

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales · Charity number 1095919

Details

Other names	FARM CRISIS NETWORK, FCN
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04429778
Registered	2003-02-11
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bragborough Hall Business Centre Welton Road Braunston Daventry Northamptonshire NN11 7JG
Phone	01788510866
Email	mail@fcn.org.uk
Website	www.fcn.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 3.1 The relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos ("the Objects"). 3.2 Nothing in these Articles shall authorise an application of the property of the Charity for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and/or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

Activities: Supporting members of the farming community who are going through difficult times. Running a confidential, national helpline and e-helpline which is open every day of the year from 7am - 11pm. Working with different stakeholders, including government bodies, agricultural organisations, healthcare services and other "Farming Help" charities, who are critical to the successful outcome of cases.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,794,750	£1,392,725	£2,244,297	29
2024-03-31	£1,355,802	£1,009,262	£1,818,900	22
2023-03-31	£962,607	£913,484	£1,390,610	21
2022-03-31	£966,279	£767,676	£1,363,175	22
2021-03-31	£786,921	£601,007	£1,160,124	21

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amy Jane Dixon		2023-01-25
Ciara Catherine Laura Williams		2025-10-22
GILES RICHARD BOWRING		2019-07-17
Mr Wyn Owen		2025-10-22
Ms Elle Josephine Vercoe-Gibson		2025-10-22
Ms Lucia Patricia Slack		2025-10-22
OLIVIA HELMORE		2017-08-30
ROGER MALLABER MERCER		2023-10-25
Rev Matthew Neil Jeffrey		2023-10-25
Robert David Walrond		2021-10-28
Stuart Francis Roberts		2023-10-25

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1095919

Accounts

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended

31 March 2025

Company number: 04429778 (England and Wales)

Charity number: 1095919 (England and Wales) and SC053538 (Scotland)



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CHARITY REFERENCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number: 1095919 (England and Wales) and SC053538 (Scotland)

Company number: 04429778 (England and Wales)

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark Suthern (Chair)
Sally Steadman (Vice Chair)
Giles Bowring DL (Treasurer)
Barbara Bray
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers
Olivia Helmore
Sir Mark Hudson – resigned 23 October 2024
Revd Matthew Jeffrey
David Lodder DL – resigned 23 October 2024
Roger Mercer
Stuart Roberts
Bishop Mark Rylands
Robert Walrond

SECRETARY

Deborah Roe

SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Jude McCann (Chief Executive Officer)

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS

Bragborough Hall Business Centre
Welton Road
Daventry
NN11 7JG

AUDITORS

Dafferns Audit Limited

One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Rathbones Brothers Plc
8 Finsbury Circus
London
EC2M 7AZ

Sarasin Investment Funds Limited
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

BNY Mellon Fund Managers Limited
PO Box 366
Darlington
DL1 9RF

CCLA
PO Box 12892
Dunmow
Essex
CM6 9DL

SOLICITORS

Lodders Solicitors LLP
Number Ten
Elm Court Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 6PA

BANKERS

Royal Bank of Scotland
36 St Andrews Square
Edinburgh
EH2 2YB

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

"The Objects of the Charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos."

All services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.

Public Benefits

1. **National Helpline:** The national confidential helpline is open from 7 am to 11 pm every day of the year, staffed by a team of volunteers. Talking with someone who understands farming but is not directly involved in the situation can be a real support in itself, but when appropriate, callers are offered a visit from an FCN volunteer by referral through the co-ordinator local to the caller
2. **Volunteers:** Around 400 volunteers who are 'in sympathy' with the Christian ethos, suitably experienced and in-touch with rural and farming issues, are recruited, DBS checked and appropriately trained to 'walk with' farmers and their families through times of stress and personal difficulty. Referrals to individual volunteers are made through the local FCN County Co-ordinator who is also responsible for the co-ordination and training of volunteers within their Group and liaison with their Regional Director and Head Office for all administrative and policy issues.
3. **Christian ethos:** The Charity has a clear Christian ethos which is inherent within its foundation, board of trustees and charitable objects, which is reflected in its published Vision and Ethos Statements, whilst sustaining the principle that all services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.
4. **Partnerships:**
 - To ensure national coverage, and to respect the territories of other independent farming and rural support services, FCN has 'memoranda of understanding' with those organisations that facilitate cross referrals of clients, access to the FCN Helpline, sharing of expertise and experience and consortia bidding from national funding sources
5. **Uptake:**

The demand for FCN's services fluctuates with the level of causal factors within the industry, so that through a national crisis such as the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001, the scale can be almost overwhelming. However the nature of farming is such that even when the industry is operating under 'normal' conditions, individual businesses and families will experience periods of significant stress because of circumstances specific to the family or business so that a steady demand on FCN volunteers to manage between 1,500 and 2,500 cases per year is typical.

Further statistical details of uptake, nature of the difficulty and routes of referral are described later in this document.

Details of FCN's services, operations and policies are available on the website at:

www.fcn.org.uk

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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A message from Mark Suthern, Chair of FCN's Board of Trustees

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank our network for their ongoing support for the work of FCN. We are indebted to our volunteers and supporters, who allow us to continue 'walking with' farmers and their families during this period of significant change and uncertainty. We are helping to engender a positive mindset and offering hope and guidance.

FCN is known for providing on-the-ground help and a trusted network of support for our farming community. Whether the issue is personal or business-related, we are here to listen, to support and to help people to find a way forward. FCN is trusted for our confidentiality and non-judgemental approach – empathising and understanding, and helping people to consider next steps in a supportive environment.

Our proactive work to support farmers' health and wellbeing continues to evolve in important ways. This includes nurturing partnerships and collaboration, organising community events, conducting research and developing our FarmWell website. Established in 2019, FarmWell has for six years been providing farming people with a wide range of information around topics ranging from succession planning and rural crime to safety, mental health and animal disease.

A significant UK-wide partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support has seen our charities develop a range of initiatives, campaigns and resources to improve cancer support available to people in farming, rural and migrant worker communities. This work is already making a positive impact in our sector, and we were recently given an opportunity to input on the National Cancer Plan, advocating for the health and wellbeing of people in farming and rural areas.

We are also delighted that Baroness Minette Batters has been appointed as FCN's new Honorary President this year. We are extremely appreciative of Minette's long-standing support and advocacy for the work of FCN over the years. Minette's expertise, experience and reputation within the agricultural sector will undoubtedly help us in our mission to see farmers thrive, both now and in the future.

As we navigate the challenges and changes ahead, we thank everyone who gets involved in the work of The Farming Community Network.



Mark Suthern

Date: 2 July 2025

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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FCN: Health and wellbeing support across the UK

Since our founding in 1995, The Farming Community Network (FCN) has helped thousands of farmers and farming families to navigate difficult times and periods of significant change. 2025 marks our 30th anniversary – three decades of ‘walking with’ farmers and farming families, helping people to find a positive way forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our valued and dedicated volunteers, staff and board members for their dedication and support for FCN and those we serve in our farming communities. I especially want to pay tribute to those gone before us, cherished volunteers and founders, especially Christopher Jones MBE. May they all rest in eternal peace.

Our thanks are also extended to our generous donors, partners and funders; without your support, FCN would not be here today nor achieved what it has in support of our farming and rural communities for over 30 years. This past year has seen unprecedented support for the work of The Farming Community Network and we simply cannot continue to serve without support from many individuals, businesses, legacies, foundations and trusts, fundraising groups as well as from Government.

As we celebrate our 30th birthday, FCN’s ambition to ‘walk with’ farmers and members of our farming and rural communities in times of difficulty is vital and is arguably needed now more than ever before. FCN is here to listen, to support and to help people in our farming communities - whether the issue is personal or business-related. This work is a core part of our charity, made possible thanks to our extensive network of volunteers who understand farming life and its unique challenges.

As we look to the future, we are developing our support services to ensure they continue to meet the changing needs of our vital farming community. Increasingly in recent years, we have seen the value and impact of our proactive work helping to improve farmers’ health, wellbeing and resilience.

As part of our proactive and preventative work we in FCN recently launched a new UK-wide partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support – which is helping to improve the support available to those living with cancer in rural areas. As part of this partnership we are working closely with Macmillan Cancer Support, including raising awareness in rural communities of the signs and symptoms of cancer and building referral bridges to and from Macmillan’s services.

Finally, and most importantly, as we navigate the challenges and changes ahead, we thank everyone who gets involved in the work of FCN. Our work is only possible thanks to our volunteers, staff and all those who support the charity through donations, collaboration and awareness-raising. Farming across the UK is a truly supportive community – and together we can continue to create a healthy and resilient future for farming and rural people.



Jude McCann

Date: 2 July 2025

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

The directors, who are also the trustees, present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The company limited by guarantee now known as The Farming Community Network (FCN) took over the assets and activities on 1 June 2002 of the unincorporated charity Farm Crisis Network which was founded in 1995 by the Arthur Rank Centre and Agricultural Christian Fellowship.

The Memorandum of Association states:

"The objects of the charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos."

The activities of FCN are available to all in the agricultural and related spheres of life providing the following services:

- Pastoral and practical support, care and listening to people in crisis (by phone, face to face or through the internet)
- Information and networking service to people, primarily through on-farm visiting with a holistic approach to both farm household and business
- Advocacy on behalf of such people (e.g. for tenant farmers in discussion with landlords' agents or for farmers in discussion with banks, creditors or regulatory agencies)

OUR VISION

Helping to create a strong, resilient and thriving UK farming community - now and in the future.

We offer independent, objective and personal support to build resilience and stay strong through changing times. We aim to provide help before problems arise, as well as supporting those who are experiencing difficulty or crisis.

Who we support:

- Farmers, farming families and farm businesses.
- Wider agricultural sector and associated industries.
- Rural communities.

How we help:

- Encouraging resilient and supportive communities through our network of volunteers with farming knowledge who 'walk with' people.
- Promoting positive health, wellbeing and business resilience through our FarmWell programme/activity.
- Supporting farming and rural communities affected by inequities through partnerships and collaboration.

Our strategic priorities

Helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our farm community

This year FCN has helped to support the health and wellbeing of the farm community in a wide variety of ways.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

Please see page 3.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark Suthern (Chair)

Sally Steadman (Vice Chair)

Giles Bowring DL (Treasurer)

Barbara Bray

Amy Dixon

Peter Havers

Olivia Helmore

Sir Mark Hudson – resigned 23 October 2024

Revd Matthew Jeffrey

David Lodder DL – resigned 23 October 2024

Roger Mercer

Stuart Roberts

Bishop Mark Rylands

Robert Walrond

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024-25

FCN enjoyed an outstanding year in 2024-25. Although some income streams show unfavourable year on year comparisons, the overall outcome was an exceptionally good one. The income and expenditure totals reflect the first year of the Joint Venture with Macmillan Cancer Support.

Farmers faced a number of challenges during the year, not least the very wet summer which made crop harvesting a particular challenge, with reduced yields. The decision of the new Government to change the expected grant regime and to introduce a severe reduction in the amount which could be passed on to the next generation without incurring inheritance tax were further blows to an industry struggling to make a decent return. The work of FCN is more relevant and important than ever.

FCN continues to work hard to ensure its income streams are as diverse as possible, so that it is not reliant on a particular source. We have engaged a Trust Officer to apply for grants and hope this will bear fruit in due course. We nurture our relationships with our major donors and all our supporters to ensure they are kept fully informed about FCN's work and initiatives.

Income

Total income was £1,794,750, an increase of 32% compared with £1,355,802 for 2023-24.

Voluntary income including grants also rose by 32%. Legacy income fell with FCN receiving in 2024- 25 £153,862 (£233,319 for 2023-24).

Grants received, excluding Macmillan, totalled £884,918, an increase of 72%. The contribution from Macmillan amounted to £376,523.

Unrestricted income amounted to £806,158 and restricted income was £837,826.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased by 38% to £1,392,725 compared with £1,009,262, for 2023-24, reflecting increased staff costs associated with the Macmillan project. The total number of full time equivalent staff employed increased to 24 compared to 16 in the previous year.

FCN saw an end of year surplus (net income) of £402,025. This resulted in a positive net movement in funds of £425,397 after gains on investments.

Investments

During the year, a net figure of £750,907 was invested in our long term investment portfolio, and we diversified our holdings by buying units in funds managed by CCLA, Newton and Sarasin who are all respected managers for charities. The Investment Committee meets twice a year to review the performance of these investments and make changes, subject to Trustees' approval. The Trustees believe a strong balance sheet is necessary in an uncertain

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world and underlines their commitment to long term support for the agricultural sector and its hard working people. In addition, FCN continuously explores new ways in which its resources could be deployed to further its objects.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

Over the past few years, the trustees have been strengthening the governance of FCN with the formation of committees dealing with Governance, Audit and Risk, Nominations, and Investment with each committee being authorised to make recommendations to the Board.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Farming Community Network is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association amended 15 July 2024. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales and registered with OSCR in Scotland on 26 July 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The maximum number of directors is 12. The maximum length of continuous service to 9. One of the directors should be nominated by the Agricultural Christian Fellowship and 1 nominated by the Arthur Rank Centre. One third of the Board of Directors should retire at each Annual General Meeting.

DIRECTOR INDUCTION AND TRAINING

New directors undergo training as to their legal obligations under charity and company law and are presented with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association as well as FCN policy documents which have been approved by the Board. The induction process involves meeting the national staff and other directors. Directors are encouraged to attend training events every 3 years.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to administer the charity and receive reports on finance, activities and fundraising. Other items are reported as necessary. Day to day management of FCN is delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive.

RELATED PARTIES

FCN has no related parties; however close working relationships are maintained with the Arthur Rank Centre and the Agricultural Christian Fellowship. One director is nominated by ARC and one by ACF for representation on the Board of FCN.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has undertaken a review of risk and the identified causes have been categorised as relating to:

- People
- Property & finance
- Reputation

The review of risks has led to the implementation of policies aimed at lowering the risks to which FCN is exposed as well as designated procedures should an incident occur. The Risk Management policy document is reviewed regularly and updated to ensure it is as up to date as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY (2025-2027)

Our priorities as a charity over the next three years stem from providing the necessary infrastructure for FCN to deliver our two core pillars of support, which can broadly be described as:

1) our proactive and collaborative work including the FarmWell website and related initiatives - such as FarmWell/Yarn in a Barn events, campaigns, training, projects, research; and our work to address health inequalities, such as through our partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support. This work is preventative in nature, trying to help farmers to avoid crisis and providing early intervention.

2) our core services and supportive work - including local casework and Helpline support provided by FCN volunteers and supported by our staff team. We Listen, Support and Connect.

It is hoped that greater investment in the medium and long-term into 'FCN FarmWell' activity could help to reduce the pressure on 'FCN Services', as we will be helping and assisting people before they reach a point of crisis. We will be placing a greater emphasis on the 'FCN FarmWell' activity in the future and carving out a niche in this space.

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In addition to the above two pillars of support, the following are some of the key areas FCN will focus on in the next three years:

- Investment in volunteers
- Investment in staff
- Focusing on our strengths
- Fundraising and financial sustainability
- FCN's UK-wide approach

RESERVES POLICY

The charity's policy is to strive to secure free reserves sufficient to meet committed expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to 12 months annual expenditure. It is considered that 12 months is necessary in order to ensure continuity of service during any period of reduced income. Free reserves at 31 March 2025 were £1,815,670 compared with unrestricted annual expenditure of £473,616.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also directors of The Farming Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees 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 that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- 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 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.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

GOING CONCERN

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 1 of the financial statements.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Directors on 2 July 2025.



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Farming Community Network (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise a statement of financial activities, a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

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Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Other Matter

The comparative figures are unaudited.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, set out on page 9, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

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- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed:



Geoffrey Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

Date: 2 July 2025

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	3	806,158	-	837,826	1,643,984	1,239,072
Income from charitable activities						
Resourcing programmes		132,310	-	-	132,310	103,757
Income from other trading activities						
Investment income		18,456	-	-	18,456	12,973
Total income		956,924	-	837,826	1,794,750	1,355,802
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of raising funds	7	59,222	-	19,265	78,487	66,031
Charitable activities	6	266,526	147,868	899,844	1,314,238	943,231
Total expenditure		325,748	147,868	919,109	1,392,725	1,009,262
Net income/(expenditure)		631,176	(147,868)	(81,283)	402,025	346,540
Net transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments		23,372	-	-	23,372	81,750
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		654,548	(147,868)	(81,283)	425,397	428,290
Fund balances brought forward	15	1,161,122	356,000	301,778	1,818,900	1,390,610
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	15	1,815,670	208,132	220,495	2,244,297	1,818,900

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2025

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04429778

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	19,395	-
Investments	12	1,215,434	451,200
		1,234,829	451,200
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	119,648	25,875
Bank and cash balances		948,731	1,389,984
		1,068,379	1,415,859
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	(58,911)	(48,159)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,009,468	1,367,700
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		2,244,297	1,818,900
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General	16	1,815,670	1,161,122
Designated	16	208,132	356,000
Restricted funds	16	220,495	301,778
		2,244,297	1,818,900

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 2 July 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



M A E Southern
Director

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year		425,397	428,290
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	11	9,698	15,664
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	13	(93,773)	(22,285)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	14	10,752	9,896
Interest received		(18,456)	(12,973)
Revaluation (gain)/ loss on investment	12	(23,372)	(81,750)
Net cash from/ (used in) operating activities		310,246	336,842
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Sale of investments	12	39138	434,231
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11	(29,093)	-
Purchase of investments	12	(780,000)	(278,749)
Interest received		18,456	12,973
Net cash from/ (used) in investing activities		(751,499)	168,455
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR			
		(441,253)	505,297
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		1,389,984	884,687
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CARRIED FORWARD		948,731	1,389,984
ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT			
Cash and cash equivalents		948,731	1,389,984

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

at 31 March 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Farming Community Network, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charitable company is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 2.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued in October 2019, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2025 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. 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 costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP. Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Tangible Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment and motor vehicles - 3 years straight line

Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'Gains/(losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or the fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure beyond the accounting policies listed above.

3 INCOME – DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
Voluntary income				
From churches	57,215	3,386	60,601	53,053
From events & activities	-	21,741	21,741	29,365
From individuals and other organisations	107,379	22,622	130,001	398,867
Legacies	150,775	3,088	153,863	233,319
Gift aid tax refunded	16,337	-	16,337	11,447
Grants received (see note 4)	474,452	786,989	1,261,441	513,021
	806,158	837,826	1,643,984	1,239,072

For 2024, £710,251 was general unrestricted income and £528,821 was restricted income.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

4 GRANTS RECEIVED

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	2024 £
DEFRA and Regional Development Agencies	-	174,644	174,644	102,917
Richard Oatley Foundation	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	-	75,000	75,000	80,000
Northern Gas Networks	-	32,535	32,535	-
P D Hook	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Welsh Government	-	31,262	31,262	-
Macmillan Cancer Support	-	376,523	376,523	-
Mercer Family	-	-	-	10,000
Lloyds Banking Group	200,000	-	200,000	-
Paragon Vet	5,277	-	5,277	-
Dorset Training	10,000	-	10,000	-
Agrovista	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Hutchinson Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	8,000
Hook 2 Sisters	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
ETRD	10,000	-	10,000	-
Quality Equipment	6,245	-	6,245	5,219
Silostop	10,000	-	10,000	-
Lord Leverhulmes Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,000
Agri	-	-	-	15,082
Diana Startin Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Heathfield Show	5,000	-	5,000	-
LKAB	-	-	-	5,000
L J Betts	-	-	-	5,000
LMWDC Ltd	-	-	-	9,261
Anon	-	-	-	21,095
Pitchup	-	-	-	10,000
Huggate World Farms	-	-	-	5,000
Cranswick	-	-	-	15,000
Openfield	-	-	-	5,000
Rulewood	-	-	-	5,000
Other grants ≤ £5,000	187,930	22,025	209,955	91,447
Total grants per Note 3	474,452	786,989	1,261,441	513,021

For 2024, £216,316 was general unrestricted grant income and £296,705 was restricted grant income.

5 UNPAID VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included within the Statement of Financial Activities as either income or expenditure. In the year under review that value is calculated as £338,224 (2024: £290,610), representing entirely volunteer costs (please refer to Trustees' Report for further information). If this value was included the Statement of Financial Activities would be revised with both income and expenditure increasing by £338,224.

6 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Local activity	569,262	230,843	800,105
Publicity	187,920	75,686	263,606
Supporting volunteers	104,782	41,627	146,409
Training	73,843	30,275	104,118
	935,807	378,431	1,314,238

£899,844 (2024: £318,510) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £147,868 (2024: £nil) attributable to designated funds, and £266,526 (2024: £624,721) attributable to unrestricted funds.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

7 ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Local activity £	Publicity £	Supporting volunteers £	Training £	Subtotal £	Raising funds £	Total £
Salaries and wages costs	110,540	36,242	19,933	14,497	181,212	55,981	237,193
Travel	11,320	3,711	2,041	1,485	18,557	2,834	21,391
Office administration costs	51,031	16,732	9,202	6,693	83,658	10,551	94,209
Depreciation	5,915	1,940	1,067	776	9,698	-	9,698
Governance costs	52,037	17,061	9,384	6,824	85,306	9,121	94,427
	230,843	75,686	41,627	30,275	378,431	78,487	456,918

£19,265 (2024: £6,532) of the above raising funds costs were attributable to restricted funds. £59,222 (2024: £59,499) of the above raising funds costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

8 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Legal and professional fees	79,020	43,207
Audit and accountancy	9,000	8,626
Board expenses	6,245	10,742
	94,265	62,575

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £5,250 (2024: £5,000) and other services of £3,750 (2024: £3,626).

9 STAFF COSTS

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	776,857	561,061
Social security costs	67,267	46,504
Other pension costs	79,627	55,043
	923,751	662,608

The average number of employees, including part-time, during the year was 29 (2024: 22). The full time equivalent number was 24 (2024: 16).

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge for the period was £79,627 (2024: £55,043). The defined contribution liability is allocated to unrestricted funds.

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

£80,000 - £90,000	-	1
£100,000 - £110,000	1	-

10 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

No remuneration was paid to Directors for their services, and £688 (2024: £841) was paid as reimbursement of travel expenses to 3 (2024: 3) of the trustees.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £120,322 (2024: £91,554).

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment and Motor Vehicles £
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2024	123,105
Additions	29,093
Disposals	(39,331)
At 31 March 2025	112,867
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2024	123,105
Charge for the year	9,698
Eliminated on disposal	(39,331)
At 31 March 2025	93,472
Net book value	
At 31 March 2025	19,395
At 1 April 2024	-

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

12 INVESTMENTS	2025 £	2024 £
Market value at 1 April 2024	451,200	524,932
Acquisitions at cost	780,000	278,749
Sales proceeds from disposals	(29,093)	(434,231)
Gain/(loss) in the year	23,372	81,750
Market value at 31 March 2025	1,215,434	451,200

Investments at market value comprised:		
Rathbone Unit Trust Management Core Investment Fund for Charities Income Fund	416,001	410,233
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Acc	-	40,967
BNY Mellon Newton Growth and Income Fund for Charities Acc	272,619	-
Sarasin Endowments Fund Acc	271,902	-
CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund Acc	254,912	-
	1,215,434	451,200

13 DEBTORS	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	62,732	20,300
Prepayments and accrued income	49,682	575
Gift Aid tax refund	7,054	5,000
	119,648	25,875

14 CREDITORS	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	12,671	16,081
Other taxes and social security	18,768	12,503
Other creditors	17,083	11,075
Accrued expenses	10,389	8,500
	58,911	48,159

ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN DEFERRED INCOME:	2025 £	2024 £
At 1 April 2024	-	7,917
Income deferred in year	-	-
Amount released in year	-	(7,917)
At 31 March 2025	-	-

Deferred income represents funding income received in advance.

15 FUNDS ANALYSIS	General Unrestricted fund £	Designated Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2025 £	2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,234,829	-	-	1,234,829	451,200
Current assets	639,752	208,132	220,495	1,068,379	1,415,859
Liabilities	(58,911)	-	-	(58,911)	(48,159)
Net assets	1,815,670	208,132	220,495	2,244,297	1,818,900

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	At 1 April 2024 £	Transfers £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds					
Voluntary income	136,778	-	72,862	(103,412)	70,495
Richard Oatley Foundation (Projects in South West)	35,733	-	75,000	(72,778)	37,955
Macmillan Rural Communities Project	-	-	376,523	(376,523)	-
Waitrose Farmwell 2024-27 support programmes	165,000	-	127,144	(180,099)	112,045
Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance Collaborative Project – Northern Gas Networks	-	-	32,535	(32,535)	-
Farmwell Wales - Welsh Government	-	-	31,262	(31,262)	-
DEFRA bTB support	-	-	47,500	(47,500)	-
NFU MCT for Farming Community support	-	-	75,000	(75,000)	-
	301,778	-	837,826	(919,109)	220,495
Unrestricted funds					
Designated	356,000	-	-	(147,868)	208,132
General	1,161,122	-	956,924	(302,376)	1,815,670
	1,818,900	-	1,794,750	(1,369,353)	2,244,297

17 ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the control of its Board of directors/trustees.

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions during the period (2024: £nil).

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1095919

Accounts

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended

31 March 2024

Company number: 04429778

Charity number: 1095919



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CHARITY REFERENCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number: 1095919

Company number: 04429778

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark Suthern (Chair)
Sally Steadman (Vice Chair)
David Lodder DL (Treasurer)
Giles Bowring DL
Barbara Bray
The Rev. Canon Barbara Clutton – Resigned 25 October 2023
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers
Olivia Helmore
Sir Mark Hudson
Bishop Mark Rylands
Robert Walrond
Revd Matthew Jeffrey – Appointed 31 October 2023
Roger Mercer – Appointed 31 October 2023
Stuart Roberts – Appointed 31 October 2023

SECRETARY

Deborah Roe

SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Jude McCann (Chief Executive Officer)

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS

Manor Farm
West Haddon
Northamptonshire
NN6 7AQ

AUDITORS

Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Rathbones Brothers Plc
8 Finsbury Circus
London
EC2M 7AZ

SOLICITORS

Lodders Solicitors LLP
Number Ten
Elm Court Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 6PA

BANKERS

Royal Bank of Scotland
36 St Andrews Square
Edinburgh
EH2 2YB

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

“The Objects of the Charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos.”

All services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.

Public Benefits

1. **National Helpline:** The national confidential helpline is open from 7 am to 11 pm every day of the year, staffed by a team of volunteers. Talking with someone who understands farming but is not directly involved in the situation can be a real support in itself, but when appropriate, callers are offered a visit from an FCN volunteer by referral through the co-ordinator local to the caller
2. **Volunteers:** Around 400 volunteers who are ‘in sympathy’ with the Christian ethos, suitably experienced and in-touch with rural and farming issues, are recruited, DBS checked and appropriately trained to ‘walk with’ farmers and their families through times of stress and personal difficulty. Referrals to individual volunteers are made through the local FCN County Co-ordinator who is also responsible for the co-ordination and training of volunteers within their Group and liaison with their Regional Director and Head Office for all administrative and policy issues.
3. **Christian ethos:** The Charity has a clear Christian ethos which is inherent within its foundation, board of trustees and charitable objects, which is reflected in its published Vision and Ethos Statements, whilst sustaining the principle that all services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.
4. **Partnerships:**
 - To ensure national coverage, and to respect the territories of other independent farming and rural support services, FCN has ‘memoranda of understanding’ with those organisations that facilitate cross referrals of clients, access to the FCN Helpline, sharing of expertise and experience and consortia bidding from national funding sources
5. **Uptake:**

The demand for FCN’s services fluctuates with the level of causal factors within the industry, so that through a national crisis such as the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001, the scale can be almost overwhelming. However the nature of farming is such that even when the industry is operating under ‘normal’ conditions, individual businesses and families will experience periods of significant stress because of circumstances specific to the family or business so that a steady demand on FCN volunteers to manage between 1,500 and 2,500 cases per year is typical.

Further statistical details of uptake, nature of the difficulty and routes of referral are described later in this document.

Details of FCN’s services, operations and policies are available on the website at:

www.fcn.org.uk

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Navigating a changing agricultural landscape - Mark Suthern, Chair, FCN Board of Trustees

As we approach FCN's 30th anniversary next year, now is a timely opportunity to reflect on the achievements of FCN, and how we have developed to meet the changing needs of the farming sector over the years.

From our earliest days as The Farm Crisis Network - established as a joint venture between the Agricultural Christian Fellowship and Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre - to where we find ourselves today, our journey is one that has been shaped by the agricultural sector, and the need to respond to the ever-changing pressures and challenges British farmers face.

In the last five years, since FCN last set out our strategic priorities, so much has continued to change. The Covid-19 pandemic upheaved established systems and fundamentally altered the nature of how much of society works, operates and interacts. Global conflicts have disrupted supply chains, increased energy and input costs, and have thrust food security into the forefront of the political agenda. Against a backdrop of volatility and uncertainty, one thing remains clear – British farmers are essential and must continue to be supported and valued by the wider society.

We are fortunate within FCN that we have such a dedicated and hard-working team of volunteers, staff and trustees. Our youngest volunteer is 22 and our oldest is 96 – this is an incredible breadth of experience and helps to highlight that FCN is here for all within our farming community; from those who are taking their first steps into farming, to those who have farmed for decades.

We also have significant expertise within FCN from across the wider agricultural sector, which is reflected through our expansive network of partners and supporters. We regularly collaborate with farm vets, bankers, Government agencies, researchers, farm support organisations, and others across the sector who are supportive of our work.

A collaborative approach is key as we work together to navigate this changing landscape.

Our work is increasingly focused on helping to support farmers before they reach a point of crisis. Through initiatives such as our FarmWell website and local social events, to embarking on our new UK-wide partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support, FCN can play an important role in helping to bring people together, whilst addressing health inequalities in rural communities. We also continue to invest in our core services – ensuring that appropriate training is available to staff and volunteers so that we can continue to provide vital local case-work and helpline support.

We are also delighted to have launched our FCN 'Breaking Barriers' Board Apprenticeship last year, which has been designed to help young people from underrepresented groups in agriculture gain Board experience with FCN. Hakeem Ojo has brought a fresh perspective to FCN through his experience in the UK agricultural, food and retail space, and we have all benefited from working with him.

On behalf of FCN's Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all those who choose to support the work of FCN. We are regularly told that it is thanks to FCN that many are still farming today, and our work is only made possible thanks to those who support us. Whether you are volunteering with us, raising awareness, fundraising, inviting us to speak to your teams, or helping farmers to access our services, you are helping FCN in our mission to create a healthy and resilient future for British farming.

Mark Suthern

3 July 2024



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

FCN committed to supporting farming communities - CEO, Jude McCann

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank all our valued and dedicated volunteers, staff and board members for their time, effort and vital support for FCN and those we serve in our farming communities. Our appreciation is also extended to our generous donors, partners and funders; without your support, FCN would not be here today. We are grateful for everything you do in support of our farming and rural communities.

This past year has seen immense support for the work of The Farming Community Network and we simply cannot continue to serve without support from many individuals, businesses, foundations and trusts, fundraising groups as well as from Government.

In the current climate of change, transition and uncertainty, our farming communities are having to make significant decisions for their business, their families and the environment on which their livelihoods depend. Farmers are renowned for being resilient; many will thrive, however for others the coming years will become increasingly challenging.

As we approach our 30th birthday, FCN's ambition to 'walk with' farmers and members of our farming and rural communities in times of difficulty is vital, and is arguably needed now more than ever before.

We must all do our part to support our farmers, who provide food for every member of society and who manage the land that will help us tackle some of our most significant societal challenges including food insecurity, energy challenges and climate change.

Whether we work in the fields, in the wider industry, Government or the community and voluntary sector, we must all step up to support and bring about positive change.

We in FCN are committed to continuing to develop a proactive approach to our work and we endeavour to adopt a positive response to change. We as FCN staff and volunteers - with our roots firmly embedded in our farming communities - fully appreciate that farming can be extremely challenging.

We believe that the future of our nation's existence depends on the people who provide food for us all every day.

A strong and healthy farming community is essential.

In FCN we are here to Listen, Support and Connect.

As we consider the challenges that lay ahead, we must recognise that our nation's farming communities are indispensable; and we must do all we can to empower, respect, support and bring hope to everyone.

Jude McCann

3 July 2024



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

The directors, who are also the trustees, present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The company limited by guarantee now known as The Farming Community Network (FCN) took over the assets and activities on 1 June 2002 of the unincorporated charity Farm Crisis Network which was founded in 1995 by the Arthur Rank Centre and Agricultural Christian Fellowship.

The Memorandum of Association states:

"The objects of the charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos."

The activities of FCN are available to all in the agricultural and related spheres of life providing the following services:

- Pastoral and practical support, care and listening to people in crisis (by phone, face to face or through the internet)
- Information and networking service to people, primarily through on-farm visiting with a holistic approach to both farm household and business
- Advocacy on behalf of such people (e.g. for tenant farmers in discussion with landlords' agents or for farmers in discussion with banks, creditors or regulatory agencies)

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide pastoral and practical support to the farming community.

OUR APPROACH

We offer independent, objective and personal support to build resilience and stay strong through changing times. We aim to provide help before problems arise, as well as supporting those who are experiencing difficulty or crisis.

We do this in four ways:

1. Through our confidential Helpline, open every day from 7am – 11pm
2. Through our wide network of local volunteers and partners
3. Through our FarmWell initiative – an information resource on all aspects of personal and farm business resilience
4. Through highlighting the issues being experienced by our farming communities and increasing awareness of FCN

OUR ETHOS

FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity founded on Christian principles. We walk with farmers and members of the farming community in times of difficulty. We are here to support and work with everyone who seeks the help of FCN.

Our strategic priorities

Helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our farm community

This year FCN has helped to support the health and wellbeing of the farm community in a wide variety of ways.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

Please see page 3.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark Suthern (Chairman)
Giles Bowring
Barbara Bray
Barbara Clutton – Resigned 25 October 2023
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers
Olivia Helmore
Mark Hudson
David Lodder
Mark Rylands
Sally Steadman
Robert Walrond
Matthew Jeffrey – Appointed 31 October 2023
Roger Mercer – Appointed 31 October 2023
Stuart Roberts – Appointed 31 October 2023

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2023-24

The year has seen a huge increase in energy prices, resulting in a 'cost of living' crisis throughout the UK. There has also been continued uncertainty as to the future of the agricultural sector. The demand for the services of FCN has continued unabated.

For the first time in its history FCN raised more than £1 million in income during the financial year 2023-24. Once again this was due to a high level of legacy income helped by some large donations from FCN's corporate partners. This increase in income is a result of the increased awareness of FCN at all levels and brought about by the hard work of those working and volunteering with FCN.

FCN has no endowment income and is reliant on the income it can raise and generate each year. It continues to develop alternative income streams so that it is not overly dependent on any one; such as legacies, which are very unpredictable. With a surplus this year, FCN has been able to set aside a further £350,000 for long-term investment, thus increasing the resilience of the charity.

Income

Income came in at £1,355,802 (exceeding £1million for the first time), an increase of 41% compared with £962,607 for 2022-23.

Income from corporates increased by 176% to £361,352 (£131,011 for 2022-23), which reaffirms the importance of developing these relationships. Legacy income also increased by 132%, with FCN receiving £233,319 for 2023-24 (£100,459 for 2022-23).

Trust income fell slightly by 10% to £224,863 (£250,815 for 2022-23).

Expenditure

Expenditure increased for the year by 10% at £1,009,262, compared with £913,484 for 2022-23. The majority of that increase was spent on those working at the 'grass roots' of the charity.

With the continued 'cost of living' challenges, the trustees agreed a 5% pay increase for all staff within FCN and at the same time increased its pension contributions to 10% of salary. FCN saw an end of year surplus (net income) of £346,540. This all resulted in a positive net movement in funds of £428,290 after gains on investments.

We are extremely grateful to all donors for their continued generosity. We are conscious that to build a resilient charity we need a broad spread of donors and must not become over-reliant on certain funding streams. FCN still needs to continue to generate funding on a year-to-year basis to enable it to operate. The reserve fund will give the charity resilience against the unpredictability of the future.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

Over the past few years, the trustees have been strengthening the governance of FCN with the formation of committees dealing with Governance, Audit and Risk, Nominations, and Investment with each committee being authorised to make recommendations to the Board.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Farming Community Network is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 8 May 2013. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The maximum number of directors is 12. The Articles of Association were amended by Special Resolution on 30th October 2019 to reduce the maximum length of continuous service to 9. One of the directors should be nominated by the Agricultural Christian Fellowship and 1 nominated by the Arthur Rank Centre. One third of the Board of Directors should retire at each Annual General Meeting.

DIRECTOR INDUCTION AND TRAINING

New directors undergo training as to their legal obligations under charity and company law and are presented with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association as well as FCN policy documents which have been approved by the Board. The induction process involves meeting the national staff and other directors. Directors are encouraged to attend training events every 3 years.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to administer the charity and receive reports on finance, activities and fundraising. Other items are reported as necessary. Day to day management of FCN is delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive.

RELATED PARTIES

FCN has no related parties; however close working relationships are maintained with the Arthur Rank Centre and the Agricultural Christian Fellowship. One director is nominated by ARC and one by ACF for representation on the Board of FCN.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has undertaken a review of risk and the identified causes have been categorised as relating to:

- People
- Property & finance
- Reputation

The review of risks has led to the implementation of policies aimed at lowering the risks to which FCN is exposed as well as designated procedures should an incident occur. The Risk Management policy document is reviewed regularly and updated to ensure it is as up to date as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR FUTURE STRATEGY 2020-2025

FCN is currently four years into a five-year strategy for the organisation. While there is little doubt that the farming community will continue to experience significant change and restructuring, FCN remains steadfast in supporting those who need help in the farming community. While farming families will have to adapt and change so too will FCN. Together we face the future with hope, optimism and a renewed commitment to serve those who seek our support.

Our strategic priorities:

External:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the farming community
- Support farm businesses through change and build resilience
- Connect the farming community to appropriate support
- Inform future policy decisions by being a champion for the farming community

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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Internal:

- Develop the skills, support and duty of care for volunteers delivering our front-line services
- Build awareness and engagement of FCN in the agricultural community
- Ensure the financial sustainability of FCN
- Refine our operations and organisation to stay relevant in a changing industry
- Be a catalyst for shaping future agricultural support services in the UK

RESERVES POLICY

It is the policy to maintain unrestricted funds excluding designated funds, which are free reserves of the Charity of approximately 18 months of unrestricted expenditure. Free reserves at 31 March 2024 were £1,161,122 compared with unrestricted annual expenditure of £684,220.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The trustees (who are also directors of The Farming Community Network for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees 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 that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- 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 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.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

GOING CONCERN

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 1 of the financial statements.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Directors on 3 July 2024.



D Roe
Secretary

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES AND MEMBERS OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Farming Community Network (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise a statement of financial activities, a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Other Matter

The comparative figures are unaudited.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, set out on page 9, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed auditor under the Companies Act 2006 and section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with those Acts.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members and its trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed:



G R Cox BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Dafferns LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

Date: 3 July 2024

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	3	710,251	-	528,821	1,239,072	837,940
Income from charitable activities						
Resourcing programmes		103,757	-	-	103,757	117,596
Income from other trading activities						
Investment income		12,973	-	-	12,973	7,071
Total income		826,981	-	528,821	1,355,802	962,607
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of raising funds	7	59,499	-	6,532	66,031	59,111
Charitable activities	6	624,721	-	318,510	943,231	854,373
Total expenditure		684,220	-	325,042	1,009,262	913,484
Net income/(expenditure)		142,761	-	203,779	346,540	49,123
Net transfers between funds		(38,877)	38,877	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments		81,750	-	-	81,750	(21,688)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		185,634	38,877	203,779	428,290	27,435
Fund balances brought forward	15	975,488	317,123	97,999	1,390,610	1,363,175
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	15	1,161,122	356,000	301,778	1,818,900	1,390,610

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

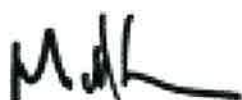
BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2024

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04429778

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	-	15,664
Investments	12	451,200	524,932
		451,200	540,596
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	25,875	3,590
Bank and cash balances		1,389,984	884,687
		1,415,859	888,277
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	(48,159)	(38,263)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,367,700	850,014
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,818,900	1,390,610
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General	16	1,161,122	975,488
Designated	16	356,000	317,123
Restricted funds	16	301,778	97,999
		1,818,900	1,390,610

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 SORP.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 3 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



M A E Southern
Director

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year		428,290	27,435
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	11	15,664	13,110
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	13	(22,285)	14,865
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	14	9,896	(2,332)
Interest received		(12,973)	(7,071)
Revaluation (gain)/ loss on investment	12	(81,750)	21,688
Net cash from/ (used in) operating activities		336,842	67,695
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Sale of investments	12	434,231	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11	-	-
Purchase of investments	12	(278,749)	-
Interest received		12,973	7,071
Net cash from/ (used) in investing activities		168,455	7,071
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR			
		505,297	74,766
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		884,687	809,921
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CARRIED FORWARD		1,389,984	884,687
ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT			
Cash and cash equivalents		1,389,984	884,687

The notes on pages 16 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

at 31 March 2024

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Farming Community Network, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charitable company is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 2.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued in October 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. 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 costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP. Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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Tangible Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment - 3 years straight line

Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'Gains/(losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or the fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure beyond the accounting policies listed above.

3 INCOME – DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
Voluntary income				
From churches	49,406	3,647	53,053	49,318
From events & activities	-	29,365	29,365	5,079
From individuals and other organisations	188,667	210,200	398,867	190,678
Legacies	229,415	3,904	233,319	100,459
Gift aid tax refunded	11,447	-	11,447	7,512
Grants received (see note 4)	231,316	281,705	513,021	484,894
	710,251	528,821	1,239,072	837,940

For 2023, £535,005 was general unrestricted income and £302,935 was restricted income.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

4 GRANTS RECEIVED	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2024 £	2023 £
DEFRA and Regional Development Agencies	-	102,917	102,917	103,067
Richard Oatley Foundation	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	-	80,000	80,000	70,000
Westminster Foundation	-	-	-	30,000
P D Hook Ltd	10,000	-	10,000	20,000
Cereal Fruits	-	-	-	15,382
E L Flemming Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,050
Mercer Family	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Kristina Martin Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,000
Betty Lawes Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Deepest Books	-	-	-	10,000
Agrovista	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Hutchinson Charitable Trust	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
Hook 2 Sisters	10,000	-	10,000	-
Prince's Countryside Fund	-	-	-	3,550
Quality Equipment	5,219	-	5,219	5,125
Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund	-	-	-	5,000
Lord Leverhulmes Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	5,000
Agri	-	15,082	15,082	5,025
Ricardo	-	-	-	5,625
Diana Startin Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
LKAB	5,000	-	5,000	-
L J Betts	5,000	-	5,000	-
LMWDC Ltd	-	9,261	9,261	-
Anon	10,000	11,095	21,095	-
Pitchup	10,000	-	10,000	-
Huggate World Farms	5,000	-	5,000	-
Cranswick	15,000	-	15,000	-
Openfield	5,000	-	5,000	-
Rulewood	5,000	-	5,000	-
Other grants ≤ £5,000	88,097	3,350	91,447	74,070
Total grants per Note 3	216,316	296,705	513,021	484,894

For 2023, £205,759 was general unrestricted grant income and £279,135 was restricted grant income.

5 UNPAID VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included within the Statement of Financial Activities as either income or expenditure. In the year under review that value is calculated as £290,610 (2023: £247,445), representing entirely volunteer costs (please refer to Trustees' Report for further information). If this value was included the Statement of Financial Activities would be revised with both income and expenditure increasing by £290,610.

6 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Local activity	358,945	144,230	503,175
Publicity	150,834	59,869	210,703
Supporting volunteers	96,080	38,099	134,179
Training	65,238	29,936	95,174
	671,097	272,134	943,231

£318,510 (2023: £64,518) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £624,721 (2023: £789,855) of the above costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

7 ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Local activity £	Publicity £	Supporting volunteers £	Training £	Subtotal £	Raising funds £	Total £
Salaries and wages costs	73,000	30,301	19,283	15,151	137,735	46,825	184,560
Travel	8,804	3,655	2,326	1,827	16,612	2,175	18,787
Office administration costs	26,765	11,110	7,070	5,555	50,500	6,079	56,579
Depreciation	8,301	3,446	2,193	1,724	15,664	-	15,664
Governance costs	27,360	11,357	7,227	5,679	51,623	10,952	62,575
	144,230	59,869	38,099	29,936	272,134	66,031	338,165

£6,532 (2023: £4,811) of the above raising funds costs were attributable to restricted funds. £59,499 (2023: £54,300) of the above raising funds costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

8 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Legal and professional fees	43,207	29,810
Audit and accountancy	8,626	4,600
Board expenses	10,742	4,760
	62,575	39,170

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £5,000 (2023: £nil) and other services of £3,626 (2023: £4,600).

9 STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	561,061	539,406
Social security costs	46,504	43,911
Other pension costs	55,043	24,495
	662,608	607,812

The average number of employees, including part-time, during the year was 22 (2023: 21). The full time equivalent number was 16 (2023: 16).

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge for the period was £55,043 (2023: £24,495). The defined contribution liability is allocated to unrestricted funds.

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

£80,000 - £90,000	1	1
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10 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

No remuneration was paid to Directors for their services, and £841 was paid as reimbursement of travel expenses to 3 of the trustees.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £91,554 (2023: £90,628).

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2023	123,105
At 31 March 2024	123,105
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2023	107,441
Charge for the year	15,664
At 31 March 2024	123,105
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	-
At 1 April 2023	15,664

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

12 INVESTMENTS	2024 £	2023 £
Market value at 1 April 2023	524,932	546,620
Acquisitions at cost	278,749	-
Sales proceeds from disposals	(434,231)	-
Gain/(loss) in the year	81,750	(21,688)
Market value at 31 March 2024	451,200	524,932

Investments at market value comprised:

Rathbone Unit Trust Management Core Investment Fund for Charities Income Fund	410,233	455,000
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Acc	40,967	41,872
Cash	-	28,060
	451,200	524,932

13 DEBTORS	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	20,300	15
Prepayments and accrued income	575	575
Gift Aid tax refund	5,000	3,000
	25,875	3,590

14 CREDITORS	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	16,081	6,111
Other taxes and social security	12,503	10,270
Other creditors	11,075	7,965
Accrued expenses	8,500	6,000
	48,159	38,263

ANALYSIS OF MOVEMENTS IN DEFERRED INCOME:	2024 £	2023 £
At 1 April 2023	7,917	-
Income deferred in year	-	7,917
Amount released in year	(7,917)	-
At 31 March 2024	-	7,917

Deferred income represents funding income received in advance.

15 FUNDS ANALYSIS	General Unrestricted fund £	Designated Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 £	2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	451,200	-	-	451,200	540,596
Current assets	758,081	356,000	301,778	1,415,859	888,277
Liabilities	(48,159)	-	-	(48,159)	(38,263)
Net assets	1,161,122	356,000	301,778	1,818,900	1,390,610

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	At 1 April 2023 £	Transfers £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds					
Voluntary income	97,999	-	348,821	(310,042)	136,778
Farmwell 2024-27 support programmes	-	-	180,000	(15,000)	165,000
Unrestricted funds					
Designated	317,123	38,877	-	-	356,000
General	975,488	(38,877)	826,981	(602,470)	1,161,122
	1,390,610	-	1,355,802	(927,512)	1,818,900

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

17 ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charity is under the control of its Board of directors/trustees.

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions during the period (2023: £nil).

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1095919

Accounts

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended

31 March 2023

Company number 04429778

Charity number 1095919



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CHARITY REFERENCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity number 1095919.

Company number 04429778.

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark Suthern (Chair)
Sally Steadman (Vice Chair)
David Lodder DL (Treasurer)
Giles Bowring DL
Barbara Bray
The Rev. Canon Barbara Clutton
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers
Olivia Helmore
Sir Mark Hudson
Bishop Mark Rylands
Robert Walrond

SECRETARY

Deborah Roe

SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Jude McCann (Chief Executive Officer)

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS

Manor Farm
West Haddon
Northamptonshire
NN6 7AQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

G R Cox BA FCA
Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

SOLICITOR

Lodders Solicitors LLP
Number Ten
Elm Court Arden Street
Stratford upon Avon
CV37 6PA

BANKERS

Royal Bank of Scotland
36 St Andrews Square
Edinburgh
EH2 2YB

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

“The Objects of the Charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos.”

All services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.

Public Benefits

1. **National Helpline:** The national confidential helpline is open from 7 am to 11 pm every day of the year, staffed by a team of volunteers. Talking with someone who understands farming but is not directly involved in the situation can be a real support in itself, but when appropriate, callers are offered a visit from an FCN volunteer by referral through the co-ordinator local to the caller
2. **Volunteers:** Around 400 volunteers who are ‘in sympathy’ with the Christian ethos, suitably experienced and in-touch with rural and farming issues, are recruited, DBS checked and appropriately trained to ‘walk with’ farmers and their families through times of stress and personal difficulty. Referrals to individual volunteers are made through the local FCN County Co-ordinator who is also responsible for the co-ordination and training of volunteers within their Group and liaison with their Regional Director and Head Office for all administrative and policy issues.
3. **Christian ethos:** The Charity has a clear Christian ethos which is inherent within its foundation, board of trustees and charitable objects, which is reflected in its published Vision and Ethos Statements, whilst sustaining the principle that all services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.
4. **Partnerships:**
 - To ensure national coverage, and to respect the territories of other independent farming and rural support services, FCN has ‘memoranda of understanding’ with those organisations that facilitate cross referrals of clients, access to the FCN Helpline, sharing of expertise and experience and consortia bidding from national funding sources
 - ‘Farming Help’ has been established and underpinned with a ‘memorandum of understanding’ between the FCN, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RASBI) and the Addington Fund, to ensure that the specialist remits of each charity are fully recognised, cross referrals can flow easily, joint funding proposals to national bodies can be co-ordinated and clients are exposed to a seamless service of support.
5. **Uptake:**

The demand for FCN's services fluctuates with the level of causal factors within the industry, so that through a national crisis such as the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001, the scale can be almost overwhelming. However the nature of farming is such that even when the industry is operating under ‘normal’ conditions, individual businesses and families will experience periods of significant stress because of circumstances specific to the family or business so that a steady demand on FCN volunteers to manage between 1,500 and 2,500 cases per year is typical.

Further statistical details of uptake, nature of the difficulty and routes of referral are described later in this document.

Details of FCN's services, operations and policies are available on the website at:

www.fcn.org.uk

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Introduction from FCN's Chairman – Mark Suthern

The past year has been one of growth and transformation within FCN. There have been many developments and successes over the last year, but also profound sadness - in May we lost our Founder and Honorary President, Christopher Jones, and with his passing a dear friend and colleague left us. Christopher's guiding influence over FCN since our founding in 1995 has helped us to grow into a nationally recognised charity supporting thousands of people each year. FCN will continue Christopher's legacy as we look to the future.

In many respects the work of FCN has never been more needed than it is today. Farmers face unprecedented challenges during this transition period. With markets disrupted by the ongoing war in Ukraine, a cost of living crisis and sweeping changes to policy and subsidies, farmers are having to adapt and change rapidly.

If anyone is able to navigate these uncharted waters it is farmers - they are among the most resilient of people, and are used to having to deal with challenges and pressures outside of their control.

However, this lack of control and long periods of uncertainty can cause stress and anxiety, and FCN is here to ensure farmers can access positive, proactive support no matter the issues they may be facing. FCN and our dedicated volunteers are here every day of the year to 'walk with' farmers, people in rural communities and those associated with agriculture in other roles.

It is in everyone's interest that farmers can thrive, now and in the years to come. High-quality and sustainable home-grown produce is essential to our national food security. Their efforts to protect the environment and mitigate climate change are helping to protect our planet. And farmers, as custodians of the land, play a vital role in supporting our health and wellbeing - ensuring the countryside is accessible to all and that our idyllic landscapes are nurtured for future generations. They truly are among the great unsung heroes - and we can all play our part in letting farmers know how much their work is valued.

On behalf of FCN's Board of Trustees, I would like to thank everyone who supports the work of FCN - whether by raising awareness, fundraising, working in partnership with us or giving us a platform to let more people know about our support services. Every effort to bring attention to FCN, big or small, adds up to make an enormous difference. We have been described as a 'lifeline', and it is thanks to the efforts of our experienced volunteer network, giving up their time to help others, that we can continue to help those who may be struggling or in need of a helping hand.

I would also like to thank our staff team for all that they do. FCN has a small but passionate team working behind the scenes and their hard work helps the charity to continue to grow and develop. I hope you enjoy reading this report and learning more about our recent work supporting our vital farming community.

Mark Suthern

7 July 2023



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Looking to the future with hope - FCN CEO, Dr Jude McCann

This year the support for The Farming Community Network has been immense. In a climate of uncertainty, restructuring and significant change for the agricultural sector, farmers and farming families are having to think seriously about the future of their businesses and are having to make difficult decisions to ensure the future of their farms and way of life. The work of FCN and the support we offer is arguably needed now more than ever before. Our ambition to 'walk with' farmers and members of our farming and rural communities in times of difficulty is hugely important. Whether we work in industry, government or the community and voluntary sector we must all do our part to support our farmers who provide food for every member of society.

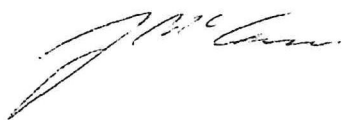
During this financial year and in-line with our board endorsed 5-year FCN strategy a commitment to invest more resources into our FCN regions was implemented. We have increased our Regional Support Officers (RSOs) to 6 full-time equivalent (as of March 2023). RSO's ensure that all cases are being acted upon in local areas and support our growing number of active volunteers across our 30 FCN county groups. RSOs also support and encourage pro-active activities in local communities. We have recruited a full-time Training & Development Officer who provides additional capacity for both the internal and external training offerings of FCN.

We continue to develop a proactive approach to our work in FCN and endeavour to adopt a positive approach to change. We deeply understand that farming can be extremely challenging - but at its core there is no other industry more essential. It is also very important to remember that farming is often an incredibly rewarding way of life. We all rely on farmers at least three times a day; we shouldn't overlook the integral role farmers play in providing our nation's food, caring for livestock and crops as well as maintaining and often enhancing our valued environment.

As we look to the future, we must recognise that our nation's farmers are indispensable; and we must do all we can to empower, support and bring hope to everyone in our rural communities to live well and farm well. I would like thank our charity's Founder, Christopher Jones, who passed away in May 2023, but whose legacy continues through FCN today. I would also like to thank all our valued and dedicated volunteers, staff and board members for their time, effort and vital support for FCN and those we serve. Many thanks as well to our generous donors and funders; without your support, FCN simply would not be here today. We are grateful for everything you do in support of our farmers and rural communities. I hope you enjoyed reading this report. Take care and stay safe.

Jude McCann

7 July 2023



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

The directors, who are also the trustees, present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The company limited by guarantee now known as The Farming Community Network (FCN) took over the assets and activities on 1 June 2002 of the unincorporated charity Farm Crisis Network which was founded in 1995 by the Arthur Rank Centre and Agricultural Christian Fellowship.

The Memorandum of Association states:

"The objects of the charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos."

The activities of FCN are available to all in the agricultural and related spheres of life providing the following services:

- Pastoral and practical support, care and listening to people in crisis (by phone, face to face or through the internet)
- Information and networking service to people, primarily through on-farm visiting with a holistic approach to both farm household and business
- Advocacy on behalf of such people (e.g. for tenant farmers in discussion with landlords' agents or for farmers in discussion with banks, creditors or regulatory agencies)

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide pastoral and practical support to the farming community.

OUR APPROACH

We offer independent, objective and personal support to build resilience and stay strong through changing times. We aim to provide help before problems arise, as well as supporting those who are experiencing difficulty or crisis.

We do this in four ways:

1. Through our confidential Helpline, open every day from 7am – 11pm
2. Through our wide network of local volunteers and partners
3. Through our FarmWell initiative – an information resource on all aspects of personal and farm business resilience
4. Through highlighting the issues being experienced by our farming communities and increasing awareness of FCN

OUR ETHOS

FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity founded on Christian principles. We walk with farmers and members of the farming community in times of difficulty. We are here to support and work with everyone who seeks the help of FCN.

Our strategic priorities

Helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our farm community

This year FCN has helped to support the health and wellbeing of the farm community in a wide variety of ways.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

Please see page 3.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark A E Suthern (Chairman)
Giles Bowring
Barbara Bray
Barbara Clutton
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers
Olivia Helmore
Mark Hudson
David Lodder
Mark Rylands
Sally Steadman
Robert Walrond

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2022-23

The year has been dominated by rising inflation caused primarily by the continuing and escalating war in Ukraine, and which has led to a severe cost of living crisis for many across the UK. Notwithstanding this it has been another positive year for FCN with an end of year surplus (net income) of £49,123. With the surplus from the previous year this has enabled the trustees to set aside a further £250,000 into a capital reserve fund to help the charity to secure its future operations.

Income

Income for the year at £962,607 was slightly down as compared with £966,279 for 2021/22. This was caused by a drop in legacy income. Income from Trusts however at £250,815 was up 205% from the previous year with substantial donations coming from the Richard Oatley Foundation, the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust and the Westminster Foundation. This reflects the growing public awareness of FCN.

Further increases came in events and activities (£122,675 received) - a 94% increase on the previous year; corporates (£131,011 received) - a 65% increase on the previous year; and individuals (£96,300 received) - a 33% increase on the previous year. Church donations also increased within the year (£49,318 received).

The reduction in legacy income (£100,459 received) highlighted its unpredictability with a fall of 73% from the previous year. Public funding (£103,067) saw a fall of 23%.

Expenditure

Expenditure increased during the year by 19% with the majority of the increase going towards costs of support at a local and regional level as mentioned in the CEO report. Given increased staff numbers as well as significant local activity post-covid, our travel and subsistence costs have also increased along with professional legal and insurance fees. With the cost-of-living crisis and competitive labour market trustees agreed a 5% pay increase for all staff across FCN. In addition, and in line with our published Values we agreed a cost-of-living contribution to all staff during this year.

The result is that FCN finished with a positive net movement in funds of £27,435 after losses on investments.

We are extremely grateful to all donors for their continued generosity. We are conscious that to build a resilient charity we need a broad spread of donors and must not become over-reliant on certain funding streams. FCN still needs to continue to generate funding on a year-to-year basis to enable it to operate. The reserve fund will give the charity resilience against the unpredictability of the future.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

Over the past few years, the trustees have been strengthening the governance of FCN with the formation of committees dealing with Governance, Audit and Risk, Nominations, and Investment with each committee being authorised to make recommendations to the Board.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Farming Community Network is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 8 May 2013. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The maximum number of directors is 12. The Articles of Association were amended by Special Resolution on 30th October 2019 to reduce the maximum length of continuous service to 9. One of the directors should be nominated by the Agricultural Christian Fellowship and 1 nominated by the Arthur Rank Centre. One third of the Board of Directors should retire at each Annual General Meeting.

DIRECTOR INDUCTION AND TRAINING

New directors undergo training as to their legal obligations under charity and company law and are presented with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association as well as FCN policy documents which have been approved by the Board. The induction process involves meeting the national staff and other directors. Directors are encouraged to attend training events every 3 years.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to administer the charity and receive reports on finance, activities and fundraising. Other items are reported as necessary. Day to day management of FCN is delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive.

RELATED PARTIES

FCN has no related parties; however close working relationships are maintained with the Arthur Rank Centre and the Agricultural Christian Fellowship. One director is nominated by ARC and one by ACF for representation on the Board of FCN.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has undertaken a review of risk and the identified causes have been categorised as relating to:

- People
- Property & finance
- Reputation

The review of risks has led to the implementation of policies aimed at lowering the risks to which FCN is exposed as well as designated procedures should an incident occur. The Risk Management policy document is reviewed regularly and updated to ensure it is as up to date as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR FUTURE STRATEGY 2020-2025

FCN is currently three years into a five-year strategy for the organisation. While there is little doubt that the farming community will continue to experience significant change and restructuring, FCN remains steadfast in supporting those who need help in the farming community. While farming families will have to adapt and change so too will FCN. Together we face the future with hope, optimism and a renewed commitment to serve those who seek our support.

Our strategic priorities:

External:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the farming community
- Support farm businesses through change and build resilience
- Connect the farming community to appropriate support
- Inform future policy decisions by being a champion for the farming community

Internal:

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

- Develop the skills, support and duty of care for volunteers delivering our front-line services
- Build awareness and engagement of FCN in the agricultural community
- Ensure the financial sustainability of FCN
- Refine our operations and organisation to stay relevant in a changing industry
- Be a catalyst for shaping future agricultural support services in the UK

GOING CONCERN

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 1 of the financial statements.

This report has been prepared having taken advantage of the small companies exemption in the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the Directors on 7 July 2023.

D Roe

Secretary



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 11 to 18

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 myself 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, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. 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
4. 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 (FRS 102)].

I 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.

Signed:



G R Cox BA FCA

(Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales)

Dafferns LLP
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

Date: 7 July 2023

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	3	535,005	-	302,935	837,940	895,086
Income from charitable activities						
Resourcing programmes		117,596	-		117,596	63,351
Income from other trading activities						
Investment income		7,071	-	-	7,071	7,842
Total income		659,672	-	302,935	962,607	966,279
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of raising funds	6	47,169	-	11,942	59,111	52,470
Charitable activities		399,853	-	217,021	616,874	498,704
Governance		204,479	-	33,020	237,499	216,502
Total expenditure		651,501	-	261,983	913,484	767,676
Net income/(expenditure)		8,171	-	40,952	49,123	198,603
Net transfers between funds		(78,983)	78,983	-	-	-
Gains/(losses) on investments		(21,688)	-	-	(21,688)	4,448
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(92,500)	78,983	40,952	27,435	203,051
Fund balances brought forward	15	1,067,988	238,140	57,047	1,363,175	1,160,124
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	15	975,488	317,123	97,999	£ 1,390,610	£ 1,363,175

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2023

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04429778

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	15,664	28,774
Investments	11	524,932	546,620
		540,596	575,394
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	3,590	18,455
Bank and cash balances		884,687	809,921
		888,277	828,376
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(38,263)	(40,595)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		850,014	787,781
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,390,610	1,363,175
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	-	-
		£ 1,390,610	£ 1,363,175
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General	16	975,488	1,067,988
Designated	16	317,123	238,140
Restricted funds	16	97,999	57,047
		£ 1,390,610	£ 1,363,175

The charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with Section 476.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 7 July 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

M A E Southern
Director



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

at 31 March 2023

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Farming Community Network, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charitable company is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 2.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued in October 2019, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. 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 costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP. Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

For legacies, entitlement is the earlier of the charity being notified of an impending distribution or the legacy being received. At this point income is recognised. On occasion legacies will be notified to the charity however it is not possible to measure the amount expected to be distributed. On these occasions, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Tangible Fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment - 3 years straight line

Investments

Investments are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at fair value with changes recognised in 'Gains/(losses) on investments' in the SoFA if the shares are publicly traded or the fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure beyond the accounting policies listed above.

3 INCOME – DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
Voluntary income				
From churches	46,345	2,973	49,318	45,150
From events & activities	5,079	-	5,079	-
From individuals and other organisations	175,430	15,248	190,678	173,087
Legacies	94,880	5,579	100,459	375,096
Gift aid tax refunded	7,512	-	7,512	5,632
Grants received (see note 4)	205,759	279,135	484,894	296,121
	535,005	302,935	837,940	895,086

For 2022, £713,371 was general unrestricted income and £181,715 was restricted income.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

4 GRANTS RECEIVED	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 £	2022 £
DEFRA and Regional Development Agencies	8,984	94,083	103,067	133,000
Richard Oatley Foundation	-	75,000	75,000	-
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	-	70,000	70,000	-
Westminster Foundation	-	30,000	30,000	-
P D Hook Ltd	20,000	-	20,000	7,500
Cereal Fruits	15,382	-	15,382	-
E L Flemming Charitable Trust	10,050	-	10,050	-
Mercer Family	10,000	-	10,000	40,000
Kristina Martin Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
Betty Lawes Foundation	10,000	-	10,000	2,000
EWG Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,000
Deepest Books	10,000	-	10,000	-
Agrovista	10,000	-	10,000	-
Hutchinson Charitable Trust	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
Hook 2 Sisters	-	-	-	7,500
Prince's Countryside Fund	-	3,550	3,550	6,535
HR Department	-	-	-	6,206
AB Connect	-	-	-	5,133
Quality Equipment	5,125	-	5,125	-
Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund	-	5,000	5,000	-
Lord Leverhulmes Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Agri	5,025	-	5,025	4,000
Ricardo	5,625	-	5,625	3,375
Other grants ≤ £5,000	72,568	1,502	74,070	62,872
Total grants per Note 3	205,759	279,135	484,894	296,121

For 2022, £157,414 was general unrestricted grant income and £138,707 was restricted grant income.

5 UNPAID VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included within the Statement of Financial Activities as either income or expenditure. In the year under review that value is calculated as £247,445 (2022 - £182,142), representing entirely volunteer costs (please refer to Trustees' Report for further information). If this value was included the Statement of Financial Activities would be revised with both income and expenditure increasing by £247,445.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

6 EXPENDITURE	GENERAL UNRESTRICTED				RESTRICTED		2023 £	2022 £
	Local activity & supporting volunteers £	Publicity £	Training £	Direct costs £	Local activity & supporting volunteers £			
Costs of generating funds								
Staff costs (note 7)	-	-	-	37,638	10,809		48,447	46,878
Travel	-	-	-	3,634	-		3,634	1,594
Communications	-	-	-	2,206	-		2,206	632
Fundraising materials	-	-	-	727	-		727	596
Legal & professional	-	-	-	2,919	1,133		4,052	2,770
Other	-	-	-	45	-		45	-
	-	-	-	47,169	11,942		59,111	52,470
	47,169							
Charitable activities								
Staff costs (note 7)	177,576	49,165	21,152	-	189,852		437,745	359,135
Travel	29,951	7,262	1,686	-	11,057		49,956	17,493
Communications	9,258	478	438	-	1,938		12,112	14,947
Legal & professional	1,080	-	767	-	-		1,847	1,226
Room hire and refreshments	4,136	-	219	-	1,658		6,013	7,899
Publicity & training materials	-	77,442	1,169	-	12,516		91,127	95,396
Insurance	6,452	-	-	-	-		6,452	2,608
Other	515	-	11,107	-	-		11,622	-
	228,968	134,347	36,538	-	217,021		616,874	498,704
	399,853							
Governance								
Staff costs (note 7)	-	-	-	41,852	22,826		121,620	118,665
Travel costs	-	-	-	29,900	523		30,423	20,051
Communications	-	-	-	23,701	1,282		24,983	22,704
Legal & professional	-	-	-	17,382	8,389		25,771	22,280
Insurance	-	-	-	8,397	-		8,397	5,246
Audit & accountancy	-	-	-	4,600	-		4,600	2,040
Premises and depreciation	-	-	-	19,187	-		19,187	25,516
Other	-	-	-	2,518	-		2,518	-
	-	-	-	204,479	33,020		237,499	216,502
	204,479							
Total expenditure	228,968	134,347	36,538	251,648	261,983		913,484	767,676
	651,501							

In 2022, £400,646 related to general unrestricted funds and £367,030 related to restricted funds.

7 STAFF COSTS	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	539,406	436,963
Social security costs	43,911	35,124
Other pension costs	24,495	21,739
	607,812	493,826

The average number of employees, including part-time, during the year was 21 (2022: 22). The full time equivalent number was 16 (2022: 16). The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge for the period was £24,495 (2022 – £21,739). There were outstanding contributions of £1,391 at the year end (2022 – £3,537).

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 is as follows:

£70,000 – £80,000	-	1
£80,000 – £90,000	1	-

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

8 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:	2023 £	2022 £
Independent Examiner's remuneration	2,500	2,040
Depreciation	13,110	16,190
Directors' indemnity insurance	3,697	2,192

9 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

No remuneration was paid to Directors for their services, and £450 was paid as reimbursement of travel and other expenses.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £90,628 (2022:£77,258).

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2022	123,105
Additions	-
At 31 March 2023	123,105
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2022	94,331
Charge for the year	13,110
At 31 March 2023	107,441
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	15,664
At 1 April 2022	28,774

11 INVESTMENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Market value at 1 April 2022	546,620	-
Acquisitions at cost	-	542,172
Sales proceeds from disposals	-	-
Gain/(loss) in the year	(21,688)	4,448
Market value at 31 March 2023	524,932	546,620

Investments at market value comprised:

Rathbone Unit Trust Management Core Investment Fund for Charities Income Fund	455,000	227,098
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Acc	41,872	-
Cash	28,060	319,522
	524,932	546,620

Historical cost as at 31 March 2023	509,109	542,172
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12 DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	15	11,000
Prepayments and accrued income	575	1,167
Gift Aid tax refund	3,000	6,288
	3,590	18,455

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

13	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2023 £	2022 £
	Trade creditors	6,111	14,039
	Other taxes and social security	10,270	16,102
	Other creditors	7,391	3,537
	Deferred income (see also Note 14)	7,917	-
	Accrued expenses	3,976	6,917
		38,263	40,595

14	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2023 £	2022 £
	Deferred income	-	-
	DEFERRED INCOME	£	£
	At 1 April 2022	-	-
	Income deferred in year – for release within one year	7,917	-
	Income deferred in year – for release after more than one year	-	-
	Amount released in year	-	-
	At 31 March 2023	7,917	-

15	FUNDS ANALYSIS	General Unrestricted fund £	Designated Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2023 £	2022 £
	Tangible fixed assets	540,596	-	-	540,596	575,394
	Current assets	473,155	317,123	97,999	888,277	828,376
	Liabilities	(38,263)	-	-	(38,263)	(40,595)
	Net assets	975,488	317,123	97,999	1,390,610	1,363,175

16	MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	At 1 April 2022 £	Transfers £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2023 £
	Restricted funds					
	Voluntary income	57,047	-	302,935	(261,983)	97,999
	Unrestricted funds					
	Designated	238,140	78,983	-	-	317,123
	General	1,067,988	(78,983)	658,255	(671,772)	975,488
		1,363,175	-	961,190	(933,755)	1,390,610

17 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions during the period (2022: £nil).

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1095919

Accounts

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended

31 March 2022

Company number 04429778

Charity number 1095919



THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A C H A R I T A B L E C O M P A N Y L I M I T E D B Y G U A R A N T E E)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSTITUTION

The Farming Community Network ("FCN") is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2 May 2002. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales. Charity number 1095919. Company number 04429778.

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark A E Suthern (Chairman)
Sally Steadman
Giles Bowring
The Revd Canon Barbara Clutton
Peter Havers
David Lodder (Treasurer)
Bishop Mark Rylands
Olivia Seccombe
Sir Mark Hudson
Bishop Dr Helen-Ann Hartley (resigned 26 January 2022)
Robert D Walrond (appointed 28 January 2022)
Barbara A A P Bray (appointed 1 March 2022)

SECRETARY

Deborah Roe

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS

Manor Farm
West Haddon
Northamptonshire
NN6 7AQ

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS

Guest Wilson Chartered Accountants
8 Wolverton Road
Snitterfield
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 0HB

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

“The Objects of the Charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos.”

All services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.

Public Benefits

1. **National Helpline:** The national confidential helpline is open from 7 am to 11 pm every day of the year, staffed by a team of volunteers. Talking with someone who understands farming but is not directly involved in the situation can be a real support in itself, but when appropriate, callers are offered a visit from an FCN volunteer by referral through the co-ordinator local to the caller
2. **Volunteers:** Around 400 volunteers who are ‘in sympathy’ with the Christian ethos, suitably experienced and in-touch with rural and farming issues, are recruited, DBS checked and appropriately trained to ‘walk with’ farmers and their families through times of stress and personal difficulty. Referrals to individual volunteers are made through the local FCN County Co-ordinator who is also responsible for the co-ordination and training of volunteers within their Group and liaison with their Regional Director and Head Office for all administrative and policy issues.
3. **Christian ethos:** The Charity has a clear Christian ethos which is inherent within its foundation, board of trustees and charitable objects, which is reflected in its published Vision and Ethos Statements, whilst sustaining the principle that all services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.
4. **Partnerships:**
 - To ensure national coverage, and to respect the territories of other independent farming and rural support services, FCN has ‘memoranda of understanding’ with those organisations that facilitate cross referrals of clients, access to the FCN Helpline, sharing of expertise and experience and consortia bidding from national funding sources
 - ‘Farming Help’ has been established and underpinned with a ‘memorandum of understanding’ between the FCN, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RASBI) and the Addington Fund, to ensure that the specialist remits of each charity are fully recognised, cross referrals can flow easily, joint funding proposals to national bodies can be co-ordinated and clients are exposed to a seamless service of support.
5. **Uptake:**

The demand for FCN’s services fluctuates with the level of causal factors within the industry, so that through a national crisis such as the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001, the scale can be almost overwhelming. However the nature of farming is such that even when the industry is operating under ‘normal’ conditions, individual businesses and families will experience periods of significant stress because of circumstances specific to the family or business so that a steady demand on FCN volunteers to manage between 1,500 and 2,500 cases per year is typical.

Further statistical details of uptake, nature of the difficulty and routes of referral are described later in this document.

Details of FCN’s services, operations and policies are available on the website at:

www.fcn.org.uk

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Introduction from FCN's Chairman – Mark Suthern

UK agriculture is undergoing some of the most significant changes it has seen in the last fifty years. Change is often scary, challenging and takes considerable time to implement. But change is also exciting – it is how we innovate, create new opportunities and adapt to changing circumstances.

Over the last couple of years we have all been reminded of the importance of reliable supply chains and systems of food production. Labour shortages, high input costs and the growing energy crisis to name but a few have put significant pressure on farmers from across all sectors. We especially feel immense sadness for our friends in Ukraine and other countries impacted by war. We hope and pray for an end to this conflict and for the safety and health of all those affected. The way our industry looks ten years from now could be considerably different from how it looks today. We must work together to ensure agriculture and its associated professions attract the best talent, and is seen as being a desirable, profitable and rewarding industry to work in.

There should be a place for everyone in agriculture, including those taking their first steps into farming and those who have farmed for many years. Generational family farms remind us all of the strong farming tradition across the UK, and the ongoing legacy many families are continuing to build upon. In addition, new entrants should be empowered to enter our industry and mentored and equipped with the skills and knowledge required to succeed and flourish.

We are delighted in FCN to be playing our part in creating a more inclusive and accessible industry in the work that we do. We are championing diversity and inclusivity within our charity; we are making conscious efforts to work with a wide range of people from different walks of life; and we are actively involving ourselves in schemes and initiatives to bring people into our industry who may not be from farming backgrounds. Greater education of the public and further collaboration is necessary in creating a thriving agricultural industry that is respected and understood by all.

Connecting and empathising with others is a significant part of what we do within FCN. Our dedicated volunteers are trusted to 'walk with' farmers, who let us into their lives and share with us the pressures they may be under. We are privileged to be in the position we are in and have been described as a 'lifeline' by those we have helped.

I would like to sincerely thank all of those who work with our charity, as well as everyone who supports us and raises awareness. As we continue to grow as a charity, we hope that you will continue to walk alongside us on this journey, helping to ensure that our essential industry is able to thrive now and in the years to come.

Mark Suthern

27 June 2022

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

A positive approach to change - FCN CEO, Dr Jude McCann

I am delighted by the extraordinary support for The Farming Community Network we have seen this year. In a period of rapid change for our industry, people within our farming community are having to think about the future, make difficult decisions and find ways of ensuring their businesses are sustainable in the months and years to come. There is arguably a greater need for charities like FCN than ever before, providing support and a vital listening ear, and we must all do our part to support our nation's farmers through this challenging time.

Our work within FCN is proactive and we adopt a positive approach to change. We understand that farming can be tough and has unique occupational challenges - but at its heart, there is no industry more essential, and farming is often an incredibly rewarding way of life. We all rely on farmers three times a day; we shouldn't overlook the integral role farmers play in producing our food, looking after livestock and cultivating and tending to our beautiful countryside.

On a clear-skied day, when we have recently seen the incredible contrast of blue and yellow from the oilseed rape blanketing our many fields in rural areas across the country, we cannot help but be reminded of our friends in Ukraine, who provide such a vital supply of food and resources to many parts of the world. We continue to hope and pray for those impacted by this terrible war. As we look to the future, we recognise that farmers across the globe are indispensable; and must be empowered and supported to live and farm well.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all our dedicated volunteers, staff and board members for their time, effort and vital support for our charity. I would also like to thank our generous donors and funders; without your support, FCN simple would not be here today. We are grateful for everything you do in support of our world-class farmers and our most essential industry.

I hope you enjoyed reading this report. Take care and stay safe.

Jude McCann

27 June 2022

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors, who are also the trustees, present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide pastoral and practical support to the farming community.

OUR APPROACH

We offer independent, objective and personal support to build resilience and stay strong through changing times. We aim to provide help before problems arise, as well as supporting those who are experiencing difficulty or crisis.

We do this in four ways:

1. Through our confidential Helpline, open every day from 7am – 11pm
2. Through our wide network of local volunteers and partners
3. Through our FarmWell initiative – an information resource on all aspects of personal and farm business resilience
4. Through highlighting the issues being experienced by our farming communities and increasing awareness of FCN

OUR ETHOS

FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity founded on Christian principles. We walk with farmers and members of the farming community in times of difficulty. We are here to support and work with everyone who seeks the help of FCN.

Our strategic priorities

Helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our farm community

This year FCN has helped to support the health and wellbeing of the farm community in a wide variety of ways.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021-22

This past year has seen the devastating war in the Ukraine impacting the entire world, a continuing rise in the cost of living and covid-19 still prevalent in the UK, highlighting how crucial the need is for Charities.

At the beginning of this financial year, we were unsure how the year would progress; however, it was another positive year for FCN with an end of year surplus of £198,603. This was achieved in the main by the very high level of legacy income during the year and the inability to run a full events programme owing to continuing covid restrictions resulting in a decrease of anticipated and actual expenditure.

Now into our third year of our 5-year strategy we are seeing an increase in the demand for our services. Additional training programmes have been created both for our corporate partners and individuals, designed to help those who work within the farming community build resilience for ongoing challenges.

FCN has no endowment income and is reliant on the income it can raise each year, of which the legacy income is the most unpredictable. With the increase in its reserves generated during the year the trustees have set aside a sum of £500,000 to ensure the continuing future of FCN.

Income

Income for the year 2021-22 reached £966,279, an increase of approximately 23% based on the previous year.

Income from legacies has been the most significant increase this year, most of which, residual income from an ongoing legacy. In total FCN received £375,096 during the year. It is important to note that legacy donations are extremely unpredictable.

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As lockdown restrictions were lifted, we saw further increases from external groups with income reaching £100,648. Church donations reached £45,150 and corporate income reached £79,329.

A further increase came in public funding of 6% based on the previous year, with FCN receiving £134,608.

FCN saw decreases in income from events and activities with a fall of 10% compared to the previous year (£63,351 received), individuals saw a fall of 13% (72,439 received) and trust funding fell in the year by 74% (£82,185 received).

Expenditure

As society began to return to a more normal, pre-covid existence, with lockdown restrictions being eased and people wanting to reconnect with one another, expenses increased for FCN by 28% compared to the previous year. FCN has also had a restructure which has resulted in more resources being directed toward local and regional support.

The result in the increase in income and expenditure, is that FCN finished with a net income of £198,603 for the year. This positive result combined with previous years produced a cash balance of £809,921, and £546,620 invested. Some of that surplus is allocated to restricted funding and to designated projects. FCN has a policy of protecting core activities to ensure that it can continue to provide support, even if the project funding falls short of expectations.

While the improvement of FCN's financial position is appreciated, and we are extremely grateful to all donors for their continued generosity, this must not lead to an over reliance on certain funding streams. FCN will still need to continue to generate funding to enable it to operate. Reconnecting events held during this year are beginning to connect with those most difficult to reach in our farm communities and in turn raise awareness of our Charity.

Governance

Over the past few years, the trustees have been strengthening the governance of FCN with the formation of committees dealing with Governance, Audit and Risk, Nominations, and Investment with each committee being authorised to make recommendations to the Board.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Farming Community Network is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 8 May 2013. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The company limited by guarantee now known as The Farming Community Network took over the assets and activities on 1 June 2002 of the unincorporated charity Farm Crisis Network which was founded in 1995 by the Arthur Rank Centre and Agricultural Christian Fellowship.

The Memorandum of Association states:

“The objects of the charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos.”

The activities of FCN are available to all in the agricultural and related spheres of life providing the following services:

- Pastoral and practical support, care and listening to people in crisis (by phone, face to face or through the internet)
- Information and networking service to people, primarily through on-farm visiting with a holistic approach to both farm household and business

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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- Advocacy on behalf of such people (e.g. for tenant farmers in discussion with landlords' agents or for farmers in discussion with banks, creditors or regulatory agencies)

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The maximum number of directors is 12. The Articles of Association were amended by Special Resolution on 30th October 2019 to reduce the maximum length of continuous service to 9. One of the directors should be nominated by the Agricultural Christian Fellowship and 1 nominated by the Arthur Rank Centre. One third of the Board of Directors should retire at each Annual General Meeting.

DIRECTOR INDUCTION AND TRAINING

New directors undergo training as to their legal obligations under charity and company law and are presented with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association as well as FCN policy documents which have been approved by the Board. The induction process involves meeting the national staff and other directors. Directors are encouraged to attend training events every 3 years.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to administer the charity and receive reports on finance, activities and fundraising. Other items are reported as necessary. Day to day management of FCN is delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive.

RELATED PARTIES

FCN has no related parties; however close working relationships are maintained with the Arthur Rank Centre and the Agricultural Christian Fellowship. One director is nominated by ARC and one by ACF for representation on the Board of FCN.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has undertaken a review of risk and the identified causes have been categorised as relating to:

People
Property & finance
Reputation

The review of risks has led to the implementation of policies aimed at lowering the risks to which FCN is exposed as well as designated procedures should an incident occur. The Risk Management policy document is reviewed regularly and updated to ensure it is as up to date as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR FUTURE STRATEGY 2020-2025

FCN is currently developing a five-year strategy for the organisation. While there is little doubt that the farming community will continue to experience significant change and restructuring, FCN remains steadfast in supporting those who need help in the farming community. While farming families will have to adapt and change so too will FCN. Together we face the future with hope, optimism and a renewed commitment to serve those who seek our support.

Our strategic priorities:

External:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the farming community
- Support farm businesses through change and build resilience
- Connect the farming community to appropriate support
- Inform future policy decisions by being a champion for the farming community

Internal:

- Develop the skills, support and duty of care for volunteers delivering our front-line services
- Build awareness and engagement of FCN in the agricultural community
- Ensure the financial sustainability of FCN
- Refine our operations and organisation to stay relevant in a changing industry

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Be a catalyst for shaping future agricultural support services in the UK

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

The Directors are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those accounts the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and other applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

GOING CONCERN

After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 1 of the financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the Directors on 27 June 2022.

D Roe
Secretary

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT to the Trustees of The Farming Community Network

I report on the financial statements of The Farming Community Network for the year ended 31 March 2022 on pages 9 to 17.

This report is made solely to the company's members as a body, in accordance with the Companies Act 2006. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in our report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our examination work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

As described on page 8 the company's directors (Trustees) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) ("the 2011 Act") and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination, being a qualified member of ICAEW.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under s.145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 s.386; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of the Companies Act 2006, s.396 and the methods and principles of FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

NAME: NEIL WILSON

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION OR BODY: ICAEW

8 Wolverton Road, Snitterfield, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0HB

27 June 2022

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	3	713,371	-	181,715	895,086	705,397
Income from charitable activities						
Resourcing programmes		63,351	-	-	63,351	70,087
Income from other trading activities						
Investment income		7,842	-	-	7,842	11,437
Total income		784,564	-	181,715	966,279	786,921
EXPENDITURE	6					
Cost of raising funds		36,524	-	15,946	52,470	51,059
Charitable activities		229,516	-	269,188	498,704	410,607
Governance		134,606	-	81,896	216,502	139,341
Total expenditure		400,646	-	367,030	767,676	601,007
Net income/(expenditure)		383,918	-	(185,315)	198,603	185,914
Net transfers between funds		56,423	(56,423)	-	-	-
Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments		4,448	-	-	4,448	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		444,788	(56,423)	(185,314)	203,051	185,914
Fund balances brought forward	15	623,200	294,563	242,361	1,160,124	974,210
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	15	1,067,988	238,140	57,047	£ 1,363,175	£ 1,160,124

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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BALANCE SHEET

as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	28,774	5,634
Investments	11	546,620	-
		575,394	5,634
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	12	18,455	13,850
Bank and cash balances		809,921	1,171,401
		828,376	1,185,251
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	(40,595)	(30,761)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		787,781	1,154,490
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,363,175	1,160,124
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	-	-
		£ 1,363,175	£ 1,160,124

INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General	16	1,067,988	623,200
Designated	16	238,140	294,563
Restricted funds	16	57,047	242,361
		£ 1,363,175	£ 1,160,124

The Trustees have acknowledged their responsibilities for: selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently; observing the methods and principles in the Charities SORP; making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; stating whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and preparing the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

For the financial year in question the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015 and the Companies Act 2006. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 27 June 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

M A E Suthern
Director

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

at 31 March 2022

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Farming Community Network, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charity is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 2.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015 and the Companies Act 2006.

In preparing the accounts, the Directors have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required. At the date of transition in applying the requirements of FRS 102 no adjustments were required.

The Directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. Free unrestricted reserves of FCN at the year-end amount to £1,091,128. After consideration of the current business plan to 2021/22 and with a balanced budget planned for the next two financial years, the Trustees consider there is a reasonable expectation that FCN has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are also satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year. There are no material uncertainties that would impact on the charity's ability to continue. Accordingly we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing this annual report and financial statements.

Investments and investment income

Investments are stated at fair value (market value) at the balance sheet date. Any gains or losses on the revaluation are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening market value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the end of the year and opening market value (or purchase date if later). Realised and unrealised gains are not separated in the Statement of Financial Activities. Investment income is accounted for on the basis of amounts received during the year. Interest on cash balances is accrued to the accounting date.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. 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 costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they are allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

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Taxation

FCN is a registered charity and is not subject to taxation on its income so long as this is used for its charitable activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment - 3 years straight line

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure beyond the accounting policies listed above.

3 INCOME – DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
Voluntary income				
From churches	42,707	2,443	45,150	32,645
From individuals and other organisations	133,532	39,555	173,087	153,207
Legacies	374,087	1,010	375,096	15,775
Gift aid tax refunded	5,632	-	5,632	5,616
Grants received (see note 4)	157,414	138,707	296,121	498,154
	713,371	181,715	895,086	705,397

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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4 GRANTS RECEIVED

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2022 £	2021 £
DEFRA and Regional Development Agencies	-	133,000	133,000	75,000
Mercer Family	40,000	-	40,000	-
EWG Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
Hutchinson Charitable Trust	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
P D Hook Ltd	7,500	-	7,500	-
Hook 2 Sisters	7,500	-	7,500	-
Prince's Countryside Fund	2,435	4,100	6,535	6,111
HR Department	6,206	-	6,206	-
AB Connect	5,133	-	5,133	-
Agri	4,000	-	4,000	-
Anonymous	3,673	-	3,673	515
Bagshaws	3,600	-	3,600	-
Ricardo	3,375	-	3,375	-
Wales – North Coop Local Community Fund	3,343	-	3,343	-
Leicestershire Coop Local Community Fund	3,140	-	3,140	-
Procam	3,000	-	3,000	-
The Worshipful Company of Farmers	2,750	-	2,750	2,750
Northamptonshire Coop Local Community Fund	2,546	-	2,546	-
Hunt Forest Group	2,440	-	2,440	-
Betty Lawes Foundation	2,000	-	2,000	5,000
Forest Hill Charity	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
The Paget Charitable Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Hendix Genetics	2,000	-	2,000	-
NSF Safety & Quality	2,000	-	2,000	-
Frontier Agricultural	1,823	-	1,823	-
Purple Patch	1,500	-	1,500	1,320
Crediton Mill	1,250	-	1,250	-
Genus plc	1,250	-	1,250	-
Cumbria PCC	-	1,120	1,120	-
Yeo Valley Farms	1,000	-	1,000	3,425
Garth Charities	1,000	-	1,000	-
Shakespeare Martineau	1,000	-	1,000	-
Stella Syms Charitable Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
Pilgrims	1,000	-	1,000	-
Oxfordshire Ag Soc Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
The Fulmer Charity	900	-	900	750
Market Bosworth & Hinckley Farms	705	-	705	-
Read Agriserves	550	-	550	-
Bailey	550	-	550	-
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	-	-	-	200,000
National Lottery	-	-	-	50,000
Westminster Foundation	-	-	-	33,304
Wates Foundation	-	-	-	20,000
Arla	-	-	-	13,655
Nuffield	-	-	-	7,500
Huggate Wold Farms	-	-	-	6,000
NFU	-	-	-	5,000
Anonymous	-	-	-	5,000
Cumber Family Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Tanner Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Blacks of Bacton	-	-	-	3,500
The Ticket Shop	-	-	-	3,293
NSF Safety & Quality	-	-	-	2,875
AHDA	-	-	-	2,234
Hampshire Farmers Benevolent Trust	-	-	-	2,000
Leicestershire CMF	-	-	-	1,844
Bletsoes	-	-	-	1,768
Frome Lions Club	-	-	-	1,750
Savills	-	-	-	1,500
Warwickshire County Council	-	-	-	1,126
Giving.com	-	-	-	1,081
Cornus Trust	-	-	-	1,000
C P Thackray Trust	-	-	-	1,000
Bristol Corn & Feed Association	-	-	-	963
Leicestershire Co-Op Community Fund	-	-	-	924
Rickerbys Charitable Trust	-	-	-	750
Colman	-	-	-	560
Other grants ≤ £500	14,245	487	14,732	14,656
Total grants per Note 3	157,414	138,707	296,121	498,154

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5 UNPAID VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included within the Statement of Financial Activities as either income or expenditure. In the year under review that value is calculated as £182,142 (2021 - £178,6380), representing entirely caseworker costs (please refer to Trustees' Report for further information). If this value was included the Statement of Financial Activities would be revised with both income and expenditure increasing by £182,142.

6 EXPENDITURE	GENERAL UNRESTRICTED				RESTRICTED	2022 £	2021 £
	Local activity & supporting volunteers £	Publicity £	Training £	Direct costs £	Local activity & supporting volunteers £		
Costs of generating funds							
Staff costs (note 7)	-	-	-	30,932	15,946	46,878	41,317
Travel	-	-	-	1,594	-	1,594	-
Communications	-	-	-	632	-	632	710
Fundraising materials	-	-	-	596	-	596	5,776
Room hire	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal & professional	-	-	-	2,770	-	2,770	3,256
	-	-	-	36,524	15,946	52,470	51,059
	36,524						
Charitable activities							
Staff costs (note 7)	-	159,248	-	-	199,887	359,135	287,867
Travel	1,170	2,199	-	-	14,124	17,493	5,238
Communications	7,730	667	-	-	6,550	14,947	16,079
Legal & professional	1,226	-	-	-	-	1,226	2,227
Room hire and refreshments	4,463	1,208	-	-	2,228	7,899	58
Publicity & training materials	1,767	47,229	-	-	46,400	95,396	97,524
Insurance	2,608	-	-	-	-	2,608	1,614
	18,964	210,551	-	-	269,189	498,704	410,607
	229,515						
Governance							
Staff costs (note 7)	-	-	-	39,197	79,468	118,665	86,946
Travel costs	-	-	-	20,051	-	20,051	745
Communications	-	-	-	20,276	2,428	22,704	18,263
Legal & professional	-	-	-	22,280	-	22,280	11,081
Insurance	-	-	-	5,246	-	5,246	4,707
Audit & accountancy	-	-	-	2,040	-	2,040	5,000
Premises and depreciation	-	-	-	25,516	-	25,516	12,596
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
	-	-	-	134,606	81,896	216,502	139,341
	134,606						
Total expenditure	18,964	210,551	-	171,131	367,030	767,676	601,007
	400,646						

7 STAFF COSTS	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	436,963	398,946
Social security costs	35,124	26,699
Other pension costs	21,739	18,798
	493,826	447,443

The average number of employees, including part-time, during the year was 22 (2021: 17). One employee earned in excess of £60,000 (2021 - Nil). The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge for the period was £20,034 (2021 - £18,798). There were outstanding contributions of £3,537 at the year end (2021 - £2,341).

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

8 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

This is stated after charging:	2022 £	2021 £
Directors' emoluments (travel expenses)	236	-
Independent Examiner's remuneration	2,040	5,000
Depreciation	16,190	4,200
Directors' indemnity insurance	2,192	1,614

9 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

No remuneration was paid to Directors for their services, and £236.26 was paid as reimbursement of travel and other expenses.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2021	83,775
Additions	39,330
At 31 March 2022	123,105
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2021	78,141
Charge for the year	16,190
At 31 March 2022	94,331
Net book value	
At 31 March 2022	28,774
At 1 April 2021	5,634

11 INVESTMENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Market value at 1 April 2021	-	-
Acquisitions at cost	542,172	-
Sales proceeds from disposals	-	-
Gain/(loss) in the year – realised	-	-
Gain/(loss) in the year - unrealised	4,448	-
Market value at 31 March 2022	546,620	-
Investments at market value comprised:		
Rathbone Unit Trust Management Core Investment Fund for Charities Income Fund	227,098	-
Cash	319,522	-
	546,620	-
Historical cost as at 31 March 2022	542,172	-

12 DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	11,000	1,073
Prepayments and accrued income	1,167	1,166
Gift Aid tax refund	6,288	11,611
	18,455	13,850

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	14,039	10,518
Other taxes and social security	16,102	9,815
Other creditors	3,537	2,342
Deferred income (see also Note 13)	-	-
Accrued expenses	6,917	8,086
	40,595	30,761

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income	-	-

DEFERRED INCOME		£
At 1 April 2021	-	-
Income deferred in year – for release within one year	-	-
Income deferred in year – for release after more than one year	-	-
Amount released in year	-	-
At 31 March 2022	-	-

15 FUNDS ANALYSIS	General Unrestricted fund £	Designated Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2022 £	2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	575,394	-	-	575,394	5,634
Current assets	533,189	238,140	57,047	828,376	1,185,251
Liabilities	(40,595)	-	-	(40,595)	(30,761)
Net assets	1,067,988	238,140	57,047	1,363,175	1,160,124

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	At 1 April 2021 £	Transfers £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted funds					
Voluntary income	242,361	-	181,716	(367,030)	57,047
Unrestricted funds					
Designated	294,563	(56,423)	-	-	238,140
General	623,200	56,423	789,011	(400,646)	1,067,988
	1,160,124	-	970,727	(767,676)	1,363,175

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

England & Wales - Charity number 1095919

Accounts

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended

31 March 2021

Company number 04429778
Charity number 1095919

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THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

CONSTITUTION

The Farming Community Network ("FCN") is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 2 May 2002. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales. Charity number 1095919. Company number 04429778.

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Mark A E Suthern (Chairman)
Brian C Warren (Vice Chairman) (resigned 28 October 2020)
Sally Steadman (Vice Chair from 28 October 2020)
Giles Bowring
The Revd Canon Barbara Clutton
Peter Havers
David Lodder (Treasurer)
Bishop Mark Rylands
Olivia Seccombe
Sir Mark Hudson
Bishop Dr Helen-Ann Hartley

SECRETARY

Deborah Roe

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS

Manor Farm
West Haddon
Northamptonshire
NN6 7AQ

AUDITORS

Guest Wilson Chartered Accountants
8 Wolverton Road
Snitterfield
Stratford upon Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 0HB

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

"The Objects of the Charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos."

All services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.

Public Benefits

1. **National Helpline:** The national confidential helpline is open from 7 am to 11 pm every day of the year, staffed by a team of volunteers. Talking with someone who understands farming but is not directly involved in the situation can be a real support in itself, but when appropriate, callers are offered a visit from an FCN volunteer by referral through the co-ordinator local to the caller
2. **Volunteers:** Around 400 volunteers who are 'in sympathy' with the Christian ethos, suitably experienced and in-touch with rural and farming issues, are recruited, DBS checked and appropriately trained to 'walk with' farmers and their families through times of stress and personal difficulty. Referrals to individual volunteers are made through the local FCN County Co-ordinator who is also responsible for the co-ordination and training of volunteers within their Group and liaison with their Regional Director and Head Office for all administrative and policy issues.
3. **Christian ethos:** The Charity has a clear Christian ethos which is inherent within its foundation, board of trustees and charitable objects, which is reflected in its published Vision and Ethos Statements, whilst sustaining the principle that all services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.
4. **Partnerships:**
 - To ensure national coverage, and to respect the territories of other independent farming and rural support services, FCN has 'memoranda of understanding' with those organisations that facilitate cross referrals of clients, access to the FCN Helpline, sharing of expertise and experience and consortia bidding from national funding sources
 - 'Farming Help' has been established and underpinned with a 'memorandum of understanding' between the FCN, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI), Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RASBI) and the Addington Fund, to ensure that the specialist remits of each charity are fully recognised, cross referrals can flow easily, joint funding proposals to national bodies can be co-ordinated and clients are exposed to a seamless service of support.
5. **Uptake:**

The demand for FCN's services fluctuates with the level of causal factors within the industry, so that through a national crisis such as the foot and mouth epidemic in 2001, the scale can be almost overwhelming. However the nature of farming is such that even when the industry is operating under 'normal' conditions, individual businesses and families will experience periods of significant stress because of circumstances specific to the family or business so that a steady demand on FCN volunteers to manage between 1,500 and 2,500 cases per year is typical.

Further statistical details of uptake, nature of the difficulty and routes of referral are described later in this document.

Details of FCN's services, operations and policies are available on the website at:

www.fcn.org.uk

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Introduction from FCN's Chairman – Mark Suthern

2020 was a year like no other. Against a backdrop of Covid-19 and Brexit, the UK's farming community has faced uncertainty and disruption whilst continuing to keep the nation fed and maintaining world-leading standards. We owe our farmers a great deal for their hard work and resilience during this time.

With considerable changes in domestic agricultural policy underway, the work of FCN and our dedicated volunteers supporting rural communities remains vital. This year we have seen an increase in calls to our Helpline which have contained a mental health component, such as stress or anxiety. Each week we hear from farming families across the UK who are concerned about the future and worried about how they will adapt their farm businesses to endure the changes ahead.

But we should not focus solely on the challenges. There is great cause for optimism and a renewed sense of hope for the future as we leave lockdown. This year FCN has found novel and innovative ways to continue to engage with our farming community. Whether through Zoom calls, digital events, new sponsorships, professional relationships, training opportunities or campaigns, FCN's name has been on the tip of people's tongues, and many have been keen to work with us to support farmers' mental health and wellbeing and business resilience. We have seen excellent feedback across our industry and we have been humbled by the number of supporters who have continued to fundraise for FCN during this time, working within the confines of Covid-19 restrictions. FCN has a bold vision for the future. We strive to create a resilient farming future for everyone. We wish for farming to be an attractive industry to work in, whether you're from a farming background or new to the profession. Farming is open to everyone with a passion for the countryside and its unique way of life. Over the past 12 months, when people have had time to focus on what truly matters in our lives, many have experienced a new-found appreciation for the work our farmers do and the beauty of the countryside, which we perhaps take for granted sometimes. FCN plays a vital role walking alongside our farming community, listening, supporting and connecting them with further help to overcome any challenges they may be facing.

I would like to thank our volunteers who give their time freely and work tirelessly to support farming families. I would also like to give thanks to everyone who works with FCN, supports us, raises awareness and shares our messages. We value collaboration and coming together as a community during this time of immense transformation across our industry.

We will continue to do our part in supporting our great British farming community and creating a sustainable future for the next generation of farmers. We welcome all those who choose to join us on this journey.



Mark Suthern
6 July 2021

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Looking to the future with FCN's CEO, Dr Jude McCann

I took up my role as Chief Executive Officer with FCN in January 2020, before we knew the pandemic would spread as far and wide as it has and before we could have predicted how it would impact our day-to-day lives and the global economy.

So much can change within the space of a year, and we've all had to adapt and make difficult decisions for the greater good of society. Now, as we are finally leaving lockdown and seeing life return to some degree of normalcy, we are all re-evaluating the things that are important to us. I think it is safe to say that none of us will be taking things for granted that we perhaps once did, such as meeting friends or visiting family. This ordeal has reminded us of the importance of friends, of family and of looking out for one another. We have seen this year in particular how faith can provide guidance during challenging times and give people hope and comfort. With renewed optimism for the future, we must not forget that there is still great uncertainty in farming, and many farmers and their families are facing a challenging road ahead during this period of transition and transformation. FCN is implementing our new five-year strategy to ensure we're changing to meet the needs of our industry. While there is little doubt that the farming community will continue to experience significant change and restructuring in the coming years, FCN remains steadfast in supporting those in need. Together we face the future with hope, optimism and a renewed commitment to serve those who seek our support.

Having seen the amazing things our farming community and the wider public have achieved over the past year, it has become increasingly clear that there are few limits to what communities can accomplish when we come together. This is demonstrated through the generosity of those who support FCN and the dedication of those volunteering with our charity. We have a great team of volunteers, staff and trustees; an excellent reputation in our pastoral and practical support to the farm community; and an increasing national profile.

Demand on our services is expected to increase further in response to transition plans, reductions in BPS payments, ELMs and other environmental initiatives, as well as climate change and market volatility. During this difficult period we have been reminded of the need to listen to others. FCN's volunteers provide this essential service, offering empathy and support to those in need.

I am delighted with the successes FCN has seen this year. We have been working in a very different way, but as you will see from the above report, we have been doing anything but standing still – we've been involved in so many projects, campaigns and initiatives and have worked closely with a broad array of organisations all united by a common interest in supporting our great farming community. There is further change on the horizon, but by working together, I am confident we can manage it. Farmers are some of the most resilient people you can meet, and I have confidence we will weather this storm and emerge from the other side ready to farm another day.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all our staff, volunteers and board members for their time, effort and vital support and to all our generous donors and funders. I would also like to thank all those who submitted the photos for inclusion in this report, helping to showcase agriculture across England and Wales. I hope you enjoy reading this report.



Jude McCann

6 July 2021

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors, who are also the trustees, present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to provide pastoral and practical support to the farming community.

OUR APPROACH

We offer independent, objective and personal support to build resilience and stay strong through changing times. We aim to provide help before problems arise, as well as supporting those who are experiencing difficulty or crisis.

We do this in four ways:

1. Through our confidential Helpline, open every day from 7am – 11pm
2. Through our wide network of local volunteers and partners
3. Through our FarmWell initiative – an information resource on all aspects of personal and farm business resilience
4. Through highlighting the issues being experienced by our farming communities and increasing awareness of FCN

OUR ETHOS

FCN is a voluntary organisation and charity founded on Christian principles. We walk with farmers and members of the farming community in times of difficulty. We are here to support and work with everyone who seeks the help of FCN.

Our strategic priorities

Helping to improve the health and wellbeing of our farm community

This year FCN has helped to support the health and wellbeing of the farm community in a wide variety of ways.

During the early stages of lockdown, we supported farmers through a 'Time to Talk' campaign, encouraging those feeling isolated or lonely to call FCN for a friendly chat with our volunteers. At that point we had little idea of how long the pandemic would last, and people living in rural communities – particularly those living on their own or unable to see family - appreciated this opportunity to talk to someone with the time to listen.

We have launched a range of helpful resources this year, including a document designed to support farming families who may have a loved one with dementia. The resource provides useful information about where to get help on the farm and how FCN can support families in this situation.

We led on the launch of two powerful short films, both featuring farmers who have experienced depression and other forms of mental ill-health. The films demonstrate the importance of asking for help and speaking to friends, neighbours, fellow farmers and charities such as FCN during challenging times. The films have been widely circulated and praised for their honest and down-to-earth approach.

To support the wellbeing of the next generation of farmers, we developed new Rural+ training modules with The DPJ Foundation and National Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs. These modules have been developed with young farmers, for young farmers, and help to raise awareness of how to manage mental health and wellbeing and how to support others.

We partnered up with Farmers Weekly as part of the Britain's Fittest Farmer competition. We offered the 'FCN FarmWell Award' – awarded to the competitor who could raise awareness of positive mental health in the most innovative way. This award has been warmly received and will be offered again later this year, ensuring the competition retains a focus on mental health as well as physical health.

- More than 50 Rural+ trainers have been recruited to support young farmers' mental health and wellbeing
- Over 25,000 views on short films launched by FCN
- 6,000 farmers and farming families benefit from FCN's help each year

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Supporting farm businesses through change and building resilience

This year our Time to Plan campaign has supported farmers in planning ahead for the future and managing change. We worked with a wide variety of organisations and thought leaders to create content around topics such as succession planning, diversification, preparing for change and more. We welcomed the opportunity to work with stakeholders across our industry to support farmers.

We are now developing a booklet using this content to highlight some of the positive and proactive ways the farming community can prepare for change.

We also teamed up with The Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust and Focussed Farmers through a grant provided by The Garfield Weston Foundation to develop a programme offering business and mental resilience support to the UK farming community. As part of the project, we have conducted interviews with Nuffield Scholars around topics including diversification and planning for the unexpected.

As part of Time to Plan...

- We worked with 42 organisations and thought leaders...
- Creating 70 separate items of content...
- Securing 30 articles of media coverage...
- Receiving over 3,500 engagements on social media
- We conducted 6 long-form interviews with Nuffield Scholars

Connecting the farming community to appropriate support

Demand on FCN's services has been high this year. We have received calls about a wide range of issues, including Covid-19, financial issues and family disputes. For the first time, mental health concerns, such as stress and anxiety, have been the most common factor in calls to FCN's Helpline for much of the past year on a month-to-month basis, caused by issues such as anxiety about the future, Brexit uncertainty and concern for family members' wellbeing.

FCN's FarmWell platform - a free online resource hub designed as a 'one-stop-shop' for those working in agriculture and living in rural communities - continues to be used by farmers and farm workers. During the early stages of lockdown, we saw a significant increase in website traffic on the FarmWell platform, with visitors looking up information around Covid-19 relief funds and other information relating to the pandemic.

We continue to support the FarmWell Wales and FarmWell Cymru platforms, launched last year with the Wales Farm Support Group, which tailor information for audiences in Wales and have been widely accessed throughout the year.

FCN has made significant progress in increasing our service offering in Wales, including the appointment of a new Development Officer, a focus on creating bilingual content and developing our FCN Cymru brand through social, digital and print media.

- Over 8,000 volunteer hours spent on our Helpline
- 2,200 Helpline shifts saw us helping over 1,300 callers
- 18,500 unique visits to the FarmWell platforms
- 400 updates uploaded across the FarmWell platforms

Informing future policy decisions by being a champion for the farming community

We have championed the farming community in a number of key ways this year. We've taken part in a wide variety of campaigns to raise awareness of mental health within our industry, such as the Five Nations' Run 1000 campaign, and have shared media releases which have provided insights into the nature of calls we have received to demonstrate some of the key issues being faced by members of the farming community.

We're involved in vital research with the University of Exeter exploring farmers' experiences of managing isolation and loneliness to better understand the support that may be required. This research has seen farmers across the South of England sharing experiences and providing first-hand accounts of some of the challenges of working in

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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remote or isolated environments. This research will help to create a picture of farmers' experiences at this time which will help to inform policy decisions.

We sit on many stakeholder groups including the Wales Farm Safety Partnership and Rural Services Network, informing leading conversations around topical issues. We contribute our expertise and knowledge on the national stage with organisations such as the Institute of Agricultural Management and British Guild of Agricultural Journalists, alongside the NFU and other influential voices in agriculture.

- We are represented on 50 external stakeholder groups

Developing the skills, support and duty of care for volunteers delivering our front-line services

This year we rolled out a suite of training opportunities for volunteers, staff and external organisations. FCN volunteers have received training in areas including suicide awareness and bereavement, supporting those with dementia, managing case files, mental health awareness and more. This training has upskilled our team, helping us to respond professionally and appropriately to the wide variety of calls we receive from members of the farming community. FCN's volunteers are trusted due to our knowledge of farming and our ability to listen and ensure confidentiality.

Through the development of strong internal communications, FCN has created a weekly newsletter that keeps all FCN volunteers and those within our network informed about the latest developments within the charity, including ongoing campaigns and training opportunities, as well as other topical news across our industry.

Training has been delivered by staff and volunteers as well as by external trainers. Our partnership with YANA and the Wellbeing Portal on MAP Suicide Prevention training has been significant as a farming-focused suicide intervention training course.

FCN staff have also delivered a number of external training sessions, including Mental Health Awareness, MAP+, FarmWell training and training around media relations and responsible social media use.

- 65 training sessions delivered to FCN volunteers
- Over 220 volunteers attended training sessions
- 30+ external training sessions delivered to more than 700 individuals

Ensuring the financial sustainability of FCN

Though this last year has presented a challenge to fundraising efforts, we have found novel ways to continue to raise funds during this time. Grassroots initiatives such as the Five Nations' Run 1000 campaign earlier this year raised £20,000 for FCN through the generous donations of members of the public. Crop protection company ADAMA supported Team England as part of this and donated in support of FCN.

P.D. Hook production director Adrian Rushby raised £19,000 for FCN as part of a virtual London Marathon run. Working with the National Farmers' Union, we also hosted a series of online Q&A events with well-known farming celebrities Julian Norton and Amanda Owen. Proceeds from ticket sales went to FCN, and the events were also sponsored by Arla and ASDA.

A wide range of organisations have supported FCN through sponsored walks, team activities and internal events. We're very grateful for everyone's support during this difficult year

We've received funding from organisations including DEFRA, The National Lottery Community Fund, The Westminster Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation, The Cumber Family Charitable Trust, The Wates Foundation, The Betty Lawes Foundation, The Tanner Trust, The Bridgwater Agricultural Society and many others to support our core services as well as a wide range of projects and training initiatives.

We give special thanks to the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust for their continued and generous support of our work. We thank everyone who supports FCN and the work we do helping farming families.

- 28 ongoing partnerships
- 400+ attendees across online events

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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Building awareness and engagement of FCN in the farm community

We have worked hard this year to develop our digital offering and to raise awareness of the charity. We have created new FCN literature to promote our focus on the future and supporting farmers' resilience during this period of immense change. This literature has been requested by a wide range of organisations, businesses and professional bodies to help share FCN's messages with farmers on the ground.

We have revitalized our social media channels, leading to significant growth in engagement. This has led to an increase in individuals sharing FCN messages and organisations approaching FCN to work with us. We have developed more video content as well as engaging graphics through a mixture of in-house and external design. We have led on the communications of a wide range of projects and campaigns, resulting in significant media coverage for FCN and the work of our volunteers.

We have developed an initiative called Reconnecting our Farm Community, supporting our local groups of volunteers in developing activities and projects to reengage with farmers and families in their counties as lockdown restrictions lift. This project will help to raise awareness of FCN and allow us to play a key role in the post-Covid recovery effort, helping to address isolation and loneliness in rural communities.

This year we have created links with universities to take on interns and support graduate employability through initiatives such as the Employ Autism scheme. We are continuing to nurture these relationships, as well as to investigate other ways in which we can support those hoping to enter the charity and farming sectors.

A wide variety of events and meetings were attended by our CEO this year, including with The Welsh Government, the NFU, Lloyds Bank, DEFRA, IAgRM, ACA, Barclays, the CLA, the Agricultural Law Association, Natural England, NFYFC, the University of Exeter and many others.

We are proud to have presented at the Natwest Women in Agriculture event in February 2021.

- 600+ articles of media coverage including print, online, radio and TV
- 2,200+ followers gained on Facebook
- 1,400+ followers gained on Twitter
- 900+ followers gained on Instagram
- 1,200+ followers gained on LinkedIn

Refining our operations and organisation to stay relevant in a changing industry

Farming is changing – and so are we. We've been making a number of key decisions over the past year to ensure the sustainability and relevancy of FCN in the years to come. By working more flexibly, we've been able to continue to provide the best possible support to the farming community during this difficult and uncertain period. Our new five-year strategy, Fit for a New Farming Future, sets out the key ways we're developing our services, including greater training for FCN volunteers and with it heightened professionalism across the charity and our network.

We've been recruiting a steady stream of new volunteers over the past year from a range of farming backgrounds and with specialisms in a broad number of areas. We are ensuring FCN has the expertise internally to equip those who seek our support with the necessary knowledge and skills to thrive in a changing landscape and to better understand the options available to them.

We're also making a number of key changes internally in relation to staff responsibilities to ensure we're best representing the wide geographical spread of FCN's volunteer network and showcasing the unique forms of support we can provide.

Collaborating to shape and develop future farming support services in the UK

Collaboration is key to ensuring we provide the best possible support to our farming community now and into the future. We work alongside a wide range of charities and organisations to share expertise and knowledge and to highlight the individual support we provide farming families across the UK.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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Farming Help is an alliance between FCN, The Addington Fund, Forage Aid, RABI and RSABI, supported by the Prince's Countryside Fund. We regularly meet with the heads of these charities to discuss how we are adapting our service models to best support farmers through the changes ahead in agriculture. Earlier in the year we ran Farming Help Awareness Week as a joint campaign between our charities to highlight this spirit of unity and collaboration. This will become an annual celebration of our ongoing alliance.

We work closely with local charities such as Gloucestershire Farming Friends, Shropshire Rural Support and the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and redirect calls from farmers in these counties to ensure the best local help is made available. This year Beds and Cambs Rural Support Group and Nottinghamshire Rural Support wound down their operations, with FCN working with them as part of this process and establishing volunteer groups in these counties to ensure a consistent level of service is maintained. We're also providing back office support to Forage Aid, who we work with closely.

We have a strong relationship with support networks in farming, as well as with organisations complementary to our work, such as Samaritans, Dementia UK, The Alzheimer's Society and Mind.

On a local level, we work closely with County Councils, NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups and more to highlight the support available to those in rural areas.

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2020-21

This past year has been a difficult and challenging for FCN and indeed society as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. While at the beginning of this financial year we were unsure how the year would progress, FCN finished the financial year with a healthy surplus. As the coming months will continue with uncertainty this surplus will be invested back into the charity activities that for most of 2020-21 were prohibited. To also further assist with the development of the Charity as it continues with the 5-year strategy, launched in 2020 and to sustain the running of the Charity as we envisage an increase in demand for our services. Of some of the obstacles the farming community will be expected to overcome, will be a transition as a result of Government policies, reductions in BPS payments, impacts of trade deals and climate change. FCN will be helping build resilience to enable those who seek help to adapt to such changes.

Income

Income for the year 2020-21 reached £786,921, a decrease of approximately 19% based on the previous year but given the circumstances a - successful achievement.

Trust funding has been the most significant increase for FCN this year with two significant donations of £100k from the NFU Mutual Charitable Trust. In total FCN received £320,487 during the year from trust funding.

A further increase came in Public/Government funding of 5% based on the previous year, with FCN receiving £126,526 including funding from Defra and The National Lottery.

FCN unsurprisingly experienced a decrease in income in a few areas due to lockdown restrictions. These included Church donations with a decrease of 58% in income compared to the previous year, (£32,645 received). Events and activities income saw a fall of 54% (£70,087 received). External groups saw a fall of 15%, (£70,117 received), along with a decrease of 51% from Individuals, (£83,090 received). Income from Legacies also fell in the year, these are in themselves unpredictable and whilst we expect further residual income from an ongoing legacy, we suspect that this may be in the coming financial year. A fall of 68% (£15,775 received). Corporate income fell by 80% based on the previous year (£51,141 received).

Expenditure

Because of the uncertainty generated by Covid we were cautious in relation to expenditure for 2020-21 which came to £601,007, a decrease of 22% compared to the previous year. This is explained by lockdown restrictions, a lack of face-to-face contact and regular events also being cancelled.

The result in the aforementioned decrease in income and expenditure, is that FCN finished with a net income of £185,914 for the year. This positive result combined with previous years produced a cash balance of £1,171,401. Though some of that surplus is allocated to restricted funding and to designated projects, FCN has a policy of protecting core activities to ensure that it can continue to provide support, even if the project funding falls short of expectations.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

While the improvement of FCN's financial position is appreciated, and we are extremely grateful to all donors for their continued generosity, this must not lead to an over reliance on certain funding streams. FCN will need to continue to generate funding to enable it to operate, though this will pose a challenge following the economic impact of Covid-19. The need for FCN to strive to connect with those most difficult to reach, still remains paramount as we begin 2021-22 reconnecting with the farming community in a more traditional manner, filled with hope and optimism for the future.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Farming Community Network is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 8 May 2013. In the event of the organisation being wound up each trustee agrees to contribute £1 towards the costs of dissolution. The company is also registered with the Charity Commission for England & Wales.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The company limited by guarantee now known as The Farming Community Network took over the assets and activities on 1 June 2002 of the unincorporated charity Farm Crisis Network which was founded in 1995 by the Arthur Rank Centre and Agricultural Christian Fellowship.

The Memorandum of Association states:

"The objects of the charity are the relief of hardship and distress, amongst persons living and working in the agricultural, horticultural and related communities, by the provision of pastoral and practical support underpinned by a Christian ethos."

The activities of FCN are available to all in the agricultural and related spheres of life providing the following services:

- Pastoral and practical support, care and listening to people in crisis (by phone, face to face or through the internet)
- Information and networking service to people, primarily through on-farm visiting with a holistic approach to both farm household and business
- Advocacy on behalf of such people (e.g. for tenant farmers in discussion with landlords' agents or for farmers in discussion with banks, creditors or regulatory agencies)

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

The maximum number of directors is 12. The Articles of Association were amended by Special Resolution on 30th October 2019 to reduce the maximum length of continuous service to 9. One of the directors should be nominated by the Agricultural Christian Fellowship and 2 nominated by the Arthur Rank Centre. One third of the Board of Directors should retire at each Annual General Meeting.

DIRECTOR INDUCTION AND TRAINING

New directors undergo training as to their legal obligations under charity and company law and are presented with copies of the Memorandum and Articles of Association as well as FCN policy documents which have been approved by the Board. The induction process involves meeting the national staff and other directors. Directors are encouraged to attend training events every 3 years.

ORGANISATION

The Board of Directors meets quarterly to administer the charity and receive reports on finance, activities and fundraising. Other items are reported as necessary. Day to day management of FCN is delegated by the Board to the Chief Executive.

RELATED PARTIES

FCN has no related parties; however close working relationships are maintained with the Arthur Rank Centre and the Agricultural Christian Fellowship. Two directors are nominated by ARC and one by ACF for representation on the Board of FCN.

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RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board has undertaken a review of risk and the identified causes have been categorised as relating to:

People
Property & finance
Reputation

The review of risks has led to the implementation of policies aimed at lowering the risks to which FCN is exposed as well as designated procedures should an incident occur. The Risk Management policy document is reviewed regularly and updated to ensure it is as up to date as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR FUTURE STRATEGY 2020-2025

FCN is currently developing a five-year strategy for the organisation. While there is little doubt that the farming community will continue to experience significant change and restructuring, FCN remains steadfast in supporting those who need help in the farming community. While farming families will have to adapt and change so too will FCN. Together we face the future with hope, optimism and a renewed commitment to serve those who seek our support.

Our strategic priorities:

External:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of the farming community
- Support farm businesses through change and build resilience
- Connect the farming community to appropriate support
- Inform future policy decisions by being a champion for the farming community

Internal:

- Develop the skills, support and duty of care for volunteers delivering our front-line services
- Build awareness and engagement of FCN in the agricultural community
- Ensure the financial sustainability of FCN
- Refine our operations and organisation to stay relevant in a changing industry

Be a catalyst for shaping future agricultural support services in the UK

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ACCOUNTS

The Directors are required to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those accounts the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and other applicable law and regulations. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

GOING CONCERN

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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After making enquiries, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in note 1 of the financial statements.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Signed on behalf of the Directors on 6 July 2021.



D Roe
Secretary

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

to the members of The Farming Community Network

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Farming Community Network (the 'company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice)*.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 12, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



NEIL WILSON (SENIOR STATUTORY AUDITOR)

FOR AND BEHALF OF GUEST WILSON LIMITED, STATUTORY AUDITOR
8 Wolverton Road, Snitterfield, Stratford upon Avon, CV37 0HB
6 July 2021

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	3	274,130	-	431,267	705,397	813,036
Income from charitable activities						
Resourcing programmes		64,152	-	5,935	70,087	153,190
Income from other trading activities						
Investment income		11,437	-	-	11,437	8,822
Total income		349,719	-	437,202	786,921	975,048
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of raising funds	6	37,004		14,055	51,059	54,271
Charitable activities		128,956		281,651	410,607	523,840
Governance		79,162		60,179	139,341	192,825
Total expenditure		245,122	-	355,885	601,007	770,936
Net income/(expenditure)		104,597	-	81,317	185,914	204,112
Net transfers between funds		22,400	(22,750)	350	-	
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		126,997	(22,750)	81,667	185,914	204,112
Fund balances brought forward	15	496,203	317,313	160,694	974,210	770,098
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	15	£ 623,200	£ 294,563	£ 242,361	£ 1,160,124	£ 974,210

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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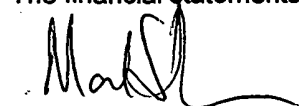
BALANCE SHEET as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	10	5,634	9,834
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	13,850	72,122
Bank and cash balances		1,171,401	919,028
		1,185,251	991,150
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(30,761)	(26,774)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,154,490	964,376
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,160,124	974,210
CREDITORS: amounts falling due after more than one year	13		
		£ 1,160,124	£ 974,210
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General	15	623,200	496,203
Designated	15	294,563	317,313
Restricted funds	15	242,361	160,694
		£ 1,160,124	£ 974,210

The Trustees have acknowledged their responsibilities for: selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently; observing the methods and principles in the Charities SORP; making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; stating whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and preparing the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 6 July 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



M A E Suthern
Director

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

at 31 March 2021

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

The Farming Community Network, a public benefit entity, is incorporated in England and Wales as a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. Each member has undertaken to contribute to the assets in the event of winding up a sum not exceeding £1. The charity is a registered charity. The registered office is given on page 2.

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2015)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), effective 1 January 2015 and the Companies Act 2006.

In preparing the accounts, the Directors have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required. At the date of transition in applying the requirements of FRS 102 no adjustments were required.

The Directors consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. Free unrestricted reserves of FCN at the year-end amount to £917,763. After consideration of the current business plan to 2021/22 and with a balanced budget planned for the next two financial years, the Trustees consider there is a reasonable expectation that FCN has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Trustees are also satisfied with the controls in place for monitoring and flexing the budget throughout the year. There are no material uncertainties that would impact on the charity's ability to continue. Accordingly we continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing this annual report and financial statements.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. 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 costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming resources

Incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included.

Resources expended

Resources expended are recognised in the period in which they are incurred under headings that aggregate all costs related to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they are allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources. Resources expended include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

Taxation

FCN is a registered charity and is not subject to taxation on its income so long as this is used for its charitable activities.

Fixed assets and depreciation

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:

Office equipment - 3 years straight line

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2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in note 1, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The Directors do not consider there are any critical judgements or sources of estimation uncertainty requiring disclosure beyond the accounting policies listed above.

3 INCOME – DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
Voluntary income				
From churches	29,612	3,033	32,645	78,602
From individuals and other organisations	133,091	20,116	153,207	250,727
Legacies	15,775	-	15,775	48,889
Gift aid tax refunded	5,616	-	5,616	26,329
Grants received (see note 4)	90,036	408,118	498,154	408,489
	274,130	431,267	705,397	813,036

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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4 GRANTS RECEIVED

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 £	2020 £
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	-	200,000	200,000	-
DEFRA and Regional Development Agencies	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
The National Lottery	-	50,000	50,000	-
Westminster Foundation	-	33,304	33,304	-
Wates Foundation	-	20,000	20,000	-
Arla	13,655	-	13,655	1,055
Hutchinson Charitable Trust	8,000	-	8,000	7,500
Nuffield	-	7,500	7,500	-
Prince's Countryside Fund	-	6,111	6,111	-
Huggate Wold Farms	-	6,000	6,000	-
NFU	5,000	-	5,000	-
Anonymous	5,000	-	5,000	-
Betty Lawes Foundation	5,000	-	5,000	-
Cumber Family Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Tanner Trust	5,000	-	5,000	3,000
Blacks of Bacton	3,500	-	3,500	-
Yeo Valley Farms	-	3,425	3,425	-
The Ticket Shop	3,293	-	3,293	-
NSF Safety & Quality	2,875	-	2,875	-
The Worshipful Company of Farmers	2,750	-	2,750	2,500
AHDA	2,234	-	2,234	10,000
Hampshire Farmers Benevolent Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Forest Hill Charity	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
Leicestershire CMF	-	1,844	1,844	-
Bletsoes	1,768	-	1,768	-
Frome Lions Club	1,750	-	1,750	-
Savills	1,500	-	1,500	-
Purple Patch	1,320	-	1,320	-
Warwickshire County Council	-	1,126	1,126	-
Giving.com	1,081	-	1,081	-
Cornus Trust	1,000	-	1,000	-
C P Thackray Trust	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
Bristol Corn & Feed Association	963	-	963	-
Leicestershire Co-Op Community Fund	-	924	924	-
The Fulmer Charity	750	-	750	2,000
Rickerbys Charitable Trust	-	750	750	-
Colman	560	-	560	-
Anonymous	515	-	515	-
Lloyds Bank plc	-	-	-	115,608
John Lewis – Waitrose	-	-	-	100,000
Welsh Assembly	-	-	-	45,133
Farmers Union Wales	-	-	-	9,876
Agri	-	-	-	5,000
P D Hook Ltd	-	-	-	5,000
Duke of Devonshire's Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000
EWG Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Elizabeth Creak Foundation	-	-	-	3,000
Oxfordshire Ag Soc Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Frontier Agricultural	-	-	-	1,250
JC & KC Foundation	-	-	-	1,110
Lewis Business Media	-	-	-	1,005
Volac	-	-	-	1,000
Beviss & Beckinsale	-	-	-	891
Pilkington Settlement	-	-	-	750
Other grants ≤ £500	12,522	2,134	14,656	3,311
Total grants per Note 3	90,036	408,118	498,154	408,489

5 UNPAID VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included within the Statement of Financial Activities as either income or expenditure. In the year under review that value is calculated as £178,638 (2020 - £224,260), representing entirely caseworker costs (please refer to Trustees' Report for further information). If this value was included the Statement of Financial Activities would be revised with both income and expenditure increasing by £178,638.

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

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6 EXPENDITURE	GENERAL UNRESTRICTED				RESTRICTED	2021 £	2020 £
	Local activity & supporting volunteers £	Publicity £	Training £	Direct costs £	Local activity & supporting volunteers £		
Costs of generating funds							
Staff costs (note 7)	-	-	-	27,262	14,055	41,317	40,275
Travel	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,427
Communications	-	-	-	710	-	710	1,696
Fundraising materials	-	-	-	5,776	-	5,776	1,518
Room hire	-	-	-	-	-	-	45
Legal & professional	-	-	-	3,256	-	3,256	2,310
	-	-	-	37,004	14,055	51,059	54,271
	37,004						
Charitable activities							
Staff costs (note 7)		55,567	-	-	232,300	287,867	270,645
Caseworker costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,170
Travel	4,121	92	-	-	1,025	5,238	67,520
Communications	15,086	481	-	-	512	16,079	12,334
Legal & professional	1,848	-	-	-	379	2,227	1,061
Room hire and refreshments	58	-	-	-	-	58	38,217
Publicity & training materials	1,807	48,282	-	-	47,435	97,524	129,692
Local office administration	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	1,614	-	-	-	-	1,614	3,201
	24,534	104,422	-	-	281,651	410,607	523,840
	128,956						
Governance							
Staff costs (note 7)	-	-	-	28,720	58,226	86,946	66,418
Travel costs	-	-	-	745	-	745	24,995
Communications	-	-	-	16,310	1,953	18,263	32,244
Legal & professional	-	-	-	11,081	-	11,081	40,661
Insurance	-	-	-	4,707	-	4,707	2,525
Audit & accountancy	-	-	-	5,000	-	5,000	4,200
Premises and depreciation	-	-	-	12,596	-	12,596	20,807
Other	-	-	-	3	-	3	975
	-	-	-	79,162	60,179	139,341	192,825
	79,162						
Total expenditure	24,534	104,422	-	116,166	355,885	601,007	770,936
	245,122						

7 STAFF COSTS	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	398,946	339,822
Social security costs	26,699	22,887
Other pension costs	18,798	14,629
	447,443	377,339

The average number of employees, including part-time, during the year was 21 (2020: 17).

One employee earned in excess of £60,000 (2020 - Nil).

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge for the period was £18,798 (2020 - £14,704). There were outstanding contributions of £2,341 at the year end (2020 - £1,740).

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

8 NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
This is stated after charging:		
Directors' emoluments (travel expenses)	-	4,262
Auditor's remuneration	5,000	4,200
Depreciation	4,200	8,439
Directors' indemnity insurance	1,614	1,021

9 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

No remuneration was paid to Directors for their services, and no amounts were paid as reimbursement of travel and other expenses.

10 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment £
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2020	83,775
Additions	-
At 31 March 2021	83,775
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2020	73,941
Charge for the year	4,200
At 31 March 2021	78,141
Net book value	
At 31 March 2021	5,634
At 1 April 2020	9,834

11 DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	1,073	500
Prepayments and accrued income	1,166	46,622
Gift Aid tax refund	11,611	25,000
	13,850	72,122

12 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	10,518	10,598
Other taxes and social security	9,815	7,609
Other creditors	2,342	1,740
Deferred income (see also Note 13)	-	-
Accrued expenses	8,086	6,827
	30,761	26,774

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income	-	-

DEFERRED INCOME	£
At 1 April 2020	-
Income deferred in year – for release within one year	-
Income deferred in year – for release after more than one year	-
Amount released in year	-
At 31 March 2021	-

14 FUNDS ANALYSIS	General Unrestricted fund £	Designated Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2021 £	2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	5,634	-	-	5,634	9,834
Current assets	648,327	294,563	242,361	1,185,251	991,150
Liabilities	(30,761)	-	-	(30,761)	(26,774)
Net assets	623,200	294,563	242,361	1,160,124	974,210

15 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	At 1 April 2020 £	Transfers £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted funds					
Voluntary income	160,694	350	437,202	(355,885)	242,361
Unrestricted funds					
Designated	317,313	(22,750)	-	-	294,563
General	496,203	22,400	349,719	(245,122)	623,200
	974,210	-	786,921	(601,007)	1,160,124