THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

Annual report and financial statements

for the year ended

31 March 2026

Company number: 04429778 (England and Wales)
Charity number: 1095919 (England and Wales) and SC053538 (Scotland)

FCN

THE FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

(A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Pages
Charity references and Administrative Details	2
Statement of public benefit	3
Introduction from Chairman	4
Introduction from CEO	5
Trustees' Report (including Directors' report)	6 – 10
Auditors' report	11 - 13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Statement of Cashflows	16
Notes to the financial statements	17 – 22

CHARITY REFERENCES AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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

Company number: 04429778 (England and Wales)

DIRECTORS

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

Roger Mercer (Chair)
Mark Suthern (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Sally Steadman (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Giles Bowring DL (Treasurer)
Barbara Bray (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Olivia Helmore
Revd Matthew Jeffrey
Stuart Roberts
Bishop Mark Rylands (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Robert Walrond
Elle Vercoe-Gibson (appointed 22nd October 2025)
Wyn Owen (appointed 22nd October 2025)
Lucia Patrick Slack (appointed 22nd October 2025)
Ciara Catherine Laura Williams (appointed 22nd October 2025)

SECRETARY

Deborah Roe

SENIOR MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

Jude McCann (Chief Executive Officer)

REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS

Bragborough Hall Business Centre
Welton Road
Daventry
NN11 7JG

AUDITORS

Dafferns Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants
One Eastwood
Harry Weston Road
Binley Business Park
Coventry
CV3 2UB

INVESTMENT MANAGERS

Rathbones Brothers Plc
8 Finsbury Circus
London
EC2M 7AZ

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

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

CCLA
PO Box 12892
Dunmow
Essex
CM6 9DL

SOLICITORS

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

BANKERS

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

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT

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

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

Public Benefits

1. **National Helpline**: The national confidential helpline is open from 7 am to 11 pm every day of the year, staffed by a team of volunteers. Talking with someone who understands farming but is not directly involved in the situation can be a real support in itself, but when appropriate, callers are offered a visit from an FCN volunteer by referral through the co-ordinator local to the caller

2. **Volunteers**: Around 400 volunteers who are 'in sympathy' with the Christian ethos, suitably experienced and in-touch with rural and farming issues, are recruited, DBS checked and appropriately trained to 'walk with' farmers and their families through times of stress and personal difficulty. Referrals to individual volunteers are made through the local FCN County Co-ordinator who is also responsible for the co-ordination and training of volunteers within their Group and liaison with their Regional Director and Head Office for all administrative and policy issues.

3. **Christian ethos:** The Charity has a clear Christian ethos which is inherent within its foundation, board of trustees and charitable objects, which is reflected in its published Vision and Ethos Statements, whilst sustaining the principle that all services are made available to those in need from all faiths and none in a non-judgemental, non-proselytising but supportive way.

4. **Partnerships:**
   - To ensure national coverage, and to respect the territories of other independent farming and rural support services, FCN has 'memoranda of understanding' with those organisations that facilitate cross referrals of clients, access to the FCN Helpline, sharing of expertise and experience and consortia bidding from national funding sources

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

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

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

www.fcn.org.uk

A message from Roger Mercer, Chair of FCN's Board of Trustees

FCN's uniquely proactive approach ensures we aren't just here to help during a crisis, but can also work with people to explore options, plan ahead and find a positive way forward – whether the issue is personal or business-related.

We are proud to work alongside many charities, agri-businesses and other stakeholders across agriculture; all united by a passion for improving the health and wellbeing of farmers, farm families and farm businesses, and working towards a common goal.

Some of our work – such as our UK-wide partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support – is opening up new and important connections for FCN. We are seeing more organisations working across healthcare services engaging with the charity, hoping to work with us to reduce health inequalities in farming and rural communities - recognising that these groups can face unique challenges and barriers to accessing care and support.

We are also seeing growing engagement with our FarmWell website and resources; with tens of thousands of people now accessing the platform each year. FCN's proactive work is helping people to avoid crises and is providing the tools, information and support to encourage people to plan ahead with greater confidence. This is arguably more important now than ever before.

We are in a privileged position in FCN – able to empathise, connect and build trust with our vital farming community. The work that we do makes a huge difference to so many, and this is only possible thanks to the enduring support of our volunteers, trustees, staff team, supporters, partners and everyone who works alongside us. Together, we can ensure farmers can thrive – now and in the future.

Roger Mercer

Date: 8 July 2026

A message from Jude McCann, Chief Executive Officer

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those within our network who play a role in supporting our vital farming community. For over 30 years FCN has been 'walking with' farmers and farming families, helping people to find a positive way forward - no matter the issue.

We increasingly see the necessity of this work as we navigate the pressures UK farmers are facing - including unpredictable weather, animal disease and market volatility caused by geopolitical developments.

I thank our volunteers, trustees, staff team and supporters for their ongoing hard work and dedication. Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do in FCN - valuing those who give their time freely in support of others and deliver our front-line services by utilising their extensive knowledge of farming life to help people through difficult times and periods of change.

But we can't do it alone. A collaborative approach is needed in order to ensure our industry remains strong and resilient. We are encouraged as more organisations reach out to FCN wishing to work with us in different ways. This includes making donations, partnering with us, raising awareness, receiving training or helping to expand our reach throughout the agricultural sector.

I hope you enjoy reading our latest Annual Report. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on everything that our team has achieved in the last year, whilst also celebrating farming across these islands more broadly. We are proud to work alongside so many incredible and passionate people and to be involved in a variety of projects and initiatives to bring about meaningful change.

Thank you to everyone involved in FCN for all that you do.

Jude McCann

Date: 8 July 2026

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

The directors, who are also the trustees, present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026. The directors have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting by Charities" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

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

The Memorandum of Association states:

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

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

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

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

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

Who we support:

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

How we help:

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

Our strategic priorities

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

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC BENEFIT
Please see page 3.

DIRECTORS

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The directors serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:
Roger Mercer (Chair)
Mark Suthern (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Sally Steadman (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Giles Bowring DL (Treasurer)
Barbara Bray (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Amy Dixon
Peter Havers (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Olivia Helmore
Revd Matthew Jeffrey
Stuart Roberts
Bishop Mark Rylands (resigned 22nd October 2025)
Robert Walrond
Elle Vercoe-Gibson (appointed 22nd October 2025)
Wyn Owen (appointed 22nd October 2025)
Lucia Patrick Slack (appointed 22nd October 2025)
Ciara Catherine Laura Williams (appointed 22nd October 2025)

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2025-26

FCN enjoyed an outstanding year in 2025-26. Most income streams show a favourable increase and the overall outcome was a remarkably good one. With this year being the 30th Anniversary year for FCN, there has been an exceptional amount of fundraising and this is not expected for next year.

FCN's financial position was enhanced by this exceptional performance and our balance sheet shows net assets of £2,773,956 compared to £2,244,297 as at 31 March 2025. The Trustees and the senior leadership team continue to explore ways in which the charity can deploy surplus funds to support the farming community, including potential new partnerships with organisations dedicated to helping people with physical and mental health challenges, as well as with companies who actively support British farmers.

The difficult trading background continues to present serious issues for farmers trying to run a profitable business: the war in the Middle East has resulted in significant cost increases in fuel and fertiliser, which will put pressure on hard working families at a time of continued upheavals in support offered to the agricultural sector by the Government. FCN's work is more relevant and essential than ever and our strong financial position leaves us very well placed to deliver meaningful support to Britain's farming community.

Income
Total income was £2,000,606, an increase of 11% compared with £1,794,750 for 2024-25.

Voluntary income including grants rose by 7%. Legacy income fell with FCN receiving in 2025- 26 £54,340 (£153,862 for 2024-25). Legacies, by their very nature are unpredictable.

Grants received, excluding Macmillan, totalled £910,208, a decrease of 3%. The contribution from Macmillan amounted to £493,903.

Unrestricted income amounted to £854,833 and restricted income was £1,145,773.

Expenditure
Expenditure increased by 13% to £1,568,249 compared with £1,392,725, for 2024-25, reflecting additional increased project costs. The total number of full time equivalent staff employed decreased to 23 compared to 24 in the previous year.

FCN saw an end of year surplus (net income) of £432,357. This resulted in a positive net movement in funds of £529,659 after gains on investments.

Investments
During the year, it was decided to sell the underperforming holding of the CCLA COIF Investment Fund and add to the holdings of the Sarasin and Newton funds. A new holding in the M&G Charity Multi Asset fund was acquired, resulting in net additional long term investment of approximately £150,434. The Investment Committee meets twice a year to review the performance of the investments and make changes, subject to Trustees' approval. The Trustees believe a strong balance sheet is necessary in an uncertain world and underlines their commitment to long term support for the agricultural sector and its hard working people.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

RISK MANAGEMENT
The Board has undertaken a review of risk and the identified causes have been categorised as relating to:
- People
- Property & finance
- Reputation

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

LOOKING AHEAD: OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY (2026-2027)
Our priorities as a charity over this period stem from providing the necessary infrastructure for FCN to deliver our two core pillars of support, which can broadly be described as:

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

2) our core services and supportive work - including local casework and Helpline support provided by FCN volunteers and supported by our staff team. We Listen, Support and Connect.
It is hoped that greater investment in the medium and long-term into 'FCN FarmWell' activity could help to reduce the pressure on 'FCN Services', as we will be helping and assisting people before they reach a point of crisis. We will be placing a greater emphasis on the 'FCN FarmWell' activity in the future and carving out a niche in this space.

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

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

RESERVES POLICY
The charity's policy is to strive to secure free reserves sufficient to meet committed expenditure and the running costs for a period equivalent to 12 months annual expenditure. It is considered that 12 months is necessary in order to ensure continuity of service during any period of reduced income. Free reserves at 31 March 2026 were £2,502,115 compared with unrestricted annual expenditure of £245,361.

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

GOING CONCERN

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

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

Signed on behalf of the Directors on 8 July 2026.

Signed by:
Roger Mercer
3178835EF6B75B54

R Mercer

Director

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

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Farming Community Network (the "charitable company") for the year ended 31 March 2026 which comprise a statement of financial activities, a balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

• give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2026, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;

• have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and

• have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

• the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

• the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

• adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or

• the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

• certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or

• we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.; or

• the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

• Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;

• Enquiry of entity staff in compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;

• Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;

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

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

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

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

Use of our report

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

Signed:



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

Date: 06 August 2026

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	General Unrestricted funds £	Designated Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	**Total 2026 £**	Total 2025 £
INCOME						
Donations and legacies	3	593,857	-	1,166,102	**1,759,959**	1,643,984
Income from charitable activities						
Resourcing programmes		216,814	-	-	**216,814**	132,310
Income from other trading activities						
Investment income		23,833	-	-	**23,833**	18,456
Total income		834,504	-	1,166,102	**2,000,606**	1,794,750
EXPENDITURE						
Cost of raising funds	7	39,727	-	58,730	**98,457**	78,487
Charitable activities	6	205,634	70,484	1,193,674	**1,469,792**	1,314,238
Total expenditure		245,361	70,484	1,252,404	**1,568,249**	1,392,725
Net income/(expenditure)		589,143	(70,484)	(86,302)	**432,357**	402,025
Net transfers between funds		-	-	-	**-**	-
Gains/(losses) on investments		97,302	-	-	**97,302**	23,372
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		686,445	(70,484)	(86,302)	**529,659**	425,397
Fund balances brought forward	15	1,815,670	208,132	220,495	**2,244,297**	1,818,900
FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD	15	2,502,115	137,648	134,193	**2,773,956**	2,244,297

The notes on pages 17 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

BALANCE SHEET
as at 31 March 2026

COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 04429778

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	**9,697**	19,395
Investments	12	**1,463,170**	1,215,434
		1,472,867	1,234,829
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	13	**128,903**	119,648
Bank and cash balances		**1,229,035**	948,731
		1,357,938	1,068,379
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	14	**(56,849)**	(58,911)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**1,301,089**	1,009,468
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		**2,773,956**	2,244,297
INCOME FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds			
General	16	**2,502,115**	1,815,670
Designated	16	**137,648**	208,132
Restricted funds	16	**134,193**	220,495
		2,773,956	2,244,297

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

The financial statements were approved by the Directors on 8 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:
Roger Mercer
3178835EF6B75B54

R Mercer
Director

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net income/ (expenditure) for the year		**529,659**	425,397
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation	11	**9,698**	9,698
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	13	**(9,255)**	(93,773)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	14	**(2,062)**	10,752
Interest received		**(23,833)**	(18,456)
Revaluation (gain)/ loss on investment	12	**(97,302)**	(23,372)
Net cash from/ (used in) operating activities		**406,905**	310,246
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Sale of investments	12	**409,993**	39,138
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	11	**-**	(29,093)
Purchase of investments	12	**(560,427)**	(780,000)
Interest received		**23,833**	18,456
Net cash from/ (used) in investing activities		**(126,601)**	(751,499)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		**280,304**	(441,253)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		**948,731**	1,389,984
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CARRIED FORWARD		**1,229,035**	948,731

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

Cash and cash equivalents		**1,229,035**	948,731

The notes on pages 17 to 22 form an integral part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
at 31 March 2026

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Company and charitable status

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

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2019)" applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued in October 2019, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2026 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the Directors out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Income recognition

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

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

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

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

Expenditure recognition

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

Taxation

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

Tangible Fixed assets and depreciation
Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Depreciation is provided on all fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value based on prices prevailing at the date of acquisition, of each asset evenly over its expected useful life as follows:
Office equipment and motor vehicles - 3 years straight line

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

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

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

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

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

3 INCOME – DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

Voluntary income	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2026 £**	2025 £
From churches	65,564	3,906	**69,470**	60,601
From events & activities	-	18,895	**18,895**	21,741
From individuals and other organisations	158,621	43,554	**202,175**	130,001
Legacies	53,282	1,058	**54,340**	153,863
Gift aid tax refunded	10,968	-	**10,968**	16,337
Grants received (see note 4)	305,422	1,098,689	**1,404,111**	1,261,441
	593,857	1,166,102	**1,759,959**	1,643,984

For 2025, £806,158 was general unrestricted income and £837,826 was restricted income.

4 GRANTS RECEIVED

	General Unrestricted £	Restricted £	**2026 £**	2025 £
DEFRA and Regional Development Agencies	-	195,793	**195,793**	**174,644**
Richard Oatley Foundation	-	80,000	**80,000**	**75,000**
NFU Mutual Charitable Trust	-	70,000	**70,000**	**75,000**
Northern Gas Networks	-	162,675	**162,675**	**32,535**
P D Hook	10,000	-	**10,000**	**10,000**
Welsh Government	-	11,738	**11,738**	**31,262**
Macmillan Cancer Support	-	493,903	**493,903**	**376,523**
Lloyds Banking Group	-	-	**-**	**200,000**
Paragon Vet	-	-	**-**	**5,277**
Dorset Training	-	-	**-**	**10,000**
Agrovista	10,000	-	**10,000**	**10,000**
Hutchinson Charitable Trust	10,000	-	**10,000**	**10,000**
Hook 2 Sisters	-	-	**-**	**10,000**
ETRD	-	-	**-**	**10,000**
Quality Equipment	-	-	**-**	**6,245**
Silostop	-	-	**-**	**10,000**
BATA	10,000	-	**10,000**	**-**
Batchworth Trust	10,000	-	**10,000**	**-**
CHK Foundation	15,000	-	**15,000**	**-**
Heathfield Show	-	-	**-**	**5,000**
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	25,000	**25,000**	**-**
John Deere Ltd	10,000	-	**10,000**	**-**
Liz & Terry Bramall Foundation	-	10,000	**10,000**	**-**
Rachel Watson	6,000	-	**6,000**	**-**
Simon Gibson Charitable Trust	-	10,000	**10,000**	**-**
Vinehill Trust	-	20,000	**20,000**	**-**
Cranswick	15,000	-	**15,000**	**-**
Wates Foundation	-	10,000	**10,000**	**-**
Other grants ≤ £5,000	219,422	9,580	**229,002**	**209,955**
Total grants per Note 3	305,422	1,098,689	**1,404,111**	**1,261,441**

For 2025, £474,452 was general unrestricted grant income and £786,989 was restricted grant income.

5 UNPAID VOLUNTARY SERVICES

The value of unpaid voluntary services provided by individuals has not been included within the Statement of Financial Activities as either income or expenditure. In the year under review that value is calculated as £367,680 (2025: £338,224), representing entirely volunteer costs (please refer to Trustees' Report for further information). If this value was included the Statement of Financial Activities would be revised with both income and expenditure increasing by £367,680.

6 ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total £
Local activity	651,997	214,331	866,328
Publicity	216,241	72,653	288,894
Supporting volunteers	119,290	39,960	159,250
Training	118,993	36,327	155,320
	1,106,521	363,271	1,469,792

£1,193,674 (2025: £899,844) of the above costs were attributable to restricted funds. £70,484 (2025: £147,868) attributable to designated funds, and £205,634 (2025: £266,526) attributable to unrestricted funds.

7 ALLOCATION OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Local activity £	Publicity £	Supporting volunteers £	Training £	Subtotal £	Raising funds £	Total £
Salaries and wages costs	104,078	35,280	19,404	17,640	176,402	68,662	245,064
Travel	12,142	4,116	2,264	2,058	20,580	4,217	24,797
Office administration costs	52,682	17,858	9,822	8,929	89,291	14,682	103,973
Depreciation	5,721	1,939	1,067	970	9,697	-	9,697
Governance costs	39,708	13,460	7,403	6,730	67,301	10,896	78,197
	214,331	72,653	39,960	36,327	363,271	98,457	461,728

£58,730 (2025: £19,265) of the above raising funds costs were attributable to restricted funds. £39,727 (2025: £59,222) of the above raising funds costs were attributable to unrestricted funds.

8 GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2026 £	2025 £
Legal and professional fees	**60,294**	79,020
Audit and accountancy	**9,000**	9,000
Board expenses	**8,477**	6,245
	77,771	94,265

The auditor's remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £5,250 (2025: £5,200) and other services of £3,750 (2025: £3,750).

9 STAFF COSTS

	2026 £	2025 £
Wages and salaries	**846,948**	776,857
Social security costs	**94,039**	67,267
Other pension costs	**81,394**	79,627
	1,022,381	923,751

The average number of employees, including part-time, during the year was 31 (2025: 29). The full time equivalent number was 23 (2025: 24).

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The charge for the period was £81,394 (2025: £79,627). The defined contribution liability is allocated to unrestricted funds.

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

£100,000 - £110,000	1	1

10 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

No remuneration was paid to Directors for their services, and £1,047 (2025: £688) was paid as reimbursement of travel expenses to 3 (2025: 3) of the trustees.

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel is £131,245 (2025: £120,322).

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment and Motor Vehicles £
Cost or valuation:	
At 1 April 2025	112,867
Additions	-
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2026	112,867
Depreciation:	
At 1 April 2025	93,472
Charge for the year	9,698
Eliminated on disposal	-
At 31 March 2026	103,170
Net book value	
At 31 March 2026	**9,697**
At 1 April 2025	19,395

12 INVESTMENTS

	2026 £	2025 £
Market value at 1 April 2025	**1,215,434**	451,200
Acquisitions at cost	**560,427**	780,000
Sales proceeds from disposals	**(409,993)**	(39,138)
Gain/(loss) in the year	**97,302**	23,372
Market value at 31 March 2026	**1,463,170**	1,215,434
Investments at market value comprised:		
Rathbone Unit Trust Management Core Investment Fund for Charities Income Fund	**278,460**	416,001
M&G Equities Investment Fund for Charities (Charifund) Acc	**361,800**	-
BNY Mellon Newton Growth and Income Fund for Charities Acc	**415,288**	272,619
Sarasin Endowments Fund Acc	**407,622**	271,902
CCLA COIF Charities Investment Fund Acc	**-**	254,912
	1,463,170	1,215,434

13 DEBTORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	**9,757**	62,732
Prepayments and accrued income	**116,617**	49,862
Gift Aid tax refund	**2,529**	7,054
	128,903	119,648

14 CREDITORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	**16,382**	12,671
Other taxes and social security	**21,628**	18,768
Other creditors	**7,729**	17,083
Accrued expenses	**11,110**	10,389
	56,849	58,911

15 FUNDS ANALYSIS

	General Unrestricted fund £	Designated Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2026 £	2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,472,867	-	-	**1,472,867**	1,234,829
Current assets	1,086,097	137,648	134,193	**1,357,938**	1,068,379
Liabilities	(56,849)	-	-	**(56,849)**	(58,911)
Net assets	2,502,115	137,648	134,193	**2,773,956**	2,244,297

16 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1 April 2025 £	Transfers £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	**At 31 March 2026 £**
Restricted funds					
Voluntary income	70,495	-	130,444	(162,392)	**38,547**
Richard Oatley Foundation (Projects in South West)	37,955	-	80,000	(110,912)	**7,043**
Macmillan Rural Communities Project	-	-	493,903	(493,903)	**-**
Waitrose Farmwell 2025-27 support programmes	112,045	-	65,851	(114,293)	**63,603**
Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance Collaborative Project – Northern Gas Networks	-	-	162,675	(162,675)	**-**
Farmwell Wales - Welsh Government	-	-	11,738	(11,738)	**-**
DEFRA bTB support	-	-	151,491	(151,491)	**-**
NFU MCT for Farming Community support	-	-	70,000	(45,000)	**25,000**
	220,495	-	1,166,102	(1,252,404)	**134,193**
Unrestricted funds					
Designated	208,132	-	-	(70,484)	**137,648**
General	1,815,670	-	834,504	(148,059)	**2,502,115**
	2,244,297	-	2,000,606	(1,470,947)	**2,773,956**

17 ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

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

18 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There are no related party transactions during the period (2025: £nil).