



ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017



“Working with rural communities for a better future”

Northamptonshire ACRE is a registered charity (No. 1080038)
And a Company limited by guarantee (No. 03937576)

Mission Statement

Northamptonshire ACRE, an independent charitable organisation, works with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially for the disadvantaged. We help rural communities to help themselves, to value diversity and to work to create a vibrant, sustainable future.

Strategic Aims

- To encourage and support community-led planning such as neighbourhood plans and rural community action.
- To facilitate the identification of rural needs, particularly for the disadvantaged through community consultation and engagement
- To raise awareness of rural issues, lobby and influence policy
- To support the provision of affordable, accessible rural services
- To work in partnership with others, encouraging co-operation and influencing the allocation of resources
- To monitor our performance and provide value for money to our funders
- To encourage the development of staff and those working on behalf of the organisation

Board of Directors
Northamptonshire ACRE
(Action with Communities in Rural England)

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THE OFFICIALS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is an independent voluntary organisation, registered charity (**no. 1080038**) and company limited by guarantee (**no. 3937576**) working to support rural communities and community groups throughout the County.

President

David Laing, Lord Lieutenant for Northamptonshire

Vice-Presidents

The Right Reverend Donald Allister Bishop of Peterborough
Lord Boswell of Aynho
Canon Paul Rose
Mr Gordon Shorley
Mr Jeffrey Greenwell

Treasurer

Mr George Hook

Independent Examiners

Messrs Jervis & Partners

Board of Directors

Chair

Mr Gareth Lugar-Mawson

Vice-Chairs

Mr Ken Christy
Mr George Hook

Members

Mr Bernard Lock,
Mr David Powell (resigned 22th February 2017),
Mr Kazeem Salawu (removed by Board resolution 16th November 2016),
Mr Hugh Walmsley (resigned 17th February 2017)

Observers

From District & Borough Local Authorities
and Voluntary Sector Agencies

Bankers

Yorkshire Bank plc

Principal Address

The Hunsbury Hill Centre
Harksome Hill
Northampton
NN4 9QX

Telephone (01604) 765888

Email: acre@northantsacre.org.uk

Website: www.northantsacre.org.uk

THE STAFF OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

Chief Executive

Elaine O'Leary

Rural Wellbeing Service (Lottery funded)

Wellbeing Fieldworkers

Linda Hook

Dawn Howard (appointed 1st August 2016)

Wellbeing Administrator

Gill Correa (resigned 13th June 2016)

Village Halls Adviser

Frances Harris

Rural Officer

Rebecca Breakwell (appointed 17th October 2016)

Administration Officer

Sarah Clarke

Site Caretaker

James Davidson

The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

Events Team Manager

Elaine O'Leary

Events Co-Ordinator

Sarah Clarke

VOLUNTEERS WITH NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

Site Maintenance

Northampton Woodland Trust

Best Village Volunteers

Best Village Competition Co-ordinator

Barron Walton

Village of the Year Judges

Other volunteers

David Ward

INTRODUCTION

“Working with rural communities to improve the quality of life for all”

Northamptonshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is a countywide, independent charitable organisation. We are also known as NACRE.

We work with rural communities to improve their quality of life, especially with the disadvantaged.

- ✓ Our focus is on community development and engagement. If a village or parish wants to carry out any form of community planning, including Neighbourhood Plans, NACRE is there to help and advise. This includes assisting groups with accessing funds for projects.
- ✓ We work with local communities to reduce rural isolation and vulnerability and help to make life more affordable for those living in rural areas.
- ✓ We help to deliver improved services for these communities. This can be through better communications links, strong community facilities or more accessible education and health services and supported by a range of training courses.
- ✓ We support and advise rural community groups on a wide range of issues and encourage local action and participation in decision-making.
- ✓ We campaign to ensure that the interests of people living in rural Northamptonshire are taken into account in policy making and strategic planning affecting the County.

Our Chief Executive is Elaine O’Leary and we are based at the Hunsbury Hill Centre, which offers facilities for conferences and social events, including civil weddings and receptions, in a delightful and tranquil setting.

THE ACRE NETWORK

Northamptonshire ACRE is one of 38 Rural Community Councils working across England, which makes up the ACRE network. Our national body, ACRE, works to make sure that government bodies listen to the needs and voices of rural communities.

At the ACRE Network conference in November 2015, ACRE and the member RCCs agreed to reaffirm a collective focus on end beneficiaries, namely:-
‘All people living in rural areas of England but especially those who are at risk of isolation and disadvantage and for whom rurality brings an additional challenge and cost to their daily lives.’

To ensure this focus is sustained, the conference also authorised the formation of a Network Steering Group (NSG) to work on behalf of ACRE members to:

- Advance a series of key strategic activities of importance to the Network;
- Oversee Network-wide change and development;

- Provide ACRE with an effective member based sounding board for its work at a national level;

The NSG consisted of Chief Executives from eight RCCs (including Elaine O’Leary from Northamptonshire ACRE) and two ACRE representatives and met regularly during 2016. One of the first initiatives instigated by the NDG was the delivery of the Network Concordat. This Concordat defines what the ACRE Network is with common objectives and principles and was signed by all 39 members of the ACRE Network. A copy of the Concordat is shown in Appendix A.

Following the negotiated multi-year Defra funding agreement for the ACRE members, the Network continues to travel down a path of ‘Transformational Change’ so as to be (i) more resilient and (ii) less dependent on Defra funding in future. To show how the Network would address the issues of sustainability and transformational change, the NDG commissioned work on a Network Development Plan (NDP). This sets out the objectives and actions the ACRE Network intends to pursue over the lifetime of the Plan, including how it will address the issues of sustainability and transformational change.

This is ongoing work during 2016-17 and the final draft Plan will be presented to all members at the ACRE Network Conference in November 2017. Northamptonshire ACRE continues to be involved in the work of the NDG and the Plan and is proud to be a member of the ACRE Network.

COMMUNITY WORK

Northamptonshire ACRE works across many areas that help to support a rural community as described above. Several villages have approached us for advice on how to develop a community shop, while others required information and support to obtain better broadband services and energy measures. We also worked with two villages to help them develop community transport schemes.

Some examples of the areas of work we have been involved with are:

Neighbourhood Plans

As we have always done, we continued to provide guidance and support to rural communities with regards to the different types of community planning particularly Neighbourhood Plans. We carried out a number of presentations on Community Planning to Parish Councils and with the recruitment of a full time Rural Officer, we have started to review the services we offer to our members. As part of this the charity has been creating a package of services around Neighbourhood Plans, Housing Need Surveys and Community Engagement that will be offered by our Rural Officer.

East Northamptonshire District Council was awarded funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government’s “*Neighbourhood Planning & Local Planning Service Redesign & Capacity Building fund*” to investigate the potential for setting up an East Northamptonshire Council led

Neighbourhood Planning consultancy service. ENC approached NACRE to provide consultancy services on the project and as part of this work we ran a successful Neighbourhood Plan workshop that was able to provide valuable information to the project. ENC were due to present their findings to their Senior Management Team in April 2017.

To find out about our package of services for community planning, please contact Rebecca Breakwell on 01604 825884 or email Rebecca.breakwell@northantsacre.org.uk.

Olive – our new online oil buying system



Our Community Oil Buying Scheme has been operating since October 2011 and was developed with the aim of helping people in homes, community buildings and businesses in rural Northamptonshire save money on their oil, particularly those in fuel poverty. During the time it has been going we have helped our members to save over £201,000 against the highest prices quoted and approximately £90,000 on the average, on over 1.9 million litres of oil.

This year we decided to move away from our old paper based system that was administered by staff at Northants ACRE and which had a membership fee to cover the admin costs. The old system was heavy on admin and resources and didn't give us much of a chance to grow the membership. Having a larger membership base means we are able to negotiate even better savings from the oil delivery companies for our orders. We had a look at a number of possible options but wanted one that would be easy to use, more efficient and be done online. The choice we made was eSmartMetrics online system, Olive: <https://nacre.myolive.co.uk/account/login>.

Olive gives our customers flexibility to manage their own accounts information and ordering. We no longer charge an annual membership fee (a small levy is applied to each oil order) and we still continue to obtain oil prices per litre well below the average market price, which is passed on to our customers for their benefit. The system is really helping us to meet our public benefit requirements and to ensure we are doing something to lessen fuel poverty in the county. If you would like more information about our bulk oil buying scheme, please contact Sarah Clark on 016014 765888 or email sarah.clarke@northantsacre.org.uk.

Smart Meters project

Smart meters are the next generation of gas and electricity meters. They offer a range of intelligent functions including showing how much energy someone is using in their home. The government has set out rules for energy companies to roll out a programme of smart meters across the country by the end of 2020, although there is no legal obligation on individuals to have one.

Smart Energy GB is the voice of the smart meter rollout and their task is to help everyone in the country understand smart meters, the national rollout

and how to use their new meters to get gas and electricity under control. Smart Energy GB commissioned the ACRE network to help reach out to consumers that are off gas grid and deliver the smart meter message through a programme of consumer engagement.

As one of the RCCs running an oil buying scheme, we were part of this project for which we received a small amount of funding. One member of staff received training from the project and was then able to cascade the information to colleagues within the charity, to volunteers and local oil scheme coordinators and was able to promote the benefits to our oil scheme customers.

Community Facilities Advisor



Our Community Facilities, Advisor Frances Harris, has continued to support our members with invaluable information about the numerous legislative and constitutional issues that affect Community Halls, as well as providing advice and assistance to Management Committees.

As with previous years the variety of queries the advisor receives and answers are wide ranging from asking about better broadband for a hall, underinsurance of premises, should a cleaner be paid a national living wage or national minimum wage to providing a model constitution for a hall and

offering advice on improving heating, ventilation and lighting for several centres as well as funding and governance advice.

Alongside this each member receives a bi-monthly newsletter that has information about the latest funding pots, topical issues, Charity Commission news and much more. Members are encouraged to share good news stories via the newsletter as well.

To increase the service offered to our members, we have been developing a package of training and workshop support. The first event carried out was a Portable Appliance Testing workshop, which was run in conjunction with Quick Test. Delegates were able to learn about their responsibilities for the electrical appliances in their facility, learn how to carry out an electrical appliance risk assessment, PAT testing and what checks must be done. This was a well-attended course and further ones have been scheduled in for 2017 and 2018.

Playground inspection training was another course that was held during the year. This was run in conjunction with Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association and covered topics such as the common problems associated with playgrounds, what the law and standards are relating to the equipment, the inspections that can be carried out and the various recording systems. It also included a practical exercise in a playground. Again this course was well attended with excellent feedback and we are looking to hold further

inspections in the future. We are very grateful to the Potterspury Sports and Social Club committee for allowing us to use their facilities and playground.

If you would like more details about our Community Facilities service or would like to become a member, please contact Frances Harris, on 01604 82588 or email frances.harris@northantsacre.org.uk.

Rural Wellbeing Service



Our lottery funded Rural Wellbeing Service, which started in March 2015, continues to deliver an excellent service and to have a positive impact on the lives of older people in rural Northamptonshire.



The two fieldworkers, Linda Hook and Dawn Howard, continue to go out with the Rural Information Bus (seen here) providing support and advice on a wide range of issues as well as initiating new social activities. These activities have helped to reduce the isolation and loneliness that is often felt by those living in rural areas where access to amenities and opportunities for socialising can be limited.



During the year a total of 93 visits were made with the RIB to 22 villages across the county and over 340 people visited the bus. They were given advice, leaflets, practical assistance and where needed, signposted on to other organisations for further services. Along with this 36 referrals were made directly by the fieldworkers to other organisations that resulted in residents in those rural communities receiving services they would otherwise not have had.

The volunteers Linda and Dawn have recruited as Good Neighbours have been busy setting up new clubs and activities such as Men's Club for older lonely gentlemen in one village, an afternoon club in a previously under used community centre, a mums and tots with older people coffee morning and running outings.

Because of the success of the RIB and fieldworkers in getting out to the many rural communities in the county and providing an excellent service, more service providers have contacted us over the last year. Most want to either accompany the fieldworkers on the RIB in order to meet residents they would not normally see or they are working with the team to promote their services through the signposting the fieldworkers do.

Any village or resident who would like a visit from the Rural Information Bus or would like more information about the service can contact the fieldworkers by emailing: wellbeing@northantsacre.org.uk or calling Linda Hook on 07808 330549 or Dawn Howard on 07720 091343.

Good Neighbour Schemes

Good Neighbour schemes are established and run by local people to provide day-to-day support for other residents who may need help on an occasional or regular basis. The schemes provide a social 'safety net' for their village or local area. They do not offer specialist care or play any role that should be left to professional, qualified services. Nor do they provide volunteers to carry out skilled tasks that are appropriate for qualified tradespeople. Volunteers complete practical tasks such as:

- ✓ Befriending /home visiting /companionship /someone to go to social events with
- ✓ Dog walking and caring for pets during holiday or illness
- ✓ Errands and shopping
- ✓ Filling in forms, writing letters, reading, help to use computers and the internet
- ✓ Gardening
- ✓ Giving lifts to a GP surgery / clinic / hospital /Day Centre / other appointments
- ✓ Household tasks including tuning televisions, changing light bulbs and smoke alarms
- ✓ Moving furniture, taking down and hanging curtains and pictures

The community runs the scheme how they want and NACRE provides mentoring and support along with a toolkit to help get the scheme started. Each Good Neighbour scheme is different to the next one. A number of the Rural Community Councils around England are already successfully running these schemes and through their collective efforts, a national ACRE Good Neighbour toolkit has been produced. The shared network logo for these schemes is shown above.



NACRE has been working with Daventry District Council on developing Good Neighbour schemes within their area as part of DDC's Ageing Well programme. There has been a very positive response from a number of villages in the district to setting up schemes in their community and the first one is likely to go ahead in Moulton in April 2017, which is exciting news.

If any community is interested in setting up a Good Neighbour Scheme in their area, they can find out more by contacting our Rural Officer, Rebecca Breakwell, email: Rebecca.breakwell@northantsacre.org.uk or tel.: 01604 825884.

REVIEW OF TRANSACTIONS AND FINANCIAL POSITION

Northamptonshire ACRE is a company limited by guarantee (company number 3937576) and registered charity (charity number 1080038).

Northamptonshire ACRE has a strategic business and implementation plan, which is reviewed and revised regularly. The governing document of the charity is the Northamptonshire ACRE Memorandum and Articles of Association that was drawn up in February 2000.

The review looks at the success of each key activity carried out by the charity and the benefits they have brought to the groups of people with whom we work. These reviews also help us ensure that our aims, objectives and activities remain focused on our stated purposes and always achieve best public benefit. We have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commissions General Guidance on Public Benefit when carrying out our review and in planning our future activities.

The full details of the financial activities and achievements of the charity from April 2016 to March 2017 are detailed in the 2016 – 2017 Northamptonshire ACRE Annual Accounts, which is available to download separately from our website: <http://northantsacre.org.uk/>.

Retirement and Recruitment of Trustees

During the year Mr David Powell and Mr Hugh Walmsley resigned as trustees for personal reasons. The charity records its sincere thanks to them for the valuable contribution they made to the Board. Unfortunately, the Board had lost contact with Mr Kazeem Salawu and, on 16th November 2016, resolved to remove him as a trustee.

Northamptonshire ACRE has an established process for the recruitment, appointment, induction and training of new trustees. There is trustee documentation specific to recruitment and appointment. Each new trustee is provided with a comprehensive trustee handbook and an induction session can be arranged with the Chief Executive.

Application and source of Funds

The core rural work undertaken by Northamptonshire ACRE is funded by funding from DEFRA (through national ACRE), consultancy and membership work, from project income (management/overheads/support fees) and rent, staff-cost contributions, and donations from The Hunsbury Hill Centre, the charity's trading arm. These funds are used to raise awareness of issues affecting people living in rural communities throughout the county and supporting community groups, including village hall committees and parish councils, on issues relating to sustainable development, transport, fund-raising and rural service provision.

Under restricted funds are the income and expenditure relating to a number of specific projects including the Community Website training and the Big Lottery funded Rural Wellbeing Service.

The breakdown of unrestricted expenditure between cost of generating funds, charitable activities and governance costs is based initially on the nature of the expense and whether it falls directly in to one of these categories. Should it fall across several categories it is allocated based on either an individual staff member's percentage allocation or the overall staff percentage allocation.

Assets

Northamptonshire ACRE's key asset is the Hunsbury Hill Centre. The Centre provides office accommodation for Northamptonshire ACRE's staff. It provides the community and us with an affordable and unique setting in which to host events. The Centre was professionally revalued as at 31st March 2013 at £510,000 and will again be professionally revalued in 2018.

Reserves Policy

The Board established a policy where the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ('the free reserves') held by the charity should ideally be approximately three months of the resources expended.

Due to the continuing economic situation we have found ourselves in, reserves have been applied to supporting the service delivery activities of the charity, as previously it has proved more difficult to secure additional funding from key providers.

As at 31st March 2017, the General Fund was in surplus by £75,686. This is a continuation of the previous surplus at 31st March 2016. This is a testament to the hard work and effort from all the staff and trustees of Northamptonshire ACRE and its trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

Risk Management

Northamptonshire ACRE has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and has put in place a Risk Management Policy and systems devised to mitigate those risks. External risks to funding have been mitigated by diversification of funding and activities including a robust approach to discussions with funders with the aim of covering infrastructure costs i.e. full cost recovery.

Internal risks are minimised by the devising and implementing of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. These procedures ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the charitable company as well as the refinement and improvement of Human Resources and Health and Safety policies. The procedures and policies are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

Accounting Policies

The annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission's Accounting and Reporting by Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRSSE 2015).

Financial Dependence

The key funders of Northamptonshire ACRE's core unrestricted activities are DEFRA, Parish and Community Facilities members and our trading arm, The Hunsbury Hill Centre Ltd.

Independent Examination

A resolution proposing that Jervis & Partners be re-appointed to conduct an independent examination of the Charity was passed at the Annual General Meeting.

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 21st December 2017 and signed on their behalf:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE DIRECTORS OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ACRE

We report on the accounts of Northamptonshire ACRE for the year ended 31st March 2017, which are set out on pages 14 to 25.

Respective responsibilities of directors and examiner

The directors (who are also the trustees of the charitable company) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The directors consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied ourselves that the charitable company is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is our responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to our attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charitable company and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as directors concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with our examination, no matter has come to our attention:

- 1 which gives us reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 394 and 395 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102 – effective 1st January 2015).

have not been met; or

2 to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jervis & Partners
Chartered Accountants
30 Harborough Road
Kingsthorpe
Northamptonshire
NN2 7AZ

Date: 14th December 2017

STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESPONSIBILITIES

Company Law and Charity Law requires the trustees/directors 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 the year. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 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/directors 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.

By order of the Board of Directors



Gareth Lugar-Mawson
Chair

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 2016-2017

(incorporating an Income & Expenditure Account)

	Note	2016/17			2015/16
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
		£	£	£	£
Income					
From Generated Sources					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		76,863	0	76,863	51,543
Generated income		12,455	0	12,455	12,348
Office Accommodation		3,530	0	3,530	4,400
Donations		4,882		4,882	75,035
		<u>97,730</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>97,730</u>	<u>143,326</u>
From Charitable Activities	3	50,870	78,635	129,505	120,984
Total Income		148,600	78,635	227,235	264,310
Expenditure					
Cost of Raising Funds					
Hunsbury Hill Centre		20,379		20,379	16,251
Fundraising & Publicity		56,207		56,207	32,503
		<u>76,586</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>76,586</u>	<u>48,754</u>
Charitable Activities		2,100	61,818	63,919	48,754
Other Costs		63,103		63,103	32,503
Total Expenditure	4	141,789	61,818	203,608	130,012
Net Income		6,811	16,817	23,627	134,298
Transfers between Funds		9,543	(9,543)	0	0
Net Income after transfers		16,354	7,274	23,627	134,298
Other Recognised Gains / (Losses)					
Unrealised gain on property valuation		0		0	0
Net Movement in Funds		16,354	7,274	23,627	134,298
Total Funds Brought forward prior year	9	499,152	58,933	558,085	423,787
Total Funds carried forward at year-end		515,506	66,207	581,712	558,085

Continuing Operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2017

		Note	As at 31/3/17 £	As at 31/3/16 £
Fixed Assets				
	Tangible Fixed Assets	6	510,000	510,000
	Investment in Subsidiary	6	1	1
			<u>510,001</u>	<u>510,001</u>
Current Assets				
	Debtors	7	4,460	75,268
	Short Term Deposits		10,000	4,342
	Cash at Bank & in Hand		84,861	61,914
			<u>99,321</u>	<u>141,524</u>
	Liabilities: amounts falling due within one year	8	27,609	65,819
	Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)		<u>71,712</u>	<u>75,705</u>
	Total Assets Less Current liabilities		<u>581,713</u>	<u>585,706</u>
	Liabilities: amounts falling due after one year	8	0	(27,621)
	Total Net Assets		<u>581,713</u>	<u>558,085</u>
Funds				
	Unrestricted - General	9	75,686	59,332
	Unrestricted - Capital	9	439,820	439,820
	Total Unrestricted		<u>515,506</u>	<u>499,152</u>
	Restricted	9	66,207	58,933
	Total Funds		<u>581,713</u>	<u>558,085</u>

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)

The directors' statements required by Section 475(2) and (3) are shown below, which form part of this balance sheet.

In approving these financial statements as directors of the charitable company we hereby confirm:

- (a) That for the year stated above the charitable company was entitled to the exemption conferred by Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006;
- (b) That no notice has been deposited at the registered office of the charitable company pursuant to Section 476 requesting that an audit be conducted for the year ended 31st March 2017; and
- (c) That we acknowledge our responsibilities for:
 - a. Ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records which comply with Section 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 the financial year and of its result for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the provisions 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 special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 21st December 2017 and signed on its behalf by:



Gareth Lugar-Mawson
Chair

APPENDIX A – ACRE NETWORK CONCORDAT**What defines the ACRE Network?**

We are a national movement of independent charities who share a common set of objectives and principles for the benefit of English rural communities.

Our focus is on the wellbeing of all people living in all rural areas of England, especially those who are at risk of isolation and disadvantage and for whom rurality brings an additional challenge and cost to their daily lives.

As the ACRE network, we work together to evidence need, to inform, and to influence at a national level, speaking up as the voice for rural communities across England.

The objectives we share are to:

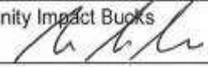
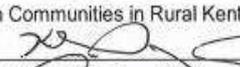
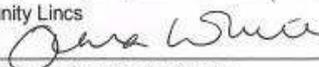
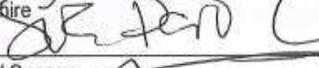
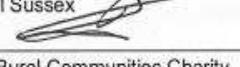
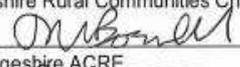
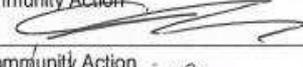
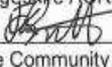
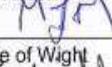
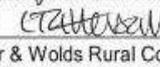
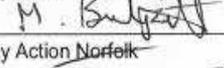
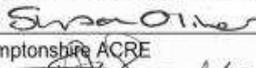
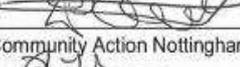
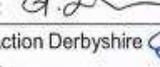
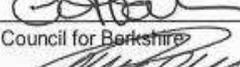
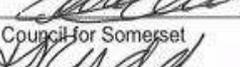
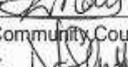
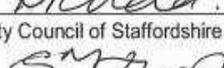
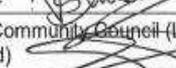
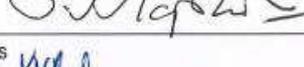
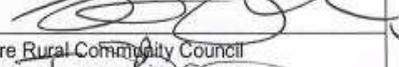
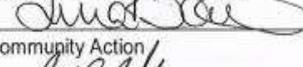
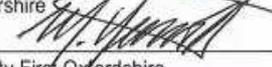
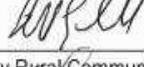
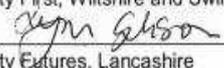
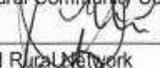
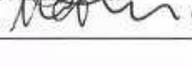
- Improve the lives of people living and working in rural communities
- Support and encourage community-led action and strong local governance
- Increase long-term sustainability of local community life
- Influence policies and services so as to help address market failures associated with rurality.

The principles we share are that we will:

- Act as a champion and facilitator for sustainable rural communities
- Use community development principles to empower people to understand and address the issues that they and their communities face.

Declaration

We are committed to membership of the ACRE Network, upholding the shared principles of the Network and working to improve the lives of people in rural England.

Action with Communities in Cumbria Signed: 	Community Impact Bucks Signed: 
Action with Communities in Rural Kent Signed: 	Community Lincs Signed: 
Action Hampshire Signed: 	Cornwall Rural Community Charity Signed: 
Action in Rural Sussex Signed: 	Devon Communities Together Signed: 
Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Signed: 	Dorset Community Action Signed: 
Cambridgeshire ACRE Signed: 	Durham Community Action Signed: 
Cheshire Community Action Signed: 	Gloucestershire Rural Community Council Signed: 
Community Action Isle of Wight Signed: 	Humber & Wolds Rural Community Council Signed: 
Community Action Norfolk Signed: 	Northamptonshire ACRE Signed: 
Community Action Northumberland Signed: 	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire Signed: 
Community Action Suffolk Signed: 	Rural Action Derbyshire Signed: 
Community Council for Berkshire Signed: 	Rural Action Yorkshire Signed: 
Community Council for Somerset Signed: 	Rural Community Council of Essex Signed: 
Community Council of Staffordshire Signed: 	Rural Community Council (Leicestershire & Rutland) Signed: 
CDA Herts Signed: 	Shropshire Rural Community Council Signed: 
Community First in Herefordshire and Worcestershire Signed: 	Surrey Community Action Signed: 
Community First Oxfordshire Signed: 	Tees Valley Rural Community Council Signed: 
Community First, Wiltshire and Swindon Signed: 	Warwickshire Rural Community Council Signed: 
Community Futures, Lancashire Signed: 	West of England Rural Network Signed: 
Action with Communities in Rural England Signed: 	