ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

England & Wales · Charity number 1117546

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05333784
Registered	2007-01-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	C/o The Villas Town Hall London Road Bexhill-On-Sea East Sussex TN39 3JX
Phone	01424217259
Email	office@rva.uk.com
Website	www.rva.uk.com

Activities

Objects: 3. THE CHARITY'S CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRICT F ROTHER AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD (HEREINAFTER CALLED "THE AREA OF BENEFIT"), AND, IN PARTICULAR, THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY, DISTRESS AND SICKNESS;B) TO PROMOTE AND ORGANISE CO-OPERATION IN THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE ABOVE PURPOSES AND TO THAT END TO BRING TOGETHER IN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS AND STATUTORY AUTHORITIES WITHIN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: RVA seeks to strengthen the social and economic wellbeing of local communities and help people fulfil their potential in a socially and environmentally sustainable fashion through its work as a development trust and council for voluntary service

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** THE LOCAL GOVENMENT DISTRICT OF ROTHER AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.
- East Sussex

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£523,729	£568,332	£241,479	14
2024-03-31	£437,073	£445,400	-	-
2023-03-31	£600,613	£584,810	£294,410	13
2022-03-31	£584,710	£563,251	£278,607	12
2021-03-31	£407,590	£346,132	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
TIMOTHY JOHN HEMMINGS	Chair	
CLIVE NORMAN MILLS		2013-01-28
Gareth Delany		2025-10-23
Linda Seddon		
Lucinda Anne Fraser		2025-06-17
Oliver Jeffs		2018-05-08
Simon Geoffrey Hubbard		2023-10-18

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ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1117546

Accounts

Charity registration number 1117546 (England and Wales)

Company registration number 05333784

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Caryl Cook Timothy Hemmings Simon Hubbard Sally Jayasekera Oliver Jeffs Clive Mills Linda Seddon Mr T J Hemmings Mr C N Mills
Charity number (England and Wales)	1117546
Company number	05333784
Registered office	47 London Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN39 3JY
Independent examiner	Galloways Accounting (Bexhill) Limited 23 St Leonards Road Bexhill on Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

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ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

This year, April 2024 -March 2025, RVA staff and Trustees have worked with stakeholders and community partners to continue to consolidate our offer. Our aim is to be the best support mechanism we could be to the Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) across Rother.

Our offer follows for key areas:

- **Leadership and advocacy** – Mobilising and encouraging community action, strengthening our sectors voice and influence on key decision makers and funders
- **Partnerships and collaborations** – Creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners.
- **Capacity building** – Providing practical support and development for local people and organisations, to nurture skills and build community resilience.
- **Volunteering** – Building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities.

Following the leadership change in June 23 our CEO, Kim Richards has worked with the Senior Leadership Team to share best practice, look at key aspects that affect the organisation and to best manage our resources. In addition, working groups involving a cross section of staff continue to advise in the following key areas:

- Events and Training – Monitoring and development of our networks and training offer.
- Evidence and Insight - oversee RVA's data management and digital presence, ensuring that our systems are robust, effective, and capable of demonstrating our core offer to the sector
- Wellbeing – Our staff are our biggest asset, and we aim to do everything we can to support them. Through our Wellbeing champions RVA have achieved the bronze award for Wellbeing in the Workplace which is offered through East Sussex County Council.

Following a successful consultation in 2021, with voluntary sector organisations across Rother, it was clear that the community, the sector and partners will benefit from a community hub space. This will bring about co-location of services and enable a more joined up approach to serving our community. RVA were delighted when they were awarded £1m in January 24 following our application for Levelling up Funds. Since the end of the financial year a building has been secured and we hope to be moved in by June 26.

Some of our key priorities in 2023/24 continued in 2024/25 with some additions:

1. To continue to find ways to fund and grow RVA's core work – developing our community networks, advice-giving and training. Working closely with HVA and 3VA where possible and gain greater reach across the county, share best practice and resources.

2. Create a strong customer service journey that is streamlined through RVA that meets the needs of the Voluntary sector and we can monitor and map the VCSE across Rother and who RVA serves, understanding their place in an organisational life-cycle and clarifying their needs. RVA as advocate, catalyst/architect/facilitator.

3. Develop a community hub and VCSE Co-working Strategy and Action plan in partnership with Rothers VCSE and wider stakeholders, aligned to Rothers Anti-Poverty Strategy. Identify an appropriate building and work in partnership to service the community of Rother with an accessible shared space.

4. Continue to develop and grow our Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service, work in partnership with community development delivery partners and Rothers VCSE to develop a consistent offer across East Sussex. Embed the emerging digital platform developed by ESCC on behalf of the sector, alongside volunteer fairs, training for volunteers and Trustee recruitment.

5. With key contracts coming to an end review our staffing structure to best suit the changing requirements of the organisation. Due to forecasted loss of income and rising costs during 2025 RVA needed to make some changes to core budgets and core service delivery. Furthermore, the impact of stakeholder cuts on Rother's VCSE, RVAs key beneficiaries, means that our core offer of support needs to pivot and be flexible to enable us to meet changing and rising need with reduced resources.

6. Renewal of our NAVCA (National Association for Voluntary and Community Action) accreditation.

ACHIEVEMENTS and PERFORMANCE against those priorities

1. **To continue to find ways to fund and grow RVA's core work:** This has continued to reveal how valued and trusted RVA is as a local partner and resource for communities. This is clear in the enthusiasm to work with us, the rising demands for our support and the requests we have received from key strategic partners such as RDC to help them shape their community support as they restructure their services. We are working closely with our local Voluntary Actions and we are also forming other alliances via the newly created VCSE alliance

2. **Create a strong customer service journey**: A number of our processes have been reviewed in an effort to cut waste and make us more efficient. Work did stall on the development of the CRM system whilst we reviewed our options, however, having secured some additional funding work is continuing at pace.

3. **Develop a community Hub strategy and identify a building** – The building was secured in June 24 and whilst we experienced some delays with the current tenant, progress is being made, and we expect to open in the Summer of 2026

4. **Develop our Volunteer Hub:** We know, as a result, of the Pandemic that volunteering is high on the agenda of many of the organisations we support with requests for Trustees, Digital brokerage/recruitment and micro-volunteering offers. RVA secured funding from ESCC, Little Chainey Wind Farm and Reaching Communities in 2022 to start a Volunteer Hub and Trustee Brokerage service. Our offering is growing steadily with a number of volunteering opportunities being available on our website. RVA and the other VA's have been working closely with ESCC to develop a digital volunteer brokerage platform called TRIBE that was launched in November 2023.

5. **Organisational restructure** – This was completed prior to the end of the financial year. The restructure unfortunately saw us lose two staff through redundancy and others taking reduced hours. Our staff costs, which are by far, our largest expense are now in line with our revenue.

6. **NAVCA accreditation** – Evidence submitted prior to the end of the financial year, and we can confirm that in June 25 we were accredited for a further 3 years

Project delivery April 2024- March 2025

General infrastructure/Community Development

This is our core offer of support. We were successful in re tendering for our contract with ESCC, initially for a 3 year period, with an option for a further 2.

Key activities include but not limited to:

- Support and advice to the sector
- Networks and events training
- Third sector representation
- Profile building
- Delivering Key performance indicators to East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council which will help shape policy.

Marketing and Communications

RVA has a new marketing and communications team with the aim of strengthening our brand and offering communications and marketing support to our projects, core team and the organisations we work with across Rother. A key aspect of this work will be to develop and maintain our digital presence.

Making It Happen

This project concluded at the of March 25.

RVA alongside 4 other organisations in East Sussex deliver The Making It Happen project. Using an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) we support groups and individuals wanting to start groups or community initiatives.

It is clear from our work that community groups need to be supported not only with decision making processes such as setting up a group, creating policies and procedures, recruiting staff and/or volunteers, but also with finding the right funding opportunities that can support the long-term sustainability of those groups. This, we do not only through researching and finding appropriate grants, but also through grants available through the Making It Happen project, such as Small Sparks, Next Steps and Grow grants.

Since the start of the Making It Happen project in October 2019, RVA have supported over 100 different community initiatives and groups, and in the year to March 24 a number of grants were awarded to groups across Rother

By enabling community groups through internal funding, we not only help them to start their journey, but we also facilitate access to information and promote inclusion and support groups to have a voice.

Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service

Volunteering remains high on the agenda of many of the organisations we support, with recruiting Volunteers and Trustees a priority. To meet this need, RVA's online listing service continues to expand, with 89 volunteer opportunities from approximately 37 organisations listed since September 2024. We also continue to support East Sussex County Council's online volunteer listings platform, Tribe.

RVA's quarterly Volunteer Coordinator's Forum, in collaboration with HVA, is consistently popular as it enters its second year, with around 40 organisations attending to date. Participants are predominantly Volunteer Coordinators who value the opportunity for peer-learning and mutual support.

A continued focus is on celebrating and promoting volunteering. We do this via our annual volunteer awards and Volunteers Week. We particularly want to reach younger audiences and those from diverse backgrounds, who face more barriers to volunteering. We have been working closely with Job Centre Plus and local schools and colleges to raise awareness of volunteering as a pathway to employment.

The Volunteer Hub is funded until April 2027 by The National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund.

Rother Food Partnership

During the year funding was obtained from East Sussex County Council to develop a local food network and a wider approach to food access and sustainability. A designated officer has been appointed, and a programme of small grants was distributed to local groups to help then grow, prepare and distribute food. This work has already gained good traction, developed new partnerships and connections.

Homes 4 Ukraine support scheme

In March 2022 we requested and were granted funding to provide a Community Development worker to support Ukrainian guests and hosts. Our role has been multifaceted and has evolved and focuses on four key areas:

- Connecting the communities with each other.
- Nurturing and supporting community cohesion through events and activities
- Continuing to allocate a dedicated grants scheme
- Supporting host families

Financial Position

The year 2024/25 saw an unrestricted operating deficit of £45,698 (£34,451 in 2023/24).

Income from grants and donations was £234,540 and from charitable activities £278,368 (compared to £215,342 and £213,979 in 2023/24).

Expenditure on charitable activities for the year totalled £568,332 (£445,240 2023/24) of which £354,150 (£274,849 2023/24) was spent on staff costs representing 62% (62% 2023/24) of RVA's charitable expenditure.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the day to day running of the charity and, in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, to support existing projects for fixed periods until funding is secured and to cover staff costs obligations and administrative costs.

The general fund reserves at the year-end amounted to £212,309 (2024: £259,958).

Risk management

The key risks to the organisation are:

- The withdrawal of contracts from Public Service organisations and the impact this has in managing the long-term strategy of the organisation
- Increasing concerns about the availability of funding from charitable and non-charitable sources that can be accessed for Rother.
- Likely further cuts to Public Service finances.
- The loss of any key experienced staff member.

Rother Voluntary Action, like many voluntary organisations, continues to face challenges to maintain its financial operating reserve. At this point the Rother Voluntary Action board is satisfied that actions already taken or are planned are sufficient to enable the organisation to navigate through the continued financial turbulence affecting, particularly, the Public Sector and its partners.

Structure, governance and management

Rother Voluntary Action is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles which were integral part of the incorporation on 17th January 2005. On 10th January 2007 the company became a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Caryl Cook
Timothy Hemmings
Simon Hubbard
Sally Jayasekera
Oliver Jeffs
Clive Mills
Linda Seddon
Mr T J Hemmings
Mr C N Mills

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of Rother Voluntary Action is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles. The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, either to fill a vacancy or to act as an additional trustee provided that the appointment does not cause the number of trustees to exceed the maximum number. Only persons who are members of the company shall be eligible to become trustees. None of the charity's trustees receive any remuneration.

Induction and training of trustees

Rother Voluntary Action follows the same process of recruitment and Induction whether a potential board member is nominated or co-opted. All potential board members are asked to completed an application pack and are interviewed by a sub-group of the board. Board members will then decide whether to co-opt or to recommend nomination to members at the AGM. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the Induction process and giving opportunities to get to know the organisation.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

T. J. Hemmings

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Timothy Hemmings
Trustee

Date: 7-10-25

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Rother Voluntary Action (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000, the independent examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. 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 charity as required by section 386 of the Companies Act 2006.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

4 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Peter Watters FCA BFP
Galloways Accounting (Bexhill) Limited
23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Dated: 14-10-2025

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2025 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	234,540	-	-	234,540	215,342
Charitable activities	4	180,656	-	97,712	278,368	213,979
Investments	5	10,821	-	-	10,821	7,752
Total income		426,017	-	97,712	523,729	437,073
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	28,186	-	96,617	124,803	91,493
Charitable activities	7	443,529	-	-	443,529	353,907
Total expenditure		471,715	-	96,617	568,332	445,400
Net income/(expenditure)		(45,698)	-	1,095	(44,603)	(8,327)
Transfers between funds		41,393	(43,344)	1,951	-	-
Net movement in funds	9	(4,305)	(43,344)	3,046	(44,603)	(8,327)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		216,614	43,344	26,124	286,082	294,409
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		212,309	-	29,170	241,479	286,082

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	215,342	-	-	215,342
Charitable activities	4	126,094	-	87,885	213,979
Investments	5	7,752	-	-	7,752
Total income		349,188	-	87,885	437,073
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	29,732	-	61,761	91,493
Charitable activities	7	353,907	-	-	353,907
Total expenditure		383,639	-	61,761	445,400
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(34,451)	-	26,124	(8,327)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		251,065	43,344	-	294,409
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		216,614	43,344	26,124	286,082

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		2,164		3,793
Current assets					
Debtors	**14**	9,885		8,370	
Cash at bank and in hand		261,974		405,255	
		271,859		413,625	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**15**	(32,544)		(131,336)	
Net current assets			239,315		282,289
Total assets less current liabilities			241,479		286,082
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**17**		29,170		26,124
Unrestricted funds - general	**19**		212,309		216,614
Unrestricted funds - designated	**18**		-		43,344
			241,479		286,082

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 7-10-25

T. J. Hemmings

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Timothy Hemmings
Trustee

Company registration number 05333784 (England and Wales)

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Rother Voluntary Action is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 47 London Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computer equipment	33% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	234,540	215,342

3 Income from donations and legacies (Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts		
Rother District Council	38,000	38,000
East Sussex County Council	158,840	61,642
Homes for Ukraine	37,700	115,700
	234,540	215,342

4 Income from charitable activities

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Project income and support	234,075	189,149
Community accounting	43,248	2,240
Other income	1,045	22,590
	278,368	213,979
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	180,656	126,094
Restricted funds	97,712	87,885
	278,368	213,979

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Interest receivable	10,821	7,752

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and publicity						
Projects	28,186	96,617	124,803	29,732	61,761	91,493

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Direct costs		
Staff costs	354,150	274,849
Depreciation and impairment	2,398	2,690
Project costs	28,684	36,289
Rent and office costs	14,137	7,451
Telephone and internet	10,922	4,429
Travel and hospitality	1,753	4,525
Fees, licences, subscriptions and publications	9,659	3,536
Marketing and promotions	851	1,593
Bank charges	62	74
Training and course fees	702	364
Sundry expenses	2,649	-
Other staff costs	344	978
Rates, building repairs,utilities and cleaning	5,240	7,204
Room hire	3,358	640
Insurance	3,486	3,064
Stationery and computer expenses	3,265	3,011
	441,660	350,697
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Governance	1,869	3,210
	443,529	353,907
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	443,529	353,907

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Governance	1,869	3,210

8 Support costs allocated to activities **(Continued)**

Governance costs comprise:	2025 £	2024 £
Audit fees	1,800	1,680
Legal and professional	69	1,530
	1,869	3,210

9 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	1,800	1,680
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,398	2,690

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	15	14

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	275,529	249,026
Social security costs	61,156	15,066
Other pension costs	17,465	10,757
	354,150	274,849

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	30,571
Additions	769
At 31 March 2025	31,340
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2024	26,778
Depreciation charged in the year	2,398
At 31 March 2025	29,176
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	2,164
At 31 March 2024	3,793

14 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	9,885	8,370

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Payments received on account	24,198	93,363
Trade creditors	6,086	20,498
Other creditors	-	15,045
Accruals and deferred income	2,260	2,430
	32,544	131,336

16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025	2024
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	17,465	10,757

17 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Heart of Sidley	26,124	38,847	(35,801)	-	29,170
Volunteer Hub	-	58,865	(60,816)	1,951	-
	26,124	97,712	(96,617)	1,951	29,170

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Heart of Sidley	-	87,885	(61,761)	-	26,124

Note to the Restricted funds

Heart of Sidley - This is for the redevelopment of the changing rooms at Sidley Recreation ground into a Community building. This project has received Levelling Up monies and the partnership are contributing around £160k to the cost.

Volunteer Hub - The charity was awarded funds by the National Lottery as a contribution to core funds would enable RVA to deliver CVS support, training, funding surgeries/forums/peer support/ governance guidance to the sector and individuals.

18 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2024	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£
Designated funds	43,344	(43,344)	-

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Designated funds	43,344	-	43,344

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	216,614	426,017	(471,715)	41,393	212,309

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	251,065	349,188	(383,639)	-	216,614

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2025	Unrestricted funds designated 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025:				
Tangible assets	2,164	-	-	2,164
Current assets/(liabilities)	210,145	-	29,170	239,315
	212,309	-	29,170	241,479

	Unrestricted funds general 2024	Unrestricted funds designated 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024:				
Tangible assets	3,793	-	-	3,793
Current assets/(liabilities)	212,821	43,344	26,124	282,289
	216,614	43,344	26,124	286,082

21 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	7,500	7,500
Between two and five years	7,500	7,500
	15,000	15,000

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1117546

Accounts

Charity registration number 1117546

Company registration number 05333784 (England and Wales)

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Caryl Cook Timothy Hemmings Simon Hubbard Sally Jayasekera Oliver Jeffs Clive Mills Linda Seddon	(Appointed 18 October 2023)
Charity number	1117546	
Company number	05333784	
Registered office	47 London Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN39 3JY	
Independent examiner	McPhersons CFG Limited 23 St Leonards Road Bexhill-on-Sea East Sussex TN40 1HH	

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

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ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

RVA's Chairman's report Annual Accounts 2023-2024

This year, April 2023 -March 2024, RVA staff and Trustees have worked with stakeholders and community partners to continue to develop and consolidate our offer. Our aim is to be the best support mechanism we could be to the Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) across Rother.

Our offer follows four key areas:

- **Leadership and advocacy** – Mobilising and encouraging community action, strengthening our sectors voice and influence on key decision makers and funders
- **Partnerships and collaborations** – Creating opportunities and driving effective joint working by building networks of local organisations and strategic partners.
- **Capacity building** – Providing practical support and development for local people and organisations, to nurture skills and build community resilience.
- **Volunteering** – Building an environment in which volunteers and their communities thrive by encouraging and nurturing volunteering opportunities.

RVA had a leadership change with a new CEO, Kim Richards, appointed in June 23. Other key leadership appointments were made, and a clear structure developed which will allow for growth within the staff team. A Senior Leadership Team has been established to support strategic development, share best practice, focus on key opportunities and challenges to best manage our resources.

In addition, working groups have been set up involving a cross section of staff in the following key areas:

- Events and Training – Monitoring and development of our networks and training offer.
- Evidence and Insight - oversee RVA's data management and digital presence, ensuring that our systems are robust, effective, and capable of demonstrating the impact of our core offer to the sector
- Wellbeing – Our staff are our biggest asset, and we aim to do everything we can to support them. Through our Wellbeing champions and we are working towards the Bronze award for Wellbeing in the Workplace which is offered through East Sussex County Council.

Following a successful consultation in 2021, with voluntary sector organisations across Rother, it was clear that the community, the VCSE sector and partners will benefit from a community hub space. This will bring about co-location of services and enable a more joined up approach to serving our community. RVA were delighted to have been awarded £1m in January 2024 following our application for central government Department for Levelling up Funds. Since the end of the financial year a building has been secured and we hope to be moved in by June 25.

Our priorities in 2023 evolved following appointment of our new CEO:

1. To continue to find ways to fund and grow RVA's core work – developing our community networks, advice-giving, support and training. Working closely with the East Sussex Voluntary Actions and infrastructure organisations to ensure consistent support across the county, share best practice and resources.

2. Create a strong customer service journey that is streamlined through RVAs core offer to ensure flexible support to meet the needs of Rothers voluntary sector. Enabling RVA to map and monitor the impact of the VCSE offer in Rother. RVA as advocate, catalyst/architect/facilitator.

3. Develop and deliver a community hub strategy and action plan aligned to Rothers emerging Anti-Poverty Strategy and known VCSE wider stakeholders need across Rother. Identify, purchase and fit out an appropriate building and work in partnership to service the community of Rother with an accessible shared space supported by outreach Hubs in rural areas.

4. Develop and grow RVAs Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service, work in partnership with 3VA and HVA to develop a consistent offer across East Sussex. Embed the emerging digital platform developed by ESCC on behalf of the sector, alongside volunteer fairs, training for volunteers and Trustee recruitment.

ACHIEVEMENTS and PERFORMANCE against those priorities

1. **To continue to find ways to fund and grow RVA's core work:** This has continued to reveal how valued and trusted RVA is as a local partner and resource for communities. This is clear in the enthusiasm to work with us, the rising demands for our support and the requests we have received from key strategic partners such as RDC/ESCC to help them shape their community support as they restructure their services. We are working closely with your local Voluntary Actions and we are also forming other alliances via the East Sussex VCSE alliance
2. **Create a strong customer service journey**: A number of our processes have been reviewed in an effort to cut waste and make us more efficient. Work did stall on the development of the CRM system whilst we reviewed our options but digital transformation is now a key priority for24/25.
3. **Develop a community Hub strategy and identify a building –** The building has now been secured and the important work is underway to establish the best way for this space to serve the community and Rothers VCSE.
4. **Develop our Volunteer Hub:** We know, as a result, of the Pandemic that volunteering is high on the agenda of many of the organisations we support with requests for Trustees, Digital brokerage/recruitment and micro-volunteering offers. RVA secured funding from ESCC, Little Chainey Wind Farm and Reaching Communities in 2022 to start a Volunteer Hub and Trustee Brokerage service. Our offering is growing steadily with a number of volunteering opportunities being available on our website. RVA and the other VA's have been working closely with ESCC to develop a digital volunteer brokerage platform called TRIBE that was launched in November 2023.

Project delivery April 2023- March 2024

General infrastructure/Community Development

This is our core offer of support. Key activities include but not limited to:

- Support and advice to the sector
- Networks and events training
- Third sector representation
- Profile building
- Delivering Key performance indicators to East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council which will help shape policy.

Marketing and Communications

RVA has a new marketing and communications team with the aim of strengthening our brand and offering communications and marketing support to our projects, core team and the organisations we work with across Rother. A key aspect of this work will be to develop and maintain our digital presence.

Making It Happen

RVA alongside 4 other organisations in East Sussex deliver The Making It Happen project. Using an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) we support groups and individuals wanting to start groups or community initiatives.

It is clear from our work that community groups need to be supported not only with decision making processes such as setting up a group, creating policies and procedures, recruiting staff and/or volunteers, but also with finding the right funding opportunities that can support the long-term sustainability of those groups. This, we do not only through researching and finding appropriate grants, but also through grants available through the Making It Happen project, such as Small Sparks, Next Steps and Grow grants.

Since the start of the Making It Happen project in October 2019, RVA have supported over 100 different community initiatives and groups, and in the year to March 24 a number of grants were awarded to groups across Rother

By enabling community groups through internal funding, we not only help them to start their journey, but we also facilitate access to information and promote inclusion and support groups to have a voice.

Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service

The Volunteer Brokerage continues to provide a Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service that establishes personal connections between groups and individuals within the Rother District.

We have been working with HVA and 3VA on a new volunteering platform, Tribe, that is being set up by ESCC. The platform went live in the second half of 2023 and provides an easy way for potential volunteers and organisations to register an interest and link up for any volunteering opportunities.

During the year we have run a series of events and training sessions for volunteers. The highlight of these events is the volunteer awards at our AGM which recognises the work of volunteers across the Rother District.

We have built an area of the website specially for Volunteers, Trustees and Volunteer Managing Organisations. This includes live opportunities, Volunteer Taster Days, Volunteer Managing Templates, Trustee Managing Templates and the Governance Health-check.

Rother Food Partnership

During the year funding was obtained from East Sussex County Council to develop a local food network and a wider approach to food access and sustainability. A designated officer has been appointed and a programme of small grants was distributed to local groups to help then grow, prepare and distribute food.

Homes 4 Ukraine support scheme

In March 2022 we requested and were granted funding to provide a Community Development worker to support Ukrainian guests and hosts. Our role has been multifaceted and has evolved and focuses on four key areas:

- Connecting the communities with each other.
- Nurturing and supporting community cohesion through events and activities
- Continuing to allocate a dedicated grants scheme
- Supporting host families

Our strategic aims for the coming year -2024/25 in light of our change of CEO will show little change from the previous year.

We will be renewing our National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA) award which is now known as the Local Infrastructure Quality Accreditation (LIQA). Aligning to this award will drive our strategy which will be reviewed towards the end of the financial year.

Financial Position

The year 2023/24 saw an unrestricted operating deficit of £34,451 (£15,803 surplus in 2022/23).

Income from grants and donations was £215,342 and from charitable activities £213,979 (compared to £203,330 and £395,732 in 2022/23).

Expenditure on charitable activities for the year totalled £445,400 (£584,810 in 2022/23) of which £274,849 (£312,589 2022/23) was spent on staff costs representing 61.71% (53.45% 2022/23) of RVA's charitable expenditure.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the day to day running of the charity and, in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, to support existing projects for fixed periods until funding is secured and to cover staff costs obligations and administrative costs.

The general fund reserves at the year-end amounted to £259,958 (2023: £294,409).

Major risks

Risk management

The key risks to the organisation are:

- The withdrawal of contracts from Public Service organisations and the impact this has in managing the long-term strategy of the organisation
- Increasing concerns about the availability of funding from charitable and non-charitable sources that can be accessed for Rother.
- Likely further cuts to Public Service finances.
- The loss of any key experienced staff members.

Rother Voluntary Action, like many voluntary organisations, continues to face challenges to maintain its financial operating reserve. At this point the Rother Voluntary Action board is satisfied that actions already taken or are planned are sufficient to enable the organisation to navigate through the continued financial turbulence affecting, particularly, the Public Sector and its partners.

Structure, governance and management

Rother Voluntary Action is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles which were integral part of the incorporation on 17th January 2005. On 10th January 2007 the company became a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

At its AGM on the 8th December 2020 a resolution was passed to change the legal structure of the Charity to a Charitable Incorporation Organisation (CIO). RVA is awaiting confirmation of the change of structure from the Charity Commission.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Caryl Cook
Timothy Hemmings
Simon Hubbard (Appointed 18 October 2023)
Sally Jayasekera
Oliver Jeffs
Clive Mills
Linda Seddon

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The management of Rother Voluntary Action is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles. The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a trustee, either to fill a vacancy or to act as an additional trustee provided that the appointment does not cause the number of trustees to exceed the maximum number. Only persons who are members of the company shall be eligible to become trustees. None of the charity's trustees receive any remuneration.

Induction and training of trustees

Rother Voluntary Action follows the same process of recruitment and Induction whether a potential board member is nominated or co-opted. All potential board members are asked to completed an application pack and are interviewed by a sub-group of the board. Board members will then decide whether to co-opt or to recommend nomination to members at the AGM. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the Induction process and giving opportunities to get to know the organisation.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

T. J. Hemmings

Timothy Hemmings
Trustee

Date: 30th SEPT 2024

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Rother Voluntary Action (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity 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 the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity'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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Peter Watters FCA BFP
McPhersons CFG Limited
23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Dated: 3-10-2024

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Current financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2024 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:						
Donations and legacies	3	215,342	-	-	215,342	203,330
Charitable activities	4	126,094	-	87,885	213,979	395,732
Investments	5	7,752	-	-	7,752	1,550
Total income		349,188	-	87,885	437,073	600,612
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	29,732	-	61,761	91,493	120,754
Charitable activities	7	353,907	-	-	353,907	464,056
Total expenditure		383,639	-	61,761	445,400	584,810
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(34,451)	-	26,124	(8,327)	15,802
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		251,065	43,344	-	294,409	278,607
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		216,614	43,344	26,124	286,082	294,409

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED) INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Prior financial year	Notes	Unrestricted funds general 2023 £	Unrestricted funds designated 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Income from:				
Donations and legacies	3	203,330	-	203,330
Charitable activities	4	395,732	-	395,732
Investments	5	1,550	-	1,550
Total income		600,612	-	600,612
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	6	120,754	-	120,754
Charitable activities	7	464,056	-	464,056
Total expenditure		584,810	-	584,810
Net income and movement in funds		15,802	-	15,802
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund balances at 1 April 2022		235,263	43,344	278,607
Fund balances at 31 March 2023		251,065	43,344	294,409

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	£	2023 £	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		3,793		1,545
Current assets					
Debtors	**14**	8,370		44,198	
Cash at bank and in hand		405,255		440,527	
		413,625		484,725	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**15**	(131,336)		(191,861)	
Net current assets			282,289		292,864
Total assets less current liabilities			286,082		294,409
Net assets excluding pension liability			286,082		294,409
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	**17**		26,124		-
Unrestricted funds - general			216,614		251,065
Unrestricted funds - designated	**18**		43,344		43,344
			286,082		294,409

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 30TH SEPT 2024

T.J. Hemmings

Timothy Hemmings
Trustee

Company registration number 05333784 (England and Wales)

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Rother Voluntary Action is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is 47 London Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex, TN39 3JY.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019), Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Computer equipment	33% on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount 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 where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Grants	215,342	203,330

3 Income from donations and legacies (Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Grants received, included in the above, are as follows		
Rother District Council	38,000	38,000
East Sussex County Council	61,642	57,330
Homes for Ukraine	115,700	108,000
	215,342	203,330

4 Income from charitable activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Project income and support	189,149	395,577
Community accounting	2,240	45
Meeting room hire	-	110
Other income	22,590	-
	213,979	395,732
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	126,094	395,732
Restricted funds	87,885	-
	213,979	395,732

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Interest receivable	7,752	1,550

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising and publicity						
Projects	29,732	61,761	91,493	120,754	-	120,754

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Direct costs		
Payroll costs	274,849	312,589
Depreciation and impairment	2,690	1,277
Project costs	36,289	88,737
Rent & office costs	7,451	8,177
Telephone and internet	4,429	4,666
Travel & hospitality	4,525	4,934
Fees, licences, subscriptions and publications	3,536	4,200
Marketing and promotions	1,593	5,824
Bank charges	74	97
Trainings and course fees	364	2,740
Other staff costs	978	3,044
Rates, building repairs, utilities and cleaning	7,204	18,272
Room hire	640	2,641
Insurance	3,064	2,499
Stationery and computer expenses	3,011	3,769
	350,697	463,466
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)		
Governance	3,210	590
	353,907	464,056
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds - general	353,907	464,056

8 Governance costs comprise:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Legal fees	1,482	61
Independent examiner fees	1,680	516
Annual return fee	48	13
	3,210	590

9 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	2,690	1,277

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024	2023
	Number	Number
	14	13

Employment costs	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	249,026	283,648
Social security costs	15,066	17,145
Other pension costs	10,757	11,796
	274,849	312,589

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	25,633
Additions	4,938
At 31 March 2024	30,571
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2023	24,088
Depreciation charged in the year	2,690
At 31 March 2024	26,778
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	3,793
At 31 March 2023	1,545

14 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Trade debtors	8,370	7,900
Other debtors	-	36,298
	8,370	44,198

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Payments received on account	93,363	152,840
Trade creditors	20,498	7,956
Other creditors	15,045	20,485
Accruals and deferred income	2,430	10,580
	131,336	191,861

16 Retirement benefit schemes

	2024	2023
Defined contribution schemes	£	£
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	10,757	11,796

17 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
	-	-	-	-
Heart of Sidley	-	87,885	(61,761)	26,124
	-	87,885	(61,761)	26,124

Note to the Restricted funds

Heart of Sidley - This is for the redevelopment of the changing rooms at Sidley Recreation ground into a Community building. This project has received Levelling Up monies and the partnership are contributing around £160k to the cost.

18 Unrestricted funds - designated

These are unrestricted funds which are material to the charity's activities.

	At 1 April 2023 £	At 31 March 2024 £
	43,344	43,344

Previous year:

	At 1 April 2022 £	At 31 March 2023 £
	43,344	43,344

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	251,065	349,188	(383,639)	216,614

19 Unrestricted funds **(Continued)**

Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	235,263	600,612	(584,810)	251,065

20 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds general 2024	Unrestricted funds designated 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024:				
Tangible assets	3,793	-	-	3,793
Current assets/(liabilities)	212,821	43,344	26,124	282,289
	216,614	43,344	26,124	286,082

	Unrestricted funds general 2023	Unrestricted funds designated 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023:				
Tangible assets	1,545	-	-	1,545
Current assets/(liabilities)	249,520	43,344	-	292,864
	251,065	43,344	-	294,409

21 Operating lease commitments

Lessee

At the reporting end date the charity had outstanding commitments for future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	7,500	7,500
Between two and five years	7,500	15,000
	15,000	22,500

22 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1117546

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05333784 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1117546

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

This year, April 2022 -March 2023, RVA staff and Trustees have worked with stakeholders and community partners to consolidate our offer. The previous year saw RVA go back to the basics and redefined what a voluntary action is, in line with the National Association for Voluntary and Community Action's (NAVCA's) definition and framework and what our offer should be. Our aim is to be the best support mechanism we could be to the Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise sector (VCSE) across Rother.

At the end of the last financial year, we could see the emerging Ukraine crisis and sought funding for a Community Development Worker. With key partners and individuals we formed 5 hubs across Rother to support Ukrainian guests and host families. This work has been ongoing and RVA with partners, in Rother District Council (RDC) and East Sussex County Council (ESCC), we were able to react quickly to the emerging humanitarian crisis. The voluntary sector has again shown its strength, resilience, and skill in how quickly they have reacted to a significant challenge and its ability to work collaboratively with the local authority, with communities and with each other.

Ongoing challenges the VCSE in Rother face continue to be keeping vulnerable individuals safe, providing timely and accurate information, and helping people cope with loneliness, poverty, keep well and be fed.

Following a successful consultation in 2021, with voluntary sector organisations across Rother, it is clear that the community, the sector and partners will benefit from a community hub space. This will bring about co-location of services and enable a more joined up approach to serving our community. RVA are working closely with stakeholders and community partners to identify an appropriate space and raise funds to renovate. It is hoped the hub space will be in Bexhill, as a hub and spoke model, reaching into the wider rural community in a variety of ways.

We celebrated a successful NAVCA review of our services and have received the NAVCA quality award. A special thanks to the whole RVA team for their hard work and for really pulling together to get this successful outcome.

In December 22 our CEO, Claire Cordell, left the organisation. We would like to thank Claire for all her hard work.

Following an extensive recruitment process, we were delighted to appoint Kim Richards as Claire's successor. Kim commenced working with RVA in June 2023.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered their duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance by the Commission and in their opinion the foregoing report on our achievements and performance demonstrates that they have complied therewith.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

Our priorities in 2022 were to:

1. Continue to develop and improve our networks, advice-giving and training.
2. Create a strong customer service journey which includes developing our Customer Relationship management (CRM) system and reviewing our processes.
3. Complete on our 2 EU funded projects I Know How and Healthy Ageing and innovation in Rural Europe (HAIRE)
4. Maintain financial sustainability.
5. Following funding awards for our volunteer brokerage service and Trusteeship program we have worked with our partners 3VA and HVA to ensure consistency across East Sussex.

ACHIEVEMENTS and PERFORMANCE against those priorities

1. **To Improve our networks, advice-giving and training**: We refined our staff teams roles and responsibilities and prioritised our general infrastructure offer. We appointed a skilled community development lead to set up themed networks and developed a comprehensive training offer across the year. More information about our networks and training events can be found on our website.

2. **Create a strong customer service journey**: A number of our processes have been reviewed in an effort to cut waste and make us more efficient. We have started work on populating our CRM system with training provided to all staff.

3. **Complete on our 2 EU funded projects** - work on I Know How and Healthy Ageing and innovation in Rural Europe (HAIRE) was completed in December and March 23 respectively.

4. **Maintain Financial sustainability**: RVA continues to be in a position to develop our offer, use our resources more effectively, and ensure funders and policymakers know what money and resource are needed for Rother. A funding strategy was developed.

5. **Develop a Volunteer Hub**: We know, as a result, of the Pandemic that volunteering is high on the agenda of many of the organisations we support with requests for Trustees, Digital brokerage/recruitment and micro-volunteering offers. RVA secured funding from ESCC, Little Chainey Wind Farm and Reaching Communities to start a Volunteer Hub and Trustee Brokerage service. Staff have been appointed and our offering is growing steadily with a number of volunteering opportunities being available on our website. RVA and the other VA's are working closely with ESCC to develop a digital volunteer brokerage platform that will be launched in 2023.

Project delivery April 2022- March 2023

Making It Happen

RVA alongside 4 other organisations in East Sussex deliver The Making It Happen project. Using an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) we support groups and individuals wanting to start groups or community initiatives.

It is clear from our work that community groups need to be supported not only with decision making processes such as setting up a group, creating policies and procedures, recruiting staff and/or volunteers, but also with finding the right funding opportunities that can support the long-term sustainability of those groups. This, we do not only through researching and finding appropriate grants, but also through grants available through the Making It Happen project, such as Small Sparks, Next Steps and Grow grants.

Since the start of the Making It Happen project in October 2019, RVA have supported over 60 different community initiatives and groups, and in the year to March 23 a number of grants were awarded to groups such as - the Bexhill Mens Shed, Right Path hiking, Breast Mates, Pass it on uniform swap shop

By enabling community groups through internal funding, we not only help them to start their journey, but we also facilitate access to information and promote inclusion and support groups to have a voice.

Interreg - HAIRE and Age friendly Rother

The HAIRE (Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Rural Europe) funded by the Interreg 2 Seas programme and co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, undertook significant assessment of need through guided conversations and follow-up conversations.

This work acted as leverage for RVA (in collaboration with their HAIRE ESCC partners) to have conversations with RDC around Rother becoming an Age Friendly Community.

As a result, an application was made by Rother District Council to join the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities in the summer of 2021 and was approved in September of the same year. RDC have made a five-year commitment to the Age Friendly Communities Programme and are working us with us to secure funding. This project concluded on the 31st March 2023

Interreg - I KNOW HOW

This project is to support people with a cancer diagnosis to return to work (if they want and can). RVA have produced a 'road map' to help employers to see how the journey that they and their employee could travel to make the return-to-work process smoother and more considered- with critical points along the way.

At the start of the project 100s of interviews were conducted with employers of small and medium businesses across Rother.

All types of small to medium businesses were interviewed including voluntary groups.

Once all the interviews had taken place, they were all analysed and from them the information in informed the most common issues that were found to be the same for many employers when faced with an employee with a Cancer diagnosis.

This project concluded in December 2022.

Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service

In March 2022 we received confirmation that we had been successful in obtaining funding from the national lottery ESCC and Little Cheyene Wind Farm.

The Volunteer Brokerage, a new part of RVA, is being set up to provide a Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service that establishes personal connections between groups and individuals within the Rother district.

We have been working with HVA and 3VA on a new volunteering platform, Tribe, that is being set up by ESCC. This will provide an easy way for potential volunteers and organisations to register an interest and link up for any volunteering opportunities.

During the year we have run a series of training sessions for volunteers. We have built an area of the website specially for Volunteers, Trustees and Volunteer Managing Organisations. This includes live opportunities, Volunteer Taster Days, Volunteer Managing Templates, Trustee Managing Templates and the Governance Health-check.

Homes 4 Ukraine support scheme

At the end of our last financial year, we requested and were granted funding to provide a Community Development worker to support Ukrainian guests and hosts. Our role has been multifaceted and has evolved over the year and continues in to 2023/24.

Numbers of guests grew over the year peaking at nearly 200 within Rother. 5 hubs across Rother were set up and these have provided regular meeting places and opportunities for external partners to provide a variety of support including English lessons.

Our strategic aims for the coming year -2023/24 in light of our change of CEO will show little change from the previous year.

1. To continue to find ways to fund and grow RVA's core work - developing our community networks, advice-giving and training. Working closely with HVA and 3VA where possible to gain greater reach across county, share best practice and resources.

2. Create a strong customer service journey that is streamlined through RVA that meets the needs of the Voluntary sector and we can monitor and map the VCSE across Rother and who RVA serves, understanding their place in an organisational life-cycle and clarifying their needs. RVA as advocate, catalyst/architect/facilitator.

3. Develop a community hub strategy and action plan in line with VCSE in Rother and wider stakeholders, aligned to Rothers Anti-Poverty Strategy. Identify an appropriate building and work in partnership to service the community of Rother with an accessible shared space.

4. Develop and grow our new Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service, work in partnership with 3VA and HVA to develop a consistent offer across East Sussex. Embed the emerging digital platform developed by ESCC on behalf of the sector, alongside volunteer fairs, training for volunteers and Trustee recruitment.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The year 2022/23 saw an unrestricted operating surplus of £15,803 (£21,459 in 2021/22).

Income from grants and donations was £203,330 and from charitable activities £397,283 (compared to £317,178 and £267,532 in 2021/22).

Expenditure on charitable activities for the year totalled £584,810 (£563251 2021/22) of which £311,725 (£266,550 2021/22) was spent on staff costs representing 53.3% (47% 2021/22) of RVA's charitable expenditure.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the day to day running of the charity and, in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, to support existing projects for fixed periods until funding is secured and to cover staff costs obligations and administrative costs.

The general fund reserves at the year-end amounted to £294,410.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Rother Voluntary Action is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles which were an integral part of the incorporation on 17th January 2005. On 10th January 2007 the company became a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

At its AGM on the 8th December 2020 a resolution was passed to change the legal structure of the Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). RVA is awaiting confirmation of the change of structure from the Charity Commission.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The management of Rother Voluntary Action is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles. The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a Trustee, either to fill a vacancy or to act as an additional Trustee provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Trustees to exceed the maximum number. Only persons who are members of the company shall be eligible to become Trustees. None of the charity's Trustees receive any remuneration.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

Rother Voluntary Action follows the same process of recruitment and induction whether a potential Board member is nominated or co-opted. All potential Board members are asked to complete an application pack and are interviewed by a subgroup of the Board. Board members will then decide whether to co-opt or to recommend nomination to members at the AGM. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the Induction process and giving opportunities to get to know the organisation.

Risk management

The key risks to the organisation are:
- The withdrawal of contracts from Public Service organisations and the impact this has in managing the long-term strategy of the organisation
- Increasing concerns about the availability of funding from charitable and non-charitable sources that can be accessed for Rother.
- Likely further cuts to Public Service finances.
- The loss of any key experienced staff member.

Rother Voluntary Action, like many voluntary organisations, continues to face challenges to maintain its financial operating reserve. At this point the Rother Voluntary Action board is satisfied that actions already taken or are planned are sufficient to enable the organisation to navigate through the continued financial turbulence affecting, particularly, the Public Sector and its partners.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05333784 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1117546

Registered office

47 London Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN39 3JY

Trustees

D M Smith (resigned 14/12/2022)
L Seddon
T J Hemmings
C N Mills
O Jeffs
C V Cook
J Collins
S A Jayasekera (appointed 14/12/2022)
S A F Jacques (appointed 14/12/2022)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Independent Examiner
Samantha Whiting
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

Bankers
Lloyds Bank plc, 17 Wellington Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1NX

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Charity Bank, Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1BE

Chief Executive
Kim Richards - CEO

Advisers
Nicola Mitchell - Rother District Council
Paul Rideout - East Sussex County Council

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 11 October 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

T J Hemmings - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Rother Voluntary Action ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's 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 charity'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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can 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:

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.

Samantha Whiting
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

11 October 2023

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2023 Total funds £**	2022 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	**203,330**	-	**203,330**	317,178
Charitable activities	4				
Projects		**395,577**	-	**395,577**	263,950
Community accounting		**45**	-	**45**	3,426
Earned income		**-**	-	**-**	30
Meeting room hire		**110**	-	**110**	80
Investment income	3	**1,551**	-	**1,551**	46
Total		**600,613**	-	**600,613**	584,710
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Projects		**121,394**	-	**121,394**	260,747
Other charitable activities		**463,416**	-	**463,416**	302,504
Total		**584,810**	-	**584,810**	563,251
NET INCOME		**15,803**	-	**15,803**	21,459
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**278,607**	-	**278,607**	257,148
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**294,410**	-	**294,410**	278,607

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2023 Total funds £**	2022 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	**1,545**	-	**1,545**	1,322
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	**44,199**	-	**44,199**	88,743
Cash at bank and in hand		**440,527**	-	**440,527**	321,521
		484,726	-	**484,726**	410,264
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	**(191,861)**	-	**(191,861)**	(132,979)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**292,865**	-	**292,865**	277,285
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**294,410**	-	**294,410**	278,607
NET ASSETS		**294,410**	-	**294,410**	278,607
FUNDS	17				
Unrestricted funds				**294,410**	278,607
TOTAL FUNDS				**294,410**	278,607

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2023

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 11 October 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

T J Hemmings - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	19	**118,955**	(38,500)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities		**118,955**	(38,500)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(1,500)**	(1,632)
Interest received		**1,551**	46
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		**51**	(1,586)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**119,006**	(40,086)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**321,521**	361,607
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting perlod		**440,527**	321,521

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the opening of the deposit.

Debtors
Debtors are recognised at their recoverable amounts to which the charity is entitled.

Creditors

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Cash at bank and in hand
Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement value.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants	**203,330**	317,178

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Rother District Council	**38,000**	38,000
Rother District Council - HAIRE	**-**	30,000
East Sussex County Council	**57,330**	127,330
Big Local Trust	**-**	79,800
BRP	**-**	20,000
Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust	**-**	7,984
Local Action Plan	**-**	2,064
Youth Development Services Small Grants Scheme	**-**	12,000
Homes for Ukraine	**108,000**	-
	203,330	317,178

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Deposit account interest	**1,551**	46

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2023	2022
		£	£
Project income and support	Projects	**395,577**	263,950
Community accounting	Community accounting	**45**	3,426
Earned income	Earned income	**-**	30
Meeting room hire	Meeting room hire	**110**	80
		395,732	267,486

continued...

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Projects	**640**	**120,754**	**-**	**121,394**
Other charitable activities	**461,962**	**-**	**1,454**	**463,416**
	462,602	**120,754**	**1,454**	**584,810**

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Staff costs	**311,725**	266,550
Payroll costs	**3,044**	2,087
Project costs	**88,737**	163,217
Rent and office costs	**8,177**	7,500
Rates, building repairs, utilities and cleaning	**18,272**	6,764
Insurance	**2,499**	2,818
Room hire	**2,641**	2,238
Stationery and computer expenses	**3,769**	5,601
Marketing and promotions	**5,824**	192
Equipment maintenance	**-**	296
Telephone and internet	**4,666**	3,395
Fees, licences, subscriptions and publications	**4,200**	1,050
Travel and hospitality	**4,934**	1,373
Trainings and course fees	**2,740**	223
Bank charges	**97**	120
Depreciation	**1,277**	774
	462,602	464,198

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Projects	**120,754**	97,530

continued...

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
All Saints CE Primary School*	**3,490**	2,500
Bexhill Bike and Skate Park*	**-**	76,000
Bexhill CAP*	**-**	2,500
Hastings and Rother Credit Union*	**-**	6,550
Ingrams Farm Allotments Association*	**-**	2,000
Sidley Cricket Club*	**2,500**	7,000
Otrher grants to organisations under £1,000*	**1,124**	980
Sidley Baptist Church/Freedom Church*	**2,100**	-
Sidley United Football Club*	**2,000**	-
Other grants to organisations under £1,000	**155**	-
Sidley Local Support Voucher Scheme	**56,520**	-
Fundng from Ukraine	**52,865**	-
	120,754	97,530

* Heart of SIdley grants to communIty groups and projects

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Other charitable activities	**1,454**

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Governance costs

	2023 Other charitable activities	2022 Total activities
	£	£
Legal fees	**61**	**130**
Accountancy fees	**864**	**876**
Independent examiner's fees	**516**	**504**
Annual return fee	**13**	**13**
	1,454	**1,523**

continued...

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	**1,277**	774

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**282,784**	241,254
Social security costs	**17,145**	15,961
Other pension costs	**11,796**	9,335
	311,725	266,550

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Full and part time staff	**13**	11

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	167,378	149,800	317,178
Charitable activities			
Projects	263,950	-	263,950
Community accounting	3,426	-	3,426
Earned income	30	-	30
Meeting room hire	80	-	80
Investment income	46	-	46
Total	434,910	149,800	584,710

continued...

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Projects	121,947	138,800	260,747
Other charitable activities	302,504	-	302,504
Total	424,451	138,800	563,251
NET INCOME	10,459	11,000	21,459
Transfers between funds	11,000	(11,000)	-
Net movement in funds	21,459	-	21,459
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	257,148	-	257,148
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	278,607	-	278,607

These figures are for the year ended 31 March 2022.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1 April 2022	**24,133**
Additions	**1,500**
At 31 March 2023	**25,633**
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	**22,811**
Charge for year	**1,277**
At 31 March 2023	**24,088**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	**1,545**
At 31 March 2022	1,322

continued...

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Grants receivable	-	28,665
Other debtors	**44,199**	60,078
	44,199	88,743

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Balance of funds administered for others (see note 22)	**20,435**	53,557
Social security and other taxes	-	4,229
Other creditors	**18,586**	25,193
Grants and funding received in advance	**152,840**	50,000
	191,861	132,979

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	**7,500**	-
Between one and five years	**15,000**	30,000
	22,500	30,000

The lease of 47 London Road was signed on 31 March 2016. It is for the period of 10 years from that date with a break clause at the end of the fifth year. The rent was reviewed to £7,500 per annum on the fifth anniversary and then 5% on each subsequent review date.

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/22	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**235,263**	**15,803**	**251,066**
Building maintenance designated fund	**5,019**	**-**	**5,019**
General designated fund	**38,325**	**-**	**38,325**
	278,607	**15,803**	**294,410**
TOTAL FUNDS	**278,607**	**15,803**	**294,410**

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**600,613**	**(584,810)**	**15,803**
TOTAL FUNDS	**600,613**	**(584,810)**	**15,803**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/21 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/22 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	213,804	10,459	11,000	235,263
Building maintenance designated fund	5,019	-	-	5,019
General designated fund	38,325	-	-	38,325
	257,148	10,459	11,000	278,607
Restricted funds				
Big Local	-	3,800	(3,800)	-
Those most in need	-	7,200	(7,200)	-
	-	11,000	(11,000)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	257,148	21,459	-	278,607

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	434,910	(424,451)	10,459
Restricted funds			
Big Local	79,800	(76,000)	3,800
Those most in need	70,000	(62,800)	7,200
	149,800	(138,800)	11,000
TOTAL FUNDS	584,710	(563,251)	21,459

Funding was received from ESCC to support those in most need by providing vouchers for food and essentials linked to energy, water and other costs.

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Funding was received from Big Local Trust for Sidley Recreation Ground.

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023.

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net Income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	**15,803**	21,459
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**1,277**	774
Interest received	**(1,551)**	(46)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	**44,544**	(41,117)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	**58,882**	(19,570)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operations	**118,955**	(38,500)

20. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/4/22	Cash flow	At 31/3/23
	£	£	£
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	**321,521**	**119,006**	**440,527**
	321,521	**119,006**	**440,527**
Total	**321,521**	**119,006**	**440,527**

21. CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Every member of the charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of debts and of costs, charges and expenses of winding-up the same, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

continued...

22. FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS

	£
Rye Partnership - Small Grants Scheme	
Balance at 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023	**1,530**
Bodiam Castle Community Transport	
Balance at 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023	**1,100**
Bexhill Regeneration Partnership	
Balance at 1st April 2022	**21,508**
Expenditure	
Transfer to Rother Voluntary Action - IKH	**21,508**
Balance at 31st March 2023	**0**
Heart of Sidley	
Balance at 1st April 2022	**11,619**
Income	
Sponsorship of Christmas Lights	**1,620**
Expenditure	**13,239**
Christmas Lights	**13,234**
Balance at 31st March 2023	**5**
Rother Food Partnership	
Balance at 1 April 2022 and 31st March 2023	**17,800**

continued...

Summary	£
Local Action Plan	0
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust:	
Small Grants Scheme and HIMP Working Groups	0
Asset Mapping Project	0
Youth Development Services:	
Small Grants Scheme	0
Rye Partnership Small Grants Scheme	1,530
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners	0
Bodiam Castle Community Transport	1,100
Bexhill Regeneration Partnership	0
Heart of Sidley	5
Rother Food Partnership	17,800
	20,435

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ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1117546

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05333784 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1117546

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

FOR

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Registrar

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

This year, April 2021 -March 2022, RVA staff and Trustees have worked with stakeholders and community partners to develop our offer. We went back to the basics and redefined what a voluntary action is in line with NAVCAs definition and framework and what our offer should be. Our aim was not to be operational but to be the best support mechanism we could be to the VCSE across Rother. We consulted our community and redefined our purpose and reviewed our staffing team. As the country and Rother came out of the restrictions of lockdown brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic, more community activity has emerged and the voluntary sector across Rother has worked hard to support the community in a variety of traditional and creative ways.

At the end of the financial year, we could see the emerging Ukraine crisis and sought funding for a Community Development Worker and formed 5 hubs across Rother to support Ukrainian guests and host families. This work has been ongoing and RVA with partners, in RDC and ESCC, we were able to react quickly to the emerging humanitarian crisis. The voluntary sector has again shown its strength, resilience, and skill in how quickly they have reacted to a significant challenge and its ability to work collaboratively with the local authority, with communities and with each other.

Ongoing challenges the VCSE in Rother face continue to be keeping vulnerable individuals safe, providing timely and accurate information, and helping people cope with loneliness, poverty, keep well and be fed.
Following a successful consultation in 2021, with voluntary sector organisations across Rother, it is clear that the community, the sector and partners will benefit from a community hub space. This will bring about co-location of services and enable a more joined up approach to serving our community. RVA are working closely with stakeholders and community partners to identify an appropriate space and raise funds to renovate. It is hoped the hub space will be in Bexhill, as a hub and spoke model, reaching into the wider rural community in a variety of ways.
Finally, we celebrated a successful NAVCA review of our services and have received the NAVCA quality award. A special thanks to the whole RVA team for their hard work and for really pulling together to get this successful outcome.

Our priorities in 2021/22 were to:

To improve our networks, advice-giving and training
Create a strong customer service journey
Develop a strong team
Maintain financial sustainability
Develop a Volunteer Hub

Improving our networks, our **advice-giving and our training, both in person and online.**

We developed the **skill within the team** and actively recruited skilled practitioners who were proactive and driven to support the VCSE across Rother. We sought funding for our **Volunteer brokerage service and Trusteeship program** and worked with our partners 3VA and HVA to ensure consistency across East Sussex. We actively recruited a small team to run the program and worked hard to maintain **financial sustainability** for RVA and the sector.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered their duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance by the Commission and in their opinion the foregoing report on our achievements and performance demonstrates that they have complied therewith.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

We continue to examine and reassess our work with the community to see what is required and needed of us and we have sought to:

1. **To improve our networks, advice-giving and training:** We refined our staff teams roles and responsibilities and prioritised our general infrastructure offer. We appointed a skilled community development lead to set up themed networks and developed a comprehensive training offer across the year. More information about our networks and training events can be found on our website.

2. **Create a strong customer service journey:** A RVA steering group was created and our offer streamlined and developed into a comprehensive offer. A member of staff was assigned to develop the pathway and redesign our CRM.

3. **Develop a strong team:** This year we invested in staff training, supervision and recruitment. RVA are a strong team with a clear purpose and commitment to the Rother community they serve. The team have gone through our NAVCA framework assessment and passed successfully.

4. **Maintain Financial sustainability:** RVA continues to be in a position to develop our offer, use our resources more effectively, and ensure funders and policymakers know what money and resource are needed for Rother. A funding strategy was developed.

5. **Develop a Volunteer Hub:** We know, as a result, of the Pandemic that volunteering is high on the agenda of many of the organisations we support with requests for Trustees, Digital brokerage/recruitment and micro-volunteering offers. RVA secured funding from ESCC, Little Chainey Wind Farm and Reaching Communities to start a Volunteer Hub and Trustee Brokerage service. Staff have been appointed and a Trustee Brokerage pilot will launch in October 2022. RVA are working closely with ESCC to develop a digital volunteer brokerage platform that will be launched in 2023.

Project delivery April 2021- March 2022

Making It Happen

The Making It Happen project which RVA is part of, alongside 4 other organisations in East Sussex, supports groups and individuals wanting to start groups or community initiatives. It is clear from our work that community groups need to be supported not only with decision making processes such as setting up a group, creating policies and procedures, recruiting staff and/or volunteers, but also with finding the right funding opportunities that can support the long-term sustainability of those groups. This, we do not only through researching and finding appropriate grants, but also through grants available through the Making It Happen project, such as Small Sparks, Next Steps and Grow grants.

Since the start of the Making It Happen project in October 2019, RVA have awarded grants to many different community initiatives and groups, such as: Battle Wildlife Meadows Group (an environmental group), W.Ave Arts Bexhill (a graffiti art group), ArtByVickyCraggs (an arts and crafts group for children with special needs) Rainbow Kitchen Magic (a community cookery group), the Footbridge Gallery project (an open air gallery on a local landmark) and many others.

By enabling community groups through internal funding, we not only help them to start their journey, but we also facilitate access to information and promote inclusion and support groups to have a voice.

Interreg - HAIRE and Age friendly Rother

The HAIRE (Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Rural Europe) funded by the Interreg 2 Seas programme and co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, undertook significant assessment of need through guided conversations and follow-up conversations.

This work acted as leverage for RVA (in collaboration with their HAIRE ESCC partners) to have conversations with RDC around Rother becoming an Age Friendly Community.

As a result, an application was made by Rother District Council to join the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities in the summer of 2021 and was approved in September of the same year. RDC have made a five-year commitment to the Age Friendly Communities Programme.

Interreg - I KNOW HOW

This project is to support people with a cancer diagnosis to return to work (if they want and can). RVA have produced a 'road map' to help employers to see how the journey that they and their employee could travel to make the return-to-work process smoother and more considered- with critical points along the way.

At the start of the project 100s of interviews were conducted with employers of small and medium businesses across Rother.

All types of small to medium businesses were interviewed including voluntary groups.

Once all the interviews had taken place, they were all analysed and from them the information in informed the most common issues that were found to be the same for many employers when faced with an employee with a Cancer diagnosis.

This project is in its final year and will come to an end in December 2022.

Volunteer brokerage service

Funding agreed by Reaching Communities over 5 years, and ESCC over 2 years. The staffing and action plan in development stage.

Homes 4 Ukraine support scheme

Part-time community development work appointed to develop program and set up 5 community hubs with local community leaders to support guests and hosts in the community, initially with visa issues, and matching.

Clean Seas Please

A project we have worked on with the Environment Agency since 2012. The project recognises the importance of engaging the local community with the impacts of poor water quality and the need for people to change their behaviours.

The funding from the Environment Agency has now come to an end and with it RVA's involvement. However, the work continues through our partner Strandliners (https://strandliners.org/clean-seas-please/).

Our strategic aims for the coming year - 2022/23 are to:

1. To continue to find ways to improve our community networks, advice-giving and training. Working closely with HVA and 3VA where possible to gain greater reach across county, share best practice and resources.
2. Create a strong customer service journey that is streamlined through RVA that meets the needs of the Voluntary sector and we can monitor and map the VCSE across Rother and who RVA serves, understanding their place in an organisational life-cycle and clarifying their needs. RVA as advocate, catalyst/architect/facilitator.
3. Develop a community hub strategy and action plan in line with VCSE in Rother and wider stakeholders. Identify an appropriate building and work in partnership to service the community of Rother with an accessible shared space.
4. Develop and grow our new Volunteer and Trustee brokerage service, work in partnership with 3VA and HVA to develop a consistent offer across East Sussex. Embed the emerging digital platform developed by ESCC on behalf of the sector, alongside volunteer fairs, training for volunteers and Trustee recruitment.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The year 2021/22 saw an unrestricted operating surplus of £21,459 (£61,458 and £30,192 in previous years).
Income from grants and donations was £317,178 and from charitable activities £267,532 (compared to £129,313 and £278,277 in 2020/21).

Expenditure on charitable activities for the year totalled £563,251 (£346,132 2020/21) of which £266,550 (£246,352 2020/21) was spent on staff costs representing 47% (71% 2020/21) of RVA's charitable expenditure.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the day to day running of the charity and, in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, to support existing projects for fixed periods until funding is secured and to cover staff costs obligations and administrative costs.

The general fund reserves at the year-end amounted to £278,607.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Rother Voluntary Action is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles which were an integral part of the incorporation on 17th January 2005. On 10th January 2007 the company became a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

At its AGM on the 8th December 2020 a resolution was passed to change the legal structure of the Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). RVA is awaiting confirmation of the change of structure from the Charity Commission.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The management of Rother Voluntary Action is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles. The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a Trustee, either to fill a vacancy or to act as an additional Trustee provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Trustees to exceed the maximum number. Only persons who are members of the company shall be eligible to become Trustees. None of the charity's Trustees receive any remuneration.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

Rother Voluntary Action follows the same process of recruitment and induction whether a potential Board member is nominated or co-opted. All potential Board members are asked to complete an application pack and are interviewed by a subgroup of the Board. Board members will then decide whether to co-opt or to recommend nomination to members at the AGM. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the Induction process and giving opportunities to get to know the organisation.

Risk management

The key risks to the organisation are:

- The withdrawal of contracts from Public Service organisations and the impact this has in managing the long-term strategy of the organisation
- Increasing concerns about the availability of funding from charitable and non-charitable sources that can be accessed for Rother
- Likely further cuts to Public Service finances
- The loss of any key experienced staff member

Rother Voluntary Action, like many voluntary organisations, continues to face challenges to maintain its financial operating reserve. At this point the Rother Voluntary Action board is satisfied that actions already taken or are planned are sufficient to enable the organisation to navigate through the continued financial turbulence affecting, particularly, the Public Sector and its partners.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05333784 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1117546

Registered office
47 London Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN39 3JY

Trustees
J C Kirkham (resigned 19/10/2021)
D M Smith
L Seddon
T J Hemmings
C N Mills
O Jeffs
C V Cook (appointed 1/7/2021)
J Collins (appointed 22/4/2021)

Independent Examiner
Samantha Whiting
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

Bankers
Lloyds Bank plc, 17 Wellington Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1NX

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Charity Bank, Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1BE

Chief Executive
Claire Cordell - CEO

Advisers
Nicola Mitchell - Rother District Council
Paul Rideout - East Sussex County Council

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 20-10-2022 and signed on its behalf by:

T J Hemmings - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Rother Voluntary Action ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's 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 charity'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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of 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:

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.

Samantha Whiting
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

Date: .....

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2022 Total funds £**	2021 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	**167,378**	**149,800**	**317,178**	129,313
Charitable activities					
Projects		**263,950**	**-**	**263,950**	275,931
Community accounting		**3,426**	**-**	**3,426**	2,204
Earned income		**30**	**-**	**30**	-
Meeting room hire		**80**	**-**	**80**	-
Investment income	3	**46**	**-**	**46**	142
Total		**434,910**	**149,800**	**584,710**	407,590
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	5				
Projects		**121,947**	**138,800**	**260,747**	70,338
Other charitable activities		**302,504**	**-**	**302,504**	275,794
Total		**424,451**	**138,800**	**563,251**	346,132
NET INCOME		**10,459**	**11,000**	**21,459**	61,458
Transfers between funds	17	**11,000**	**(11,000)**	**-**	-
Net movement in funds		**21,459**	**-**	**21,459**	61,458
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**257,148**	**-**	**257,148**	195,690
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**278,607**	**-**	**278,607**	257,148

The notes form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2022 Total funds £**	*2021 Total funds £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13	**1,322**	-	**1,322**	*464*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	14	**88,743**	-	**88,743**	*47,626*
Cash at bank and in hand		**321,521**	-	**321,521**	*361,607*
		410,264	-	**410,264**	*409,233*
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	15	**(132,979)**	-	**(132,979)**	*(152,549)*
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**277,285**	-	**277,285**	*256,684*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**278,607**	-	**278,607**	*257,148*
NET ASSETS		**278,607**	-	**278,607**	*257,148*
FUNDS	17				
Unrestricted funds				**278,607**	257,148
TOTAL FUNDS				**278,607**	257,148

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 20-10-2022 and were signed on its behalf by:

T J Hemmings - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	*2021 £*
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	19	**(38,500)**	*5,105*
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		**(38,500)**	*5,105*
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		**(1,632)**	*(696)*
Interest received		**46**	*142*
Net cash used in investing activities		**(1,586)**	*(554)*
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		**(40,086)**	*4,551*
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		**361,607**	*357,056*
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		**321,521**	*361,607*

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the opening of the deposit.

Debtors
Debtors are recognised at their recoverable amounts to which the charity is entitled.

Creditors
Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement value.

continued...

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Grants	**317,178**	*129,313*

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Rother District Council	**38,000**	*38,000*
Rother District Council - HAIRE	**30,000**	*10,000*
East Sussex County Council	**127,330**	*57,330*
Big Local Trust	**79,800**	-
BRP	**20,000**	*20,000*
Hastings & Rother Primary Care Trust	**7,984**	-
Local Action Plan	**2,064**	-
Youth Development Services Small Grants Scheme	**12,000**	-
Children in Need	**-**	*3,983*
	317,178	*129,313*

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deposit account interest	**46**	*142*

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	2022	2021
		£	£
Project income and support	Projects	**263,950**	*275,931*
Community accounting	Community accounting	**3,426**	*2,204*
Earned income	Earned income	**30**	-
Meeting room hire	Meeting room hire	**80**	-
		267,486	*278,135*

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Projects	**163,217**	**97,530**	**-**	**260,747**
Other charitable activities	**300,981**	**-**	**1,523**	**302,504**
	464,198	**97,530**	**1,523**	**563,251**

continued...

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2022	2021
	£	£
Staff costs	**266,550**	246,352
Payroll costs	**2,087**	2,054
Project costs	**163,217**	30,418
Rent and office costs	**7,500**	6,000
Rates, building repairs, utilities and cleaning	**6,764**	5,471
Insurance	**2,818**	2,765
Room hire	**2,238**	372
Stationery and computer expenses	**5,601**	4,937
Marketing and promotions	**192**	-
Equipment maintenance	**296**	1,039
Telephone and internet	**3,395**	2,835
Fees, licences, subscriptions and publications	**1,050**	1,272
Travel and hospitality	**1,373**	58
Trainings and course fees	**223**	279
Bank charges	**120**	123
Depreciation	**774**	904
	464,198	304,879

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2022	2021
	£	£
Projects	**97,530**	39,920

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
All Saints CE Primary School*	**2,500**	-
Bexhill Bike and Skate Park*	**76,000**	-
Bexhill CAP*	**2,500**	3,450
Hastings and Rother Credit Union*	**6,550**	-
Ingrams Farm Allotments Association*	**2,000**	-
Sidley Cricket Club*	**7,000**	-
Otrher grants to organisations under £1,000*	**980**	2,243
Bexhill Breathers	**-**	1,600
Bexhill Caring Community*	**-**	1,235
Bexhill Foodbank*	**-**	1,309
Claverham Community College	**-**	4,600
Dragonfiles Nursery*	**-**	5,000
Glenleigh Acadamy*	**-**	1,000
Robertsbridge Community College	**-**	3,200
Sidley Baptist Church/Freedom Church*	**-**	2,728
Sidley United Football Club*	**-**	1,500
Sidley Young Peoples Project*	**-**	3,070
The Pelham CIO	**-**	3,000
20/20 Health	**-**	2,445
Younique Wellbeing Studios	**-**	1,950
Other grants to organisations under £1,000	**-**	1,590
	97,530	39,920

* Heart of Sidley grants to community groups and projects

continued...

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Other charitable activities	**1,523**

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Governance costs

	2022 Other charitable activities	*2021* Total activities
	£	*£*
Legal fees	**130**	**-**
Accountancy fees	**876**	***828***
Independent examiner's fees	**504**	***492***
Annual return fee	**13**	***13***
	1,523	***1,333***

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Depreciation - owned assets	**774**	*904*

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2022 nor for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2022 nor for the year ended 31st March 2021.

11. STAFF COSTS

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**241,254**	*220,239*
Social security costs	**15,961**	*17,214*
Other pension costs	**9,335**	*8,899*
	266,550	*246,352*

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2022	*2021*
Full and part time staff	**11**	*10*

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

continued...

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	129,313	-	129,313
Charitable activities			
Projects	237,956	37,975	275,931
Community accounting	2,204	-	2,204
Investment income	142	-	142
Total	369,615	37,975	407,590
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Projects	32,363	37,975	70,338
Other charitable activities	275,794	-	275,794
Total	308,157	37,975	346,132
NET INCOME	61,458	-	61,458
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	195,690	-	195,690
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	257,148	-	257,148

These figures are for the year ended 31st March 2021.

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1st April 2021	**22,501**
Additions	**1,632**
At 31st March 2022	**24,133**
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st April 2021	**22,037**
Charge for year	**774**
At 31st March 2022	**22,811**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st March 2022	**1,322**
At 31st March 2021	*464*

continued...

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Grants receivable	**28,665**	*9,555*
Other debtors	**60,078**	*38,071*
	88,743	*47,626*

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Balance of funds administered for others (see note 22)	**53,557**	*77,875*
Social security and other taxes	**4,229**	-
Other creditors	**25,193**	*7,730*
Grants and funding received in advance	**50,000**	*60,398*
Funding repayable	**-**	*6,546*
	132,979	*152,549*

16. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Between one and five years	**30,000**	*37,500*

The lease of 47 London Road was signed on 31 March 2016. It is for the period of 10 years from that date with a break clause at the end of the fifth year. The rent was reviewed to £7,500 per annum on the fifth anniversary and then 5% on each subsequent review date.

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/21	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/3/22
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	**213,804**	**10,459**	**11,000**	**235,263**
Building maintenance designated fund	**5,019**	**-**	**-**	**5,019**
General designated fund	**38,325**	**-**	**-**	**38,325**
	257,148	**10,459**	**11,000**	**278,607**
Restricted funds				
Big Local	**-**	**3,800**	**(3,800)**	**-**
Those most in need	**-**	**7,200**	**(7,200)**	**-**
	-	**11,000**	**(11,000)**	**-**
TOTAL FUNDS	**257,148**	**21,459**	**-**	**278,607**

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**434,910**	**(424,451)**	**10,459**
Restricted funds			
Big Local	**79,800**	**(76,000)**	**3,800**
Those most in need	**70,000**	**(62,800)**	**7,200**
	149,800	**(138,800)**	**11,000**
TOTAL FUNDS	**584,710**	**(563,251)**	**21,459**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31/3/21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	190,671	61,458	(38,325)	213,804
Building maintenance designated fund	5,019	-	-	5,019
General designated fund	-	-	38,325	38,325
	195,690	61,458	-	257,148
TOTAL FUNDS	195,690	61,458	-	257,148

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	369,615	(308,157)	61,458
Restricted funds			
Big Local project - Heart of Sidley	37,975	(37,975)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	407,590	(346,132)	61,458

Funding was received from ESCC to support those in most need by providing vouchers for food and essentials linked to energy, water and other costs.

Funding was received from Big Local Trust for Sidley Recreation Ground.

Transfers between funds

A transfer was made between restricted fund and unrestricted fund for administration fees which were added to grant funding as it is not possible to allocate the costs between expense headings.

continued...

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st March 2022.

19. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022	*2021*
	£	*£*
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	**21,459**	*61,458*
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	**774**	*904*
Interest received	**(46)**	*(142)*
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	**(41,117)**	*2,117*
Decrease in creditors	**(19,570)**	*(59,232)*
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	**(38,500)**	*5,105*

20.. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1/4/21	Cash flow	**At 31/3/22**
	£	£	**£**
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	**361,607**	**(40,086)**	**321,521**
	361,607	**(40,086)**	**321,521**
Total	**361,607**	**(40,086)**	**321,521**

21. CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Every member of the charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of debts and of costs, charges and expenses of winding-up the same, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

continued...

22. FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS

	£
Local Action Plan	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**2,064**
Expenditure	
Rother Voluntary Action	**2,064**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**0**
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust:	
Small Grants Scheme and HIMP Working Groups	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**2,984**
Expenditure	
Rother Voluntary Action	**2,984**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**0**
Asset Mapping Project	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**5,000**
Expenditure	
Rother Voluntary Action	**5,000**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**0**
Youth Development Services:	
Small Grants Scheme	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**12,000**
Expenditure	
Rother Voluntary Action	**12,000**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**0**
Rye Partnership - Small Grants Scheme	
Balance at 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022	**1,530**
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**80**
Expenditure	
Donation to Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners	**80**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**0**

continued...

22. FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS - continued

	£
Bodiam Castle Community Transport	
Balance at 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022	**1,100**
Bexhill Regeneration Partnership	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**41,508**
Expenditure	
Transfer to Rother Voluntary Action - HAIRE	**20,000**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**21,508**
Heart of Sidley	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**11,609**
Income	
Sponsorship of Christmas Lights	**6,080**
Expenditure	**17,689**
Christmas Lights	**6,070**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**11,619**
Rother Food Partnership	
Balance at 1st April 2021	**0**
Income	
Grant Rother Food Partnership	**17,800**
Balance at 31st March 2022	**17,800**

continued...

22. FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS - continued

Summary	£
Local Action Plan	**0**
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust:	
Small Grants Scheme and HIMP Working Groups	**0**
Asset Mapping Project	**0**
Youth Development Services:	
Small Grants Scheme	**0**
Rye Partnership Small Grants Scheme	**1,530**
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners	**0**
Bodiam Castle Community Transport	**1,100**
Bexhill Regeneration Partnership	**21,508**
Heart of Sidley	**11,619**
Rother Food Partnership	**17,800**
	53,557

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

England & Wales - Charity number 1117546

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05333784 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1117546

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

FOR

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

ROTHER VOLUNTARY ACTION

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

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The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

Rother Voluntary Action's vision is to strengthen the social and economic wellbeing of local communities and help people fulfil their potential in a socially and environmentally sustainable fashion. In order to deliver this mission it is critical that we focus our energy and resources towards the needs and requirements of our beneficiaries. Each year we appraise our current work to assess how much it contributes to the core objectives of Rother Voluntary Action and any new strand of work is similarly appraised. Our objectives are to:

1. support the development of a vibrant community and voluntary sector in Rother enabling increased and improved services and facilities provided by the voluntary and community sector in Rother.
2. facilitate communication and representation between the voluntary and statutory sectors on policy planning and delivery to increase voluntary and community sector involvement in these processes.
3. identify local needs and gaps in service provision and work with local communities, service users and other agencies to develop appropriate action to help build the social capital in Rother.

Our priorities this year have been to:

1. Listen and respond to the VCSE in Rother, what are their changing and emerging priorities, and what do they need from us to reopen or operate during the pandemic.
2. Enable the new and existing organisations to provide support to those individuals who whose full participation in society is limited by economic, physical, and social disadvantage and for us as the local Infrastructure organisation to highlight issues of disadvantage.
3. Continue to raise awareness of issues of community safety and modern slavery.
4. support work that combats issues faced in our rural communities, most particularly food, fuel and digital poverty.
5. Reassess and continue to build sustainability within the sector across Rother.
6. Increase participation and engagement in 'having a say' over services and activities through regular online and in person networks, consultation, and workshops.
7. Continue to promote environmental sustainability and support environmental initiatives.

Public benefit

The Trustees have considered their duty set out in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance by the Commission and in their opinion the foregoing report on our achievements and performance demonstrates that they have complied therewith.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

During this difficult and challenging year of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we have examined and reassessed our work with the community to see what is required and needed of us, and we have sought to:

1. **Listen and respond to the VCSE in Rother, what are their changing and emerging priorities, and what do they need from us to reopen or operate during the pandemic.**
   Throughout the year RVA listened and responded to the emerging needs of the VCSE in Rother as the series of lockdowns took hold.At the start of the COVID-19 Pandemic we worked closely with Rother District Council and ESCC to set up the local Community Hub where people could call or visit online if they needed support and advice for themselves or their families. The Hub was updated regularly with details of services currently being offered by existing groups, details and contact information of new and emerging groups, and availability of volunteer support. Advice was offered to organisations to ensure appropriate levels of support, training and safeguarding were in place so they were enabled and equipped to support the most vulnerable at home. We offered advice on funding and grant applications to enable organisations to adapt, access funding and continue to operate in light of the new Government business grants becoming available and the introduction of the new Furlough Scheme.RVA has continued to focus on the needs of our most deprived communities and has remained a Trusted Local Organisation for the Heart of Sidley Big Local Partnership. We continue to support groups in developing new plans in the light of changing needs of their business, workforce and communities caused by the crisis and the economic impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2. **Enable the new and existing organisations to provide support to those individuals whose full participation in society is limited by economic, physical, and social disadvantage and for us as the local Infrastructure organisation to highlight issues of disadvantage.**
   As new organisations emerged in 2020 because of the pandemic like Rye Mutual Aid and Bexhill Beats, RVA were able to provide practical help and advice to ensure they operated safely.Regular COVID 19 online networks were held to give information from Statutory services and local authorities. Organisations were supported to adapt, and many volunteers continued to support individuals remotely. Several local organisations worked together to provide food parcels, hospital and Doctor appointments, and medicine deliveries. We supported village halls to reopen safely, existing, and new organisations to operate safely, and identify and bring in much needed funds through grant funders like Sussex Community Foundation. RVA worked hard throughout the year to ensure that our resources were maximised and targeted effectively to ensure that we are delivering what the local voluntary and community sector needs as efficiently as possible, strong relationships within the local community enabled this to happen swiftly.Throughout the year we worked in partnership with a wide range of voluntary, public, and private sector organisations, connecting and collaborating to support the local community. This shifted in focus as we began to reopen later in the year, and as local organisations were more prepared for the second and third lock downs. We anticipated volunteer burnout, but this wasn't the case. Many organisations had a lot of practical support offered, and volunteering during this period thrived and communities stepped up to support themselves.

3. **Support work that combats issues faced in our rural communities, most particularly food, fuel, and digital poverty.**
   In January 2021 RVA and Rye Mutual Aid became aware that many school children in Rother were without digital devices to work from home. Either households sharing devices or no devices at all. The distribution across the region is unequal. And there are marked differences between both capacity and need in Senior and Primary Schools. Laptops were distributed via grants and through the local community, local organisations wiped them before distributing them through local schools.RVA also worked closely with Rother District Council to host a Poverty Task and Finish Group. Key findings have highlighted the need for a deeper dive into poverty across Rural Rother and how the VCSE in partnership with the local authority can alleviate some of the burden on individuals and families by creating better systems and providing better advice and access to services.RVA worked in partnership with ESCC and Sussex Community Foundation to distribute COVID winter grants to families via local trusted organisations.

4. **Reassess and continue to build sustainability within the sector across Rother**
Throughout this period the core of RVA work continued to be our infrastructure support. We have more than 1400 voluntary and community organisations that operate in Rother on our database. They range from large national organisations to the smallest community groups. We regularly kept in contact through our E Bulletins, website, social media, and online networks. We have worked directly with many groups this year-through training, group support and community networks. We provided training to enable groups to grow their skills and support them to deliver safely through the pandemic.We provided on line training including Safeguarding (for vulnerable adults and children), new group start up, funding opportunities, professional boundaries, and risk assessments with Hastings Direct.

5. **Increase participation and engagement in 'having a say' over services and activities through regular on line and in person networks, consultation, and workshops.**
Community Networks are at the heart of our work to bring the voluntary sector together. And during this period this was never more vital. Alongside our regular networks we held emergency monthly Covid meetings to update groups which were attended by CCG and Rother District Council to provide live updates. 180 groups, and 330 individuals, attended our Networks during the year. These meetings provided opportunities for peer support, information sharing and partnership building (both formal & informal). They help identify what the groups need RVA to do moving forward and where more specialist advice might be needed, and sometimes specialised group meetings -such as Poverty Task and Finish Group and Laptops for Learning in rural areas. The development of regular Marketplace events, inform our training provision and highlight opportunities for development.We encourage all individuals with an idea or just starting up a group to come and meet with the wider sector. Problems are solved, issues are highlighted, gaps and changing needs identified and the intelligence gathered enable RVA to ensure the local voluntary sectors voice is heard by public and private sector partners.

Throughout the Pandemic we were fortunate to be able to continue delivering a number of projects on different on line platforms using the skills and commitment of our workforce.

Making It Happen a partnership project (with SCDA, AiRS, 3VA, HVA and RVA), working at grassroots level in areas of deprivation across the County, the areas of concentration being Bexhill Central, Sidley, Pebsham, Eastern Rother and Rye. Using an ABCD model the project aims to encourage and support local people to develop ideas they have for community activity, in some cases very informal but also helping and enabling people to grow the confidence to develop more structured services and activities, and can act as a stepping stone to the more formal role infrastructure support services may then play. Work slowed through the pandemic, but local communities were starting to emerge towards the end of the financial year and we were able to lend support to initiatives such as: The Footbridge Gallery Project, an open-air art gallery which will be displayed on the Bexhill footbridge, an important yet neglected landmark in the centre of town; Rainbow Kitchen Magic, a community cooking group, to carry out some healthy cooking classes, both online and in person; a small community group called W.A.v.e Arts, who brighten up local landmarks through graffiti art; as well as a community led initiative called ArtbyVickyCraggs, which offers arts and crafts activities for children with special needs and their families.

With physical health being a big focus during 2021, we also supported Bexhill Breathers, a group for people with COPD and other lung conditions, to increase the specially adapted physical activities that they offer their members. More recently, we have been approached by several other groups needing support, such as Bexhill Walking Football, Bexhill Walking Cricket and Bexhill Sinfonietta (a musical group). We have supported these and other groups with fundraising, publicity, marketing, and connecting them with other suitable organisations/groups. Other emerging initiatives across Eastern Rother include The Rye Plant Swop Shop and improving the space at the Rye Community Garden so that they can increase their volunteer base and continue their activities all year round.

I Know How is an EU Interreg project that recognises the increasing number of people who are recovering from cancer but are still faced with losing employment and need for interventions to enable them to stay in employment. This work has enabled RVA to continue a close working partnership with the Sarah Lee Trust and to develop a Roadmap for a return-to-work trajectory, that can be used by both small organisations as well as voluntary groups.

During the past year despite the challenges that Covid has given, a strong cross boarder relationship has been established. RVA have been present at all the key group meetings from the project, delivering a cross pollination of ideas to assist us to build on the work already achieved and to prepare a learning module around best practice for employers faced with people who are diagnosed with a long-term health condition or cancer. Close relationships are being built with local employers and voluntary groups who are keen to be involved in the development of the Toolbox and the Information Service Tool that is being developed by the 4 regions - UK, Belgium, France, and Netherlands. We were also able to run various focus groups both virtual ones, as well as face to face to continue to develop and enhance the Road map that we are developing so that it can be a useful tool going beyond the life of the project and adding value to the work that RVA does.

HAIRE (Healthy Ageing through Innovation in Europe) an RVA project and also an EU Interreg 2 Seas programme which started in January 2020. RVA partnered with East Sussex County Council to deliver a new project to address the issues of older people living in rural areas. by encouraging both community solutions and the opportunity to participate in the co-design of statutory services. The HAIRE project is an innovative research and community action project empowering older adults to say what support they need; take part in designing new services; reduce loneliness, improve health and well being, and help shape their community for the future. It has built on work we have done in rural communities which have highlighted the increasing problems people have in remaining within their home community as services are reduced back; and as delivery in urban hubs and local infrastructure reduces and costs increase. The first year of the project we worked in two pilot areas -Rye and Robertsbridge and started the process with holding Guided Conversations with people who are over 60 years of age and not working.

During the Pandemic we managed to recruit 14 volunteers who were trained in holding these Guided Conversations via Zoom platform, and who later went on to hold over 200 hours of conversations with 76 participants over the phone or online. This information was sent to University of Exeter, the research partners in the project to compile all the data into a Community Report which was received in mid-May.

From consultation with local and strategic steering groups, the volunteers and participants and other stakeholders in the HAIRE Project, four main themes were established from the data.

- THEME 1 - People need support to navigate changes in their life, such as retiring becoming a carer, becoming ill or immobile, moving home or being bereaved.
- THEME 2 - People experiencing loneliness need help and support in growing meaningful social connections.
- THEME 3 - People need support, encouragement, and opportunity to be physically active throughout their later life.
- THEME 4 - The need for communities to improve the flow of information to all its residents to raise awareness of existing opportunities to be socially engaged and age well.

The volunteers will be trained up in skills which will enable them to design and run a series of workshops and events centred around the four themes from the research, and eventually creating an innovation to take forward. A series of events is being planned for the Autumn in Rye and Robertsbridge, which will be open to all, to discuss and help design an innovative way in which the older people of the areas can reduce loneliness, improve health and well being, and help shape their community for the future.

Clean Seas Please, we have continued to work with the Environment Agency to increase the knowledge and awareness among the local community of Bexhill and surrounding areas of the issues surrounding seawater quality in the local area and how a change in their actions and behaviour can have an impact on the poor water quality.

Our work has engaged with individuals, community groups, voluntary organisations, schools, and local businesses both on line and in person whenever possible, through beach schools, beach clean ups, talks and workshops. The impact of Climate Change has meant that this work has become increasingly relevant to our local community, and we are seeing increased numbers of volunteers, greater community action and strong engagement from children and young people participating in the project through work with schools and with out of school activities. In the last year we have also engaged much more strongly with local companies who have taken part in for example beach cleans as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. RVA was working with the local UN Association in planning an Ocean Symposium (on Climate Change & Biodiversity) at the De La Warr Pavilion in June 2020, although postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic

Staff changes
RVA had a leadership change with a new CEO appointed in October 2020, and retirement of senior member of staff-Acting CEO, and several other new appointments.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic across 2020-21 the core priorities of RVA will remain to:

- Support and enable people to become more active in the community
- give priority to working with people whose full participation in society is limited by economic, physical and social disadvantage to highlight issues of disadvantage
- support work that combats issues faced in our rural communities
- build sustainability within the sector
- increase participation and engagement in 'having a say' over services and activities
- promote environmental sustainability and support environmental initiatives

In addition, we know that priority will need to be given to:

- the many groups facing financial problems, many have failed to reopen this year and gaps in services are emerging.
- the growing mental health crisis and problems for those struggling to cope with lockdown/social isolation.
- the capacity of local communities to continue to support the most vulnerable.
- the impact of unemployment and how volunteering may enable people to gain new skills

Strong focus for the coming year will be around consulting with our membership and exploring what emerging needs are in our communities and what VCSE in Rother need to thrive as the pandemic is not going away, we need to adapt to a new way of living and supporting our communities to stay safe and identify gaps and needs. RVA's focus will also be around evaluating our service and our offer and building a skilful team, an online service and in person service. We recognise the vital need for strong communication and the need for information as we emerge out of the pandemic.

Our strategic aims for the coming year - 2021/22 are to:

1. **To improve our networks, advice-giving and training:** We are reviewing our offer, consulting with our membership, and ensuring our resources are used in a fitful purposeful way. The need to build a strong network and training suite that empowers and enables client organisations and operates through multiple channels is essential to the ongoing success of RVA.
2. **Create a strong Customer service journey**: Which will enable RVA to monitor and map the VCSE and communities it serves across Rother, understanding their place in an organisational life cycle and clarifying their needs. RVA as advocate, catalyst/architect/facilitator.
3. **Develop a strong team**: Review roles within RVA, make changes of and revise job descriptions to fit the changing needs of the organisation, focusing on key areas. Create a strong team that works well together and supports internally and externally.
4. **Maintain Financial sustainability:** With some currently significant grants ending over the nextcouple of years (I-Know-How, Making It Happen, HAIRE) RVA must ensure it remains financially sustainable, and this will be achieved through the effective use of its resources; maintaining close budgetary and financial control over all areas of the operation; and creating various earned income streams.
5. **Volunteer hub (planning ahead):** Scope and consult our membership, on the need for a volunteer hub across Rother, providing brokerage, volunteer lead support, provide training for volunteers, and Trustee recruitment.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The year 2020/21 saw an unrestricted operating surplus of £61,458 (£30,192 and £34,343 in previous years).

Income from grants and donations was £129,313 and from charitable activities £278,277 (compared to £169,301 and £226,658 in 2019/20).

Expenditure on charitable activities for the year totalled £346,132 (£365,767 2019/20) of which £246,352 (£235,887 2019/20) was spent on staff costs representing 71% (64% 2019/20) of RVA's charitable expenditure.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the trustees to maintain sufficient reserves to ensure the day to day running of the charity and, in the event of any unforeseen circumstances, to support existing projects for fixed periods until funding is secured and to cover staff costs obligations and administrative costs.

The general fund reserves at the year-end totalled £257,148 from which there is a general designated funding for building maintenance £5,019, the board agreed to transfer £38,325 from its general reserves to a new general designated account. Some of these funds are earmarked for staff training and development.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Rother Voluntary Action is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles which were an integral part of the incorporation on 17th January 2005. On 10th January 2007 the company became a Charity registered with the Charity Commission.

At its AGM on the 8th December 2020 a resolution was passed to change the legal structure of the Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). RVA is awaiting confirmation of the change of structure from the Charity Commission.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The management of Rother Voluntary Action is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles. The Trustees may appoint a person who is willing to act as a Trustee, either to fill a vacancy or to act as an additional Trustee provided that the appointment does not cause the number of Trustees to exceed the maximum number. Only persons who are members of the company shall be eligible to become Trustees. None of the charity's Trustees receive any remuneration.

Recruitment and induction of trustees

Rother Voluntary Action follows the same process of recruitment and induction whether a potential Board member is nominated or co-opted. All potential Board members are asked to complete an application pack and are interviewed by a subgroup of the Board. Board members will then decide whether to co-opt or to recommend nomination to members at the AGM. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the Induction process and giving opportunities to get to know the organisation.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The key risks to the organisation are:

- The withdrawal of contracts from public service organisations and the impact this has in managing the long term strategy of the organisation
- Increasing concerns about the availability of funding from charitable and non-charitable sources that can be accessed for Rother
- Likely further cuts to public sector finances
- The loss of any key experienced staff member

Rother Voluntary Action, like many voluntary organisations is facing a serious challenge to maintain its financial operating reserve. As a result the Senior Management Team has implemented a series of cost cutting actions to maintain the financial health of the organisation and is investigating other strategic options in order to preserve a service for communities in Rother.

At this point the Rother Voluntary Action Board is satisfied that actions already taken or are planned are sufficient to enable the organisation to navigate through the immediate financial turbulence affecting particularly the public sector and its partners.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05333784 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1117546

Registered office

47 London Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN39 3JY

Trustees

J C Kirkham
D M Smith
L Seddon
T J Hemmings
C N Mills
O Jeffs

Independent Examiner

Carol Barfoot
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
Chartered Accountants
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc, 17 Wellington Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1NX

CAF Bank Limited, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Charity Bank, Fosse House, 182 High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1BE

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Chief Executive
Gina Sanderson - Acting Chief Executive (retired November 2020)

Claire Cordell - CEO (from September 2020)

Advisers
Nicola Mitchell - Rother District Council
Paul Rideout - East Sussex County Council

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14th October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

T J Hemmings - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Rother Voluntary Action ('the Company')
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31st March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the charity's 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 charity'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 your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of 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:

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.

Carol Barfoot
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales
Gibbons Mannington & Phipps LLP
20 Eversley Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HE

28th October 2021

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2021 Total funds £**	2020 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	**129,313**	**-**	**129,313**	169,301
Charitable activities					
Projects		**237,956**	**37,975**	**275,931**	222,428
Community accounting		**2,204**	**-**	**2,204**	3,090
Earned income		**-**	**-**	**-**	150
Meeting room hire		**-**	**-**	**-**	900
Investment income	3	**142**	**-**	**142**	90
Total		**369,615**	**37,975**	**407,590**	395,959
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4				
Projects		**32,363**	**37,975**	**70,338**	93,211
Other charitable activities		**275,794**	**-**	**275,794**	272,556
Total		**308,157**	**37,975**	**346,132**	365,767
NET INCOME		**61,458**	**-**	**61,458**	30,192
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		**195,690**	**-**	**195,690**	165,498
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**257,148**	**-**	**257,148**	195,690

The notes form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET
31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**2021 Total funds £**	*2020 Total funds £*
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	12	**464**	**-**	**464**	*672*
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	13	**39,898**	**7,728**	**47,626**	*49,743*
Cash at bank and in hand		**358,224**	**3,383**	**361,607**	*357,056*
		398,122	**11,111**	**409,233**	*406,799*
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	14	**(141,438)**	**(11,111)**	**(152,549)**	*(211,781)*
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**256,684**	**-**	**256,684**	*195,018*
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**257,148**	**-**	**257,148**	*195,690*
NET ASSETS		**257,148**	**-**	**257,148**	*195,690*
FUNDS	16				
Unrestricted funds				**257,148**	195,690
TOTAL FUNDS				**257,148**	195,690

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for
(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 14th October 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

T J Hemmings - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial reporting standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions
The charitable company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemptions in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland':

- the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Income
All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure
Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Computer equipment - 33% on cost

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Cash at bank and in hand
Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the opening of the deposit.

Debtors
Debtors are recognised at their recoverable amounts to which the charity is entitled.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement value.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	-	41
Grants	129,313	169,260
	129,313	169,301

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Rother District Council	38,000	32,125
Rother District Council - HAIRE	10,000	-
East Sussex County Council	57,330	101,335
Children in Need	3,983	10,000
Tudor Trust	-	15,000
Big Lottery Fund	-	10,000
TK Maxx	-	800
BRP	20,000	-
	129,313	169,260

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2021	2020
	£	£
Deposit account interest	142	90

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 5)	Grant funding of activities (see note 6)	Support costs (see note 7)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Projects	30,418	39,920	-	70,338
Other charitable activities	274,461	-	1,333	275,794
	304,879	39,920	1,333	346,132

continued...

5. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2021	2020
	£	£
Staff costs	**246,352**	*235,887*
Payroll costs	**2,054**	*4,443*
Project costs	**30,418**	*79,633*
Rent and office costs	**6,000**	*6,000*
Rates, building repairs, utilities and cleaning	**5,471**	*11,182*
Insurance	**2,765**	*2,365*
Room hire	**372**	*270*
Stationery and computer expenses	**4,937**	*5,220*
Equipment maintenance	**1,039**	-
Telephone and internet	**2,835**	*2,818*
Fees, licences, subscriptions and publications	**1,272**	*1,018*
Travel and hospitality	**58**	*661*
Trainings and course fees	**279**	*530*
Bank charges	**123**	*91*
Miscellaneous	**-**	*25*
Depreciation	**904**	*845*
	304,879	*350,988*

6. GRANTS PAYABLE

	2021	2020
	£	£
Projects	**39,920**	*13,578*

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bexhill Breathers	**1,600**	-
Bexhill CAP*	**3,450**	-
Bexhill Caring Community*	**1,235**	*1,768*
Bexhill Foodbank*	**1,309**	-
Claverham Community College	**4,600**	-
Dragonfiles Nursery*	**5,000**	-
Glenleigh Acadamy*	**1,000**	-
Robertsbridge Community College	**3,200**	-
Sidley Baptist Church/Freedom Church*	**2,728**	-
Sidley United Football Club*	**1,500**	*2,000*
Sidley Young Peoples Project*	**3,070**	-
The Pelham CIO	**3,000**	-
20/20 Health	**2,445**	-
Younique Wellbeing Studios	**1,950**	-
Other grants to organisations under £1,000	**1,590**	*2,306*
Otrher grants to organisations under £1,000*	**2,243**	*700*
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners*	**-**	*1,000*
Community Stuff*	**-**	*1,375*
Priority 1-54*	**-**	*1,429*
Surviving Christmas *	**-**	*3,000*
	39,920	*13,578*

* Heart of Sidley grants to community groups

continued...

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Governance costs
	£
Other charitable activities	**1,333**

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

Governance costs

	2021 Other charitable activities	*2020* Total activities
	£	*£*
Accountancy fees	**828**	***720***
Independent examiner's fees	**492**	***468***
Annual return fee	**13**	***13***
	1,333	***1,201***

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Depreciation - owned assets	**904**	*845*

9. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31st March 2021 nor for the year ended 31st March 2020.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31st March 2021 nor for the year ended 31st March 2020.

10. STAFF COSTS

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Wages and salaries	**220,239**	*212,250*
Social security costs	**17,214**	*15,499*
Other pension costs	**8,899**	*8,138*
	246,352	*235,887*

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2021	*2020*
Full and part time staff	**10**	*8*

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

continued...

11. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	154,301	15,000	169,301
Charitable activities			
Projects	163,040	59,388	222,428
Community accounting	3,090	-	3,090
Earned income	150	-	150
Meeting room hire	900	-	900
Investment income	90	-	90
Total	321,571	74,388	395,959
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Projects	33,798	59,413	93,211
Other charitable activities	257,291	15,265	272,556
Total	291,089	74,678	365,767
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	30,482	(290)	30,192
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	165,208	290	165,498
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	195,690	-	195,690

These figures are for the year ended 31st March 2020.

12. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Computer equipment £
COST	
At 1st April 2020	**21,805**
Additions	**696**
At 31st March 2021	**22,501**
DEPRECIATION	
At 1st April 2020	**21,133**
Charge for year	**904**
At 31st March 2021	**22,037**
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31st March 2021	**464**
At 31st March 2020	*672*

continued...

13. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Grants receivable	**9,555**	*10,519*
Other debtors	**38,071**	*39,224*
	47,626	*49,743*

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Balance of funds administered for others (see note 17)	**77,875**	*86,878*
Social security and other taxes	**-**	*3,815*
Other creditors	**7,730**	*33,309*
Grants and funding received in advance	**60,398**	*87,779*
Funding repayable	**6,546**	-
	152,549	*211,781*

15. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	2021	*2020*
	£	*£*
Within one year	**-**	*6,000*
Between one and five years	**37,500**	-
	37,500	*6,000*

The lease of 47 London Road was signed on 31 March 2016. It is for the period of 10 years from that date with a break clause at the end of the fifth year. The rent was reviewed to £7,500 per annum on the fifth anniversary and then 5% on each subsequent review date.

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/20	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31/3/21
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	**190,671**	**61,458**	**(38,325)**	**213,804**
Building maintenance designated fund	**5,019**	**-**	**-**	**5,019**
General designated fund	**-**	**-**	**38,325**	**38,325**
	195,690	**61,458**	**-**	**257,148**
TOTAL FUNDS	**195,690**	**61,458**	**-**	**257,148**

continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	**369,615**	**(308,157)**	**61,458**
Restricted funds			
Big Local project - Heart of Sidley	**37,975**	**(37,975)**	**-**
TOTAL FUNDS	**407,590**	**(346,132)**	**61,458**

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	160,189	30,482	190,671
Building maintenance designated fund	5,019	-	5,019
	165,208	30,482	195,690
Restricted funds			
Community Friends Plus	290	(290)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	165,498	30,192	195,690

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	321,571	(291,089)	30,482
Restricted funds			
Big Local project - Heart of Sidley	59,388	(59,388)	-
Community Friends Plus	15,000	(15,290)	(290)
	74,388	(74,678)	(290)
TOTAL FUNDS	395,959	(365,767)	30,192

Funding is received from Big Local Trust, for Heart of Sidley Big Local to meet ongoing project expenditures. Any unspent balance at the grant year end at 31st March may result in a reduction in the future instalment(s) of the grant and/or the unspent grant monies being returned to Big Local Trust for Heart of Sidley Big Local to draw down in future.

continued...

16. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Transfers between funds

The board agreed to transfer £38,325 from its general reserves to a general designated account. Some of these funds are earmarked for staff training and development.

17. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31st March 2021.

18. CAPITAL AND RESERVES

Every member of the charity undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charity in the event of the same being wound up while he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of debts and of costs, charges and expenses of winding-up the same, and for the adjustment of rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

19. FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS

		£
Local Action Plan		
Balance at 1st April 2020		**2,064**
Income		
The Ted Baker Trust		**500**
Expenditure:		**2,564**
Rye Rugby Club	**500**	
		500
Balance at 31st March 2021		**2,064**
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust:		
Small Grants Scheme and HIMP Working Groups		
Balance at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021		**2,984**
Asset Mapping Project		
Balance at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021		**5,000**
Youth Development Services:		
Small Grants Scheme		
Balance at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021		**12,000**
Rye Partnership - Small Grants Scheme		
Balance at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021		**1,530**
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners		
Balance at 1st April 2020		**0**
Income		
Donations		**80**
Balance at 31st March 2021		**80**

continued...

19. FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS - continued

	£
Bodiam Castle Community Transport	
Balance at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021	**1,100**
Bexhill Regeneration Partnership	
Balance at 1st April 2020 and 31st March 2021	**61,508**
Expenditure	
Transfer to Rother Voluntary Action - HAIRE	**20,000**
	41,508
Heart of Sidley	
Balance at 1st April 2020	**692**
Income	
Sponsorship of Christmas Lights	**3,983**
Grant from Heart of Sidley - Matched Funding	**10,036**
	14,711
Expenditure	
Donation to Christmas Lights	**3,102**
Balance at 31st March 2021	**11,609**

Summary	**£**
Local Action Plan	**2,064**
Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust:	
Small Grants Scheme and HIMP Working Groups	**2,984**
Asset Mapping Project	**5,000**
Youth Development Services:	
Small Grants Scheme	**12,000**
Rye Partnership Small Grants Scheme	**1,530**
Bexhill Neighbourhood Gardeners	**80**
Bodiam Castle Community Transport	**1,100**
Bexhill Regeneration Partnership	**41,508**
Heart of Sidley	**11,609**
	77,875