

Charity No: 1126085

Shropshire Rural Support

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 June 2024**

Shropshire Rural Support

Reference and administrative details

(as at 30 June 2024)

Patron	Anna Turner, Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire
President	Christine Downes
Charity registration number 1126085	
Trustees	Andrew Bebb Rev. Adam Clayton Geoff Black John Brown Tony Howell Simon Latter Roger Parry Roger Pemberton
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 2024.

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.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Shropshire Rural Support has seen a steady increase in activity again this year with referrals increasing and a noticeable rise in the number of referrals that are coming through our helpline. We have seen requests from a number of new contacts including some of the county's vets, the Mayfair Community Centre, Church Stretton and the Butty Van.

	2022	2023	2024
SRS helpline	1	19	29
FCN referral	9	10	7
RABI	1	2	0
Social prescribers	8	2	2
CLA	0	1	0
APHA/trading standards	1	1	0
NFU	2	1	1
Livestock Market Health Check	0	1	0
Fire & Rescue	0	1	0
NHS discharge team	1	0	0
Butty Van	0	0	1
Mayfair Community Centre, Church Stretton	0	0	1
Shows/Events	0	0	1
Vets	0	0	2
TOTAL	23	38	44

The trustees have held 6 meetings this year, with thanks to the Shrewsbury NFU and Roger Parry for hosting the meetings.

We have again been overwhelmed by the generosity shown to the charity, ranging from individual donations, corporate donations and Young Farmers clubs, as well as a highly successful Ball organised by Cath Suckley of Hopton Farms, which raised a staggering £13,000.

There has been a lot of activity during this year's show season. Shropshire, Burwarton, Oswestry, Minsterley & Wattlesbough shows were attended along with Whitchurch YFC and Cruckton Ploughing Matches. All provided a platform to be able to promote the services of the charity.

Along with the agricultural shows, SRS has been invited to take part in Churchmere Medical Practice's patient group information day in Whitchurch, and Oswestry Town Council's Well Being Day. The charity also provided speakers for the West Mercia Rural Crime event, Newport Rotary Club and the Farmers' Day Race at Ludlow Race Course.

Involvement with the Len's Light charity has been significant this year. Shropshire Rural Support welcomed Andrew & Linda Eadon as they travelled from John O'Groats to Land's End on a John Deere tractor via the country's livestock markets raising awareness of mental health issues in the farming community. The Big Farming Tea Break was launched in February and again it was supported by Market Drayton Market, it was also an opportunity to present the new SRS mugs kindly sponsored by Tractor Hire UK.

The President and Co-ordinator were invited to the FCN regional conference in Stafford in Nov 2023 where they

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were warmly welcomed.

Pontesbury Perambulation was kindly organised by Roger Pemberton and family in aid of SRS, a 10 mile walk in the vicinity of Pontesbury. Following a detailed route the walkers enjoyed varied scenery and a welcomed midway drink at the Habberley Arms and finally an ice cream treat from Hoof & Scoop to finish. SRS are very grateful to Roger's hard work in organising this event.

The number of volunteers has increased this year and we have hosted a couple of meetings which act as an information share and training. The Samaritans ran a 'Listening Skills' workshop for SRS which was well supported. The meeting in May included a guest speaker from the Admiral Nurses, who gave a short but informative talk about the role they play and how we could work together. We would like to increase our volunteer base so roles such as answering the helpline, having a regular presence at the markets, visiting isolated and lonely people can be achieved.

SRS launched a text service this year following a survey conducted with the SFYFC. The results showed that the majority of young farmers knew about SRS but would prefer to use a text message rather than a phone call to reach out for help. SRS has joined in partnership with SHOUT, a text helpline with a bespoke text number.

The Livestock Market Health check service run by Shropshire Council has continued to be welcomed by all 6 sites within Shropshire. Unfortunately, the service was reduced in March 2024 to one visit per month to each of the markets, it is hoped that SRS can work in partnership with the Council and provide additional support in the weeks that the Council are absent.

The use of social media, Facebook and Instagram has increased our digital presence. This is something that we will increase in the future, thanks to Daisy and Noah, two young volunteers who have instigated this with Alistair Thornley's support.

The increase in the use of the SRS support line indicates that the continued promotion of the services of the charity is reaching more of the rural community. Sadly the need is as great as ever but there are still many more areas that need to be explored such as vets, agricultural stores, farms with a large workforce and agrichemical suppliers to name a few.

Shropshire Rural Support certainly has a busy year ahead.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

There was a surplus in the year of £9,736 (2023: Surplus: £12,522).

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 £56,656 (2023: £46,920).

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.

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BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

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

17 Sept 2024

This report was approved by the Trustees on  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 2024 which are set out on pages 9 to 11.

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.



Signed:

Date: 14 October 2024

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - Year to 30 June

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Receipts		
Donations	37,879	25,814
Grants (Prince's Countryside Fund)	-	7,000
Interest	2,190	1,052
Total Receipts	40,069	33,866
Payments		
Staff salaries	19,686	16,286
Communications, postage, printing, stationery & travel	2,453	2,716
Insurance	627	535
Governance costs	132	107
Texting Service (annual sub to May 2025)	5,640	-
Promotional activities	1,795	1,700
Total Payments	30,333	21,344
Net Receipts - unrestricted funds	9,736	12,522
Cash and Bank Balances brought forward	46,920	34,398
Cash and Bank Balances carried forward	56,656	46,920

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES as at 30 June

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bank and Cash Balances		
Cash at bank and in hand	56,656	46,920
	<u>56,656</u>	<u>46,920</u>
Accumulated Funds	<u>56,656</u>	<u>46,920</u>

Signed on behalf of the trustees on 17 Sept 2024 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 (2023 - £Nil).

During the year, no Trustees received any benefits in kind (2023 - £Nil).

During the year, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2023 - £Nil).