HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Charity no. 1192054

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Charity no. 1192054

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31 March 2026

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	**Helmdon Community Foundation was formed in October 2020 and took over the assets and responsibilities of the Reading Room Helmdon (registered no. 275715 'the former charity') on 1 April 2021. The main purpose of both the former and the new charity is the provision and maintenance of a village hall with the object of enhancing the lives of the village inhabitants.**
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	**Charitable activities - We provide a community hall, meeting room and kitchen (the 'Reading Room') and we try to encourage social activities, nurture groups and put on events which will be of interest and benefit to local people. Villagers use the Reading Room as a meeting place, café, post office and a space for entertainment, drama and social gatherings. We have a website to let people know what's happening in the Reading Room, and this includes a simple online booking system. Hire charges are kept to a minimum to ensure that the facilities are available to all.** **This year we completed a 3 year refurbishment plan which has upgraded the Reading Room to an impressive modern standard, whilst retaining the character of the Victorian building. It now provides a comfortable space for village activities and we have been able to extend the opening hours to allow casual use.** **Other trading activities – Part of the property (the 'Reading Room Cottage') is rented to a local resident as a dwelling house under an Assured Shorthold Tenancy Agreement. Capital expenditure during the year included a new bathroom for the Cottage. The net income from this tenancy is otherwise used to support our charitable activities.**
Statement confirming that the trustees have had regard to the Commission's public benefit guidance	**The Charity Commission's public benefit guidance underlies the trustees' work for the charity. Our main aim is to make the Reading Room an attractive venue with good facilities which is accessible to all. We aim to encourage and promote village events centred on the Reading Room for the benefit of the community.**
Contribution made by volunteers	**All our trustees and team members are volunteers who give freely of their time and skills. We are extremely grateful to all of them.**

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	**Completion of the building refurbishment plan means that the charity can continue to provide a warm and comfortable meeting place for the village, including free hot drinks. The Reading Room is now used on an ad hoc basis in addition to planned events, and the local authority has registered the building as a partner 'Welcoming Space'. To ensure security we have installed CCTV covering all entrance points.** **Our installation of solar panels and batteries, together with improvements to the oil-fired heating system and the addition of infra-red panels in some areas of the building has allowed us to reduce our use of fossil fuel. Our energy profile is now considerably more efficient and our costs for electricity and heating oil have reduced.**

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	**Our financial position at the end of the year remains healthy. Approximately 60% of the money spent to revitalise and modernise the building has been covered by grant funding.**
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves, stating why they are held.	**The maintenance of a large Victorian building is extremely expensive. We regard net current assets of £12,500 as the minimum level of reserves required for repairs when needed. Net current assets at the year end were in excess of this.**
Amount of reserves held	**The charity's total funds at the year end were £486,216. However, this includes the book value of the property and other fixed assets (£442,324) which are shown on our balance sheet. Reserves available for expenditure (net current assets) were therefore £43,892 at the year end, compared with £41,312 last year.**
Note about the charity continuing as a going concern	**There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.** **Some of the former charity's trustees have continued as trustees of Helmdon Community Foundation to ensure continuity in the management of the Reading Room.**

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	
Type of governing document	**The charity is governed by a constitution dated 9 October 2020 and registered with the Charity Commission on 28 October 2020.**
How is the charity constituted?	**The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation ('CIO').**
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions	**2 trustees who served during the year were named in the charity's constitution, which requires at least 5 but no more than 9 trustees. Under that constitution, the existing trustees may appoint new trustees by advertising vacancies in Helmdon at least 30 days before considering applications. The trustees must consider all applications from residents of Helmdon, and take into account the skills, knowledge and experience of each applicant.** **Trustees may serve for a maximum of 2 consecutive 3 year terms.**
Membership of other organisations	**The charity is a member of Northamptonshire ACRE, which supports community charities in rural areas.**
Relationship with any related parties	**Trustees are not remunerated for their services, but any reasonable expenses they incur are reimbursed. During the year the charity had no transactions with related parties. All transactions are priced at arm's length.**

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	**HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**
Other name the charity uses	**Helmdon Reading Room**
Registered charity number	**1192054**
Charity's principal address	**Premises: Helmdon Reading Room, 20 Church Street, Helmdon, Brackley NN13 5QJ** **Correspondence: 2 Church Street, Helmdon, Brackley NN13 5QJ**
Title to the charity's property	**Helmdon Community Foundation holds the legal title to the property known as the Reading Room, which includes the Reading Room Cottage.**

The trustees who manage the charity

	Name	Office	Dates acted if not for whole period
1	Christopher Mount	Chair / Website	
2	Angela Goodall	Vice Chair / Health & Safety	
3	Abigail Brinkworth		
4	Gillian Garner		
5	Andrew Harris	Treasurer (from 01/12/25)	
6	Justin Thorn		
7	Paul Underwood	Treasurer (until 30/11/25)	Resigned 18/03/26

The trustees declare that they have approved the above report.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Chris Mount
Chair

21 July 2026

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION		
On accounts for the year ended	31 MARCH 2026	**Charity no (if any)**	1192054
Set out on pages	1 TO 16		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

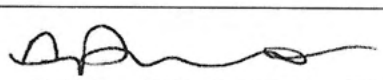
Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* *Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:		**Date:**	29 JULY 2026
Name:	ANITA BROOK		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	ACCA		
Address:	BROOK & CO ACCOUNTANTS 1 MARKET PLACE, BRACKLEY, NN13 7AB		

Section B	Disclosure
	Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).
Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.	

HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *Charity no. 1192054*

Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities	2	13,010	-	13,010	11,724
Donations and legacies	3	1,600	-	1,600	1,415
Other trading activities	4	8,250	-	8,250	7,940
Investments		348	-	348	516
Separate material item of income	5	2,383	-	2,383	29,162
TOTAL INCOME		**25,591**	**-**	**25,591**	**50,757**
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	33,318	-	33,318	30,466
Other trading activities	7	1,961	-	1,961	1,977
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8	**35,279**	**-**	**35,279**	**32,443**
NET (EXPENDITURE) / INCOME		**(9,688)**	**-**	**(9,688)**	**18,314**
Transfers between funds	13	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(9,688)	-	(9,688)	18,314
Total funds at beginning of year		495,904	-	495,904	477,590
Total funds at end of year	13	**486,216**	**-**	**486,216**	**495,904**

This statement includes all gains and losses recognised in the year, including depreciation of £18,101 (2025: £13,301).

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The notes on the following pages form part of these financial statements.

HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *Charity no. 1192054*

Balance sheet at 31 March 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9	442,324	454,592
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	10	3,686	3,731
Cash at bank and in hand	11	42,700	39,976
Total current assets		**46,386**	**43,707**
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(2,494)	(2,395)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		**43,892**	**41,312**
Total assets less current liabilities		**486,216**	**495,904**
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**486,216**	**495,904**
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		486,216	495,904
Restricted funds		-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	13	**486,216**	**495,904**

Approved by the trustees on 21 July 2026 and signed on their behalf by

Andrew Harris
Treasurer

HELMDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION *Charity no. 1192054*
Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Accounting policies

The charity

These accounts present the financial activities and balance sheet of Helmdon Community Foundation ('the charity') which is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (registered no. 1192054). The charity is an individual entity with no parent, subsidiaries or associates.

The charity was established by its constitution as a charitable incorporated organisation on 9 October 2020 and registered on 28 October 2020.

Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK ('FRS 102'), and the Charities Act 2011.

Being a small entity, the charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 not to publish a Statement of Cash Flows.

The accounts have been prepared in £ Sterling under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the notes. The principal accounting policies which have been consistently applied within that convention are set out below.

Income

Income is recognised in the year in which the charity is entitled to receipt, provided the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for in the year in which it is incurred. The charity is not registered for VAT and therefore input VAT payable on expenses is included with the item of expense to which it relates.

Costs are apportioned between activities as follows:

	Charitable activities	*Other trading activities*
Independent examiner's fee	50%	50%
Insurance	75%	25%

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation
Depreciation is provided to write off the cost less the estimated residual value of tangible fixed assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Buildings	50 years
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	5 years

Land is not depreciated.

Expenditure is capitalised if the asset purchased can be used for more than one year and costs at least £500.

Financial Instruments (debtors, creditors and deposits)
Debtors and creditors are stated at the settlement amount, after any trade discounts. Full provision is made for doubtful debts.
Bank and building society deposits are stated at the cash amount including any accrued interest. All such accounts are fully covered by the FSCS deposit protection scheme, therefore any credit risk is minimal.

Liabilities
Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay out, and the amount can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Restricted Funds
Restricted funds arise where donors place restrictions on how a donation can be spent. The charity had no restricted funds at the year end or previous year end.

Unrestricted Funds
These are funds which can be used in accordance with the objects of the charity at the discretion of the trustees.

Going concern
There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue operating.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
2. Income from charitable activities				
Village café	3,100	-	3,100	3,300
Hire of hall by local clubs and organisations	6,312	-	6,312	6,340
Hire of hall for ad hoc events	2,493	-	2,493	950
Events organised by the charity	1,091	-	1,091	1,017
Fundraising	14	-	14	117
TOTAL	**13,010**	**-**	**13,010**	**11,724**
3. Income from donations and legacies				
200 Club donations	1,300	-	1,300	1,300
Other donations received	300	-	300	115
TOTAL	**1,600**	**-**	**1,600**	**1,415**
4. Income from other trading activities				
Rent from the Reading Room Cottage	8,250	-	8,250	7,940
TOTAL	**8,250**	**-**	**8,250**	**7,940**
5. Income from separate material item				
Grants received to refurbish and improve the village hall	2,383	-	2,383	29,162
TOTAL	**2,383**	**-**	**2,383**	**29,162**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
6. Expenditure on charitable activities				
Cleaning	2,050	-	2,050	2,002
Depreciation	16,972	-	16,972	12,401
Electricity	1,012	-	1,012	1,186
Events organised by the charity	958	-	958	993
Fire safety	390	-	390	382
Heating oil	803	-	803	1,474
Insurance	811	-	811	782
Legal and professional fees	58	-	58	45
Repairs and maintenance	5,098	-	5,098	7,879
Small assets and improvements written off	3,538	-	3,538	1,261
Other running costs	1,628	-	1,628	2,061
TOTAL	**33,318**	**-**	**33,318**	**30,466**

The charity did not employ anyone during the year, nor in the previous year, and therefore had no staff costs.

None of the trustees received any remuneration or benefits for fulfilling their duties with the charity.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
7. Expenditure on other trading activities				
Depreciation	1,130	-	1,130	900
Insurance	270	-	270	261
Legal and professional fees	48	-	48	114
Repairs and maintenance	300	-	300	126
Small assets and improvements written off	-	-	-	450
Other running costs	213	-	213	126
TOTAL	**1,961**	**-**	**1,961**	**1,977**

8. Support costs

Total expenditure includes the following support costs:

Online systems & CCTV	350	-	350	512
Provision for independent examiner's fee	100	-	100	100
Overprovision for independent examiner's fee in prior year	(4)	-	(4)	(10)
Membership of Northamptonshire ACRE	48	-	48	48
Data protection fee	47		47	35
TOTAL	**541**	**-**	**541**	**685**

Support costs which do not relate specifically to charitable activities or other trading activities are allocated equally to those two categories.

No other fees were paid to the independent examiner.

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Land & buildings	Furniture, fittings & equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At beginning of year	400,000	81,249	481,249
Additions	-	5,833	5,833
At end of year	400,000	87,082	487,082
Depreciation			
At beginning of year	8,400	18,257	26,657
Charge for the year	1,400	16,701	18,101
At end of year	9,800	34,958	44,758
Net book value			
At 31 March 2026	**390,200**	**52,124**	**442,324**
At 31 March 2025	391,600	62,992	454,592

Land and buildings comprise the property known as the Reading Room and the Reading Room Cottage as fitted out at the time of its valuation. The trustees have relied upon an assessment of the property's fair value by a registered valuer and have adopted that fair value as its deemed cost.

None of the above assets are held under a finance lease or similar contract (2025: £Nil)

At 31 March 2026 the charity had no contractual commitments for the acquisition of tangible fixed assets (2025: £Nil)

	2026	2025
	£	£
10. Debtors		
Trade debtors	1,535	2,127
Prepayments and accrued income	2,151	1,604
TOTAL	**3,686**	**3,731**
11. Cash at bank and in hand		
Bank current account	9,856	23,882
Building Society deposit	32,059	14,711
Cash in hand	785	1,383
TOTAL	**42,700**	**39,976**
12. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade creditors	1,009	1,105
Accruals and deferred income	1,485	1,290
TOTAL	**2,494**	**2,395**

Deferred income is rent received for the property in advance of the period to which it relates. All income deferred in the prior year has been reported as income in the current year.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
13. Funds of the charity				
Total funds at beginning of year	495,904	-	495,904	477,590
Net (expenditure) / income for the year	(9,688)	-	(9,688)	18,314
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS AT END OF YEAR	**486,216**	**-**	**486,216**	**495,904**

The object of the charity is to provide and maintain a village hall in order to improve the conditions of life for local people. As the charity's object satisfies the original deed of gift, the property does not constitute a restricted fund. There is no separate trust within the charity.

All income from grants awarded to refurbish and improve the village hall was spent on the specified projects by the year end. The charity has not received any other income whose use is restricted to purposes narrower than the object of the charity. The charity therefore had no funds with restrictions on expenditure at 31 March 2026 (2025: £Nil).