

Trustees' Annual Report

Thermal Drone Support Bedfordshire

Reporting Period: September 2024 – September 2025

Charity Registration Number: 1210148

Registered Address: 9 Albert Place, Houghton Conquest, Bedfordshire, MK45 3LJ

1. Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

Thermal Drone Support Bedfordshire is a registered charity governed by its constitution.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The charity is managed by a Board of Trustees. Trustees are appointed based on the skills, expertise, and governance oversight they bring to the charity, ensuring robust management, operational leadership, and financial scrutiny.

First-Year Trustees

The following trustees served during the charity's first year of operation:

- **Sam Boyle** (Chair)
- **Sarah Brunning** (Secretary)
- **Leon Rowson** (Treasurer)
- **Meg O'Dell** (Trustee)
- **Michael Jones** (Trustee)

Organisational Structure & Volunteers

The charity relies entirely on its dedicated network of volunteers who assist with ground searches, tracking, trapping, and essential fundraising activities.

Our drone pilots are highly skilled; all active pilots hold the **A2 Certificate of Competency (A2 CofC)**, with several also holding the advanced **General Visual Line of Sight Certificate (GVC)**, or are actively in training to achieve these standards. Pilots utilise a mix of personal equipment and charity-owned assets. Regular, specialised training exercises are conducted to ensure volunteers maintain the advanced technical skills required for wildlife and lost animal detection.

2. Objectives and Activities

Charitable Objectives

The principal object of the charity is to support, advise, and reunite owners with lost pets and other animals, primarily within Bedfordshire, with extensions to neighbouring counties considered based on volunteer availability and critical need.

Public Benefit

The trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. We deliver tangible public benefit by:

- Alleviating the profound distress of local community members experiencing the loss of a companion animal.
- Protecting animal welfare by deploying dedicated, methodical tracking and trapping methods to safely secure lost, injured, or elusive animals, even when situations require weeks of sustained effort.
- Enhancing public safety by removing stray animals from potentially hazardous environments, such as major highways and rail networks.

3. Achievements and Performance

Evolution of Service

As this was our inaugural year of operation, our services evolved rapidly to meet the practical realities of animal rescue. While initially conceived as a drone-led initiative, practical experience revealed that many rescues require a broader, ground-based approach. Consequently, we expanded our capabilities to provide a holistic rescue service, including:

- The creation and distribution of lost animal posters.
- Providing behavioural advice to owners to prevent scaring lost animals further away.
- Physical tracking, ground searching, and humane trapping.
- Deploying advanced thermal imaging and drone technology when required.

Impact Note: An unexpected but vital area of our work this year has been providing emotional and mental health support to highly anxious owners during searches, as well as offering compassionate bereavement support in instances where pets unfortunately could not be saved.

Partnerships & Public Engagement

Our profile and reputation within the community have grown significantly over the past 12 months:

- **Digital Presence:** We established a strong, highly engaged online community, surpassing **5,000 followers on Facebook**, which serves as a vital rapid-response tool for circulating missing animal alerts.
- **Public Feedback:** Reflecting the community's trust in our services, we have received **more than 20 five-star reviews** across Facebook and Google from grateful owners and supporters.
- **Stakeholder Relations:** We successfully fostered collaborative working relationships with local dog wardens, Bedfordshire Police, National Highways, and Network Rail workers.
- **Local Recognition:** In recognition of our professional standards, the local Council Licensing Officer officially distributed our contact details to all **licensed boarding kennels** in the area as the primary emergency contact for escaped dogs.
- **Land Access:** We built strong relationships with local farmers and industrial site owners, securing critical, rapid access to private land during active searches.

4. Financial Review

Principle Funding Sources

Total income for the period was derived primarily from public donations, voluntary contributions from assisted pet owners, grants from local businesses, and contributions from dog activity clubs. This was further strengthened by proactive community fundraising, which included attending local fairs and dog shows, and delivering educational talks.

Expenditure and Reserves Policy

Expenditure during this inaugural year was strictly concentrated on operational necessities to maximise our impact:

- Purchasing essential rescue, tracking, and safety equipment.
- Volunteer uniforms to ensure clear identification, professionalism, and safety during public searches.
- Covering fuel cost reimbursements for volunteers attending long-distance searches or monitoring traps.

Trustee Remuneration: Trustees receive no remuneration or salary for their governance roles. Out-of-pocket expenses were reimbursed strictly for operational rescue deployments and volunteer activities in line with charity policy.

5. Future Plans

Looking ahead to the next financial year, the charity aims to scale its operations and secure its long-term sustainability through the following objectives:

- **Corporate & Grant Funding:** Actively apply for charitable grants and corporate sponsorships to diversify our income streams.
- **Operational Vehicle:** Secure a dedicated charity vehicle via grant funding to transport large-scale rescue gear, traps, and drone equipment that cannot fit into standard private cars.
- **Volunteer "Go Bags":** Standardise our response times by equipping volunteers with pre-packed "Go Bags" containing essential rescue kit (e.g., high-powered torches, safety gloves, spare leads, and wire cutters).
- **Recruitment:** Launch a targeted recruitment drive for ground volunteers and qualified drone pilots to increase our operational capacity.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Name: Sarah Brunning

Position: Secretary



Date: 17.06.2026

Thermal Drone Support Bedfordshire

Charity No: 1210148

Receipts and Payments Account

For the financial year ending: 19 September 2025

Section A: Receipts

Receipt Source	Notes	Amount (£)
Donations	Public giving and voluntary contributions	15,599
Grants	Funding received from local businesses	6,553
Affiliation Programme Awards	Programmatic performance rewards	915
Owner Introduced Funds	Funding contributions from assisted owners	626
Funds Held 100 Square Draw	Community fundraising initiatives	200
Historical Adjustment & Rounding	Minor accounting alignment	27
Office	Minor miscellaneous receipt	1
Total Receipts		23,920

Section B: Payments

Payment Category	Notes	Amount (£)
Insurances	Specialised drone and liability coverage	1,327
Drones	Capital purchase of drone hardware	6,696
Charity Setup Costs	Core branding, phone setup, website domains	1,509
Licensing	Mandatory aviation/operational licensing fees	1,491

Pet Support Costs	Equipment including trail cameras, dog and cat traps	4,738
Office	General administrative and phone running costs	400
Bank Fees	Account operational banking costs	28
Events Costs	Community presence and fundraising stands	177
Charitable Donations	Disbursed external support	44
Volunteer Uniform	Personal protective clothing and public identification	736
Volunteer Expenses	Approved operational fuel and deployment reclaims	509
Courses	Mandatory training and technical pilot certifications	505
VAT	Input tax tracked distinctly (Purchases are net of VAT)	2,572
Total Payments		20,731

Section C: Statement of Cash Balances at Year End

Asset Account	Status	Amount (£)
Current Account	Cash held at bank	2,439
Savings Account	Cash held at bank	750
Rounding / Suspense	Minor float variance balance	1
Total Cash Funds	Net cash surplus retained at 19 September 2025	3,190

Reconciliation: Total Payments (£20,731) + Total Cash Funds Retained (£3,190)

Section D: Accompanying Financial Notes

1. **VAT Accounting:** All individual purchase rows within these accounts are displayed exclusive of VAT. Value Added Tax is pulled out and tracked as a single distinct line item of **£2,572**.
2. **Volunteer Uniforms:** The expenditure of **£736** represents structural investments in safety uniforms designed to protect ground tracking crews in the field and offer instant visual reassurance to members of the public during local pet searches.
3. **Reserves Designation:** Out of the cash funds held at the year-end, **the charity formally reserves £2,500**. This safety buffer is earmarked specifically to cover fixed,

recurring administrative liabilities over the next 12 months, ensuring long-term operational continuity.

Approval & Sign-Off

The financial statements above were formally approved by the Board of Trustees on the date specified below.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Name: Samantha Boyle

Position: Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samantha Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: 16.06.2026