448)	£0
SNC GNS	1,731	3,000	1,000		0	3,731	(3,731)	£0
DEFRA food fund		24,936	0		0	0	0	£24,936
<b>Total Restricted</b>	<b>10,717</b>	<b>117,170</b>	<b>8,231</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,806</b>	<b>(43,806)</b>	<b>£75,851</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>1,298,521</b>	<b>248,548</b>	<b>145,970</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43,806</b>	<b>43,806</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,401,099</b>

### Fund Analysis Explanation

#### **Unrestricted Funds**

The General Fund represents the free funds of the charity, which are not designated for particular purposes. The General Fund is used to cover the charity's core costs.

The General Fund is made up from several sources including membership fees from our Parish Council and Community Facility members, a yearly grant from DEFRA (made through the national ACRE network), the donation from

the trading arm, office rentals and the bulk oil membership scheme that Northamptonshire ACRE runs for off gas rural communities. This is a standalone scheme using an online system called Olive. The system is maintained on behalf of the charity by eSmartMetrics. This company is also responsible for negotiating prices for the oil delivery with various oil companies and ordering the oil deliveries. Northamptonshire ACRE receives a small commission on each oil order. In 2020/21 the scheme received £3,002 in commission.

The Hunsbury Hill Centre is an established event venue and was incorporated as a trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited, to take over the non-primary activities of the charity. The trading arm is marketed as The Barns at Hunsbury Hill. Unfortunately due to the coronavirus pandemic, there were no weddings held at the centre between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This had an impact on the income of the Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd and meant that it made a deficit for the year. The trading arm was not in a position to make a donation to the charity at year end.

Hunsbury Hill Centre Limited pays Northamptonshire ACRE rent for office accommodation and pays a proportion of the combined operating costs, i.e. insurance, utilities and managerial staff time. However, in light of the deficit made by HHC Ltd for 2020/21, the charity decided to waive payments for rent and operating costs for the year.

The Capital Fund represents the fixed asset revaluation fund for tangible fixed assets that were re-valued as required by the Companies Act of 2006. The reserve reflects the amount by which the fixed assets exceed their historical cost.

As at 31st March 2021 the Dilapidation (Reserves) Fund was in surplus by £25,000. The reserve will be capped at £50,000.

As at 31st March 2021, the General Fund was in surplus by £108,428 which is an increase on the previous surplus of £70,984 at 31st March 2020. In total, the unrestricted funds carried forward at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is a significant increase on the previous amount at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and is testament to all the hard work and effort all the staff put in during the pandemic with the support of the Trustees of Northamptonshire ACRE.

### ***Restricted Funds***

These are funds received by the charity to deliver a specific project. Refer to Note 3 for details about the restricted funds the charity received and the projects delivered during 2020 and 2021.

## **NOTE 10: CONTROL RELATIONSHIPS**

The charitable company is controlled by the Board of Directors/Trustees.