



Charity No: 1126085

Shropshire Rural Support

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 June 2023**

Shropshire Rural Support

Reference and administrative details

Patron	Anna Turner, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire
President	Christine Downes
Charity registration number 1126085	
Trustees	Andrew Bebb Geoff Black John Brown Tony Howell Simon Latter Roger Parry
Officers	Andrew Bebb (Chairman) Geoff Black FCA (Treasurer) Jane Latter (Co-ordinator)
Principal office	c/o S L Latter & M D Shepherd Mutual House Sitka Drive Shrewsbury SY2 6LG
Bankers	Lloyds PO Box 6 1 Pride Hill Shrewsbury Shropshire SY1 1DG

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Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of Shropshire Rural Support (the charity) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

CONSTITUTION

The organisation is an unincorporated charity established under a constitution signed and dated 4th December 2007. The charity was granted charitable status in September 2009 and is registered charity No. 1126085.

METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OR ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Trustees are appointed during the charity's Annual General Meeting, where existing members of the charity are proposed and seconded by other members. Interim vacancies arising during the year are filled by recommendation of the Board of Trustees. All trustees must offer themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DECISION MAKING

The management of the charity is the responsibility of a Management Committee comprising the Board of Trustees and the Co-ordinator of the organisation. This committee meets on a regular basis to discuss the financial position as well as planned events in the future which will help to increase awareness and raise funds.

There is also an Annual General Meeting to which all the volunteers of the charity are invited to attend, along with other active members of the local rural community.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

In shaping the Charity's objectives and planning its activities the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's revised guidance on public benefit. The Charity's objectives are:

1. Through voluntary and partnership effort, develop and offer support services that meet the needs of those suffering from all forms of stress arising from their rural way of life regardless of economic status.
2. Endeavour to make statutory authorities and other public bodies aware of the issues giving rise to rural stress, and to offer constructive suggestions on how these issues can be addressed and alleviated.

ACTIVITIES FOR ACHIEVING OBJECTIVES

The charity's funds are raised by donations received from businesses, individuals and groups. In addition, during the year, a significant grant was received from The Prince's Countryside Trust.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Shropshire Rural Support (SRS) has had a busy year - not only in raising awareness of the charity but also an increase in referrals for our services.

We have had 38 referrals, ranging from loneliness, isolation, poor mental health, farm business & RPA issues, bereavement and suicide prevention and family upsets.

	2023	2022
SRS helpline	19	1
FCN referral	10	9
RABI	2	1
Social prescribers	2	8
CLA	1	0
APHA/trading standards	1	1
NFU	1	2
Livestock Market Health Check	1	0
Fire & Rescue	1	0
NHS discharge team	0	1
TOTAL	38	23

The trustees have held 6 meetings throughout the year, thanks go to the NFU office in Shrewsbury who kindly accommodated most of the meetings.

We have been very fortunate to have received many very generous grants and donations this year, including from the Prince's Countryside Fund, Whitchurch YFC, a 'Down to Earth' event at Longnor, Teme Valley Tractors, Shropshire Farmers Club, Burwarton Show YFC, Black Hall Farm, Cleobury Mortimer YFC, the Millichope Foundation, Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture, Oswestry NFU, Shropshire Federation of Young Farmers, Blymhill Agricultural Discussion Group, Ludlow Farm Shop, Bangers & Grass at Binweston to name a few.

We have attended many shows including The Shropshire Show, Burwarton, Oswestry and Minsterley Shows along with Whitchurch YFC & Cruckton Ploughing Matches. We have also had opportunities to raise awareness of the work of SRS by attending events such as the Market Drayton Health and Wellbeing Day, Bishops Castle Community Celebration Day, along with presentations to Wellington Rotary Club, Walford College Agricultural and Equine students, West Mercia Police Rural Crime event and Spunhill NRoSO training (National Register of Sprayer Operators). We have also had the opportunity to engage with some of the Shropshire YF clubs by giving a talk about 'Resilience, looking after yourself and the work of SRS.'

SRS has continued its association with the marketing agency Buy-From and is very grateful for their support in creating the 'Feeling Stressed' leaflet and updating our marketing material.

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Shropshire Rural Support & Shropshire Council have worked together to launch the Health Check Initiative at the Livestock Markets. This has proved very successful and is currently running in Shrewsbury, Ludlow and Market Drayton markets. Currently the funding for this initiative is now secure until September 2024. The Health Check van visits the Livestock Markets twice a month and offers blood pressure checks to all visitors and staff at the markets along with the opportunity to discuss other issues of concern. The staff can signpost individuals to appropriate pathways of help including SRS.

Shropshire Rural Support has worked with the Shropshire Infrastructure Partnership Team who have offered advice regarding updating the charity's constitution and have training for Trustees and the coordinator. We are grateful to Alli Richardson who has run the safeguarding training sessions for all the trustees and has kindly offered to run another course for the volunteers.

The charity continues to raise awareness of the service it offers throughout Shropshire and is seeking to increase its volunteer base to help with this task. The engagement with social prescribers and the Community Connectors is still ongoing and is a valued channel to raise awareness.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was a surplus in the year of £12,522 (2022: Surplus: £5,570).

As mentioned in the review of activities, there have been many generous donations from individuals, groups and companies in the year. However, the trustees are mindful that there is a continuing need for fundraising to meet the Charity's forecast expenditure in the years ahead. Consequently, the trustees are actively considering various fund-raising activities for the forthcoming year.

RESERVES POLICY

Detailed budgeting is maintained to ensure that the organisation's reserves adequately cover approximately two years' typical expenditure. The charity maintains funds not needed on a day to day basis in an appropriate interest bearing account.

At the year end the charity held free reserves of £46,920 (2022: £34,398).

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The Charity intends to increase awareness of the organisation by effective promotion and publicity, and to ensure adequate fundraising activity to meet the reserves policy of the charity.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accounts of the Charity have been prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with charity regulations.

This report was approved by the Trustees on [REDACTED] and signed on their behalf, by:

Andrew Bebb

Chairman

Shropshire Rural Support

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30 June 2023 which are set out on pages 8 to 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 14 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material 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 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

 FCCA

Signed:

13 October 2023

Date:



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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Receipts		
Donations	25,814	18,015
Grants (Prince's Countryside Fund)	7,000	-
Interest	1,052	44
Total Receipts	33,866	18,059
Payments		
Staff salaries	16,286	7,624
Communications, postage, printing, stationery & travel	2,716	2,900
Laptop for co-ordinator	-	475
Insurance	535	337
Governance costs	107	35
Rebranding costs	-	120
Promotional activities	1,700	998
Total Payments	21,344	12,489
 Net Receipts - unrestricted funds	 12,522	 5,570
Cash and Bank Balances brought forward	34,398	28,828
Cash and Bank Balances carried forward	46,920	34,398

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bank and Cash Balances		
Cash at bank and in hand	46,920	34,398
	46,920	34,398
Accumulated Funds	46,920	34,398
Signed on behalf of the trustees on  by:		
Trustee 	Trustee	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Trustees' remuneration and related party transactions

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration (2022 - £Nil).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2022 - £Nil).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022 - £Nil).