

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 October 2023.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's constitution, the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)"

Objectives and activities

The charity's main objective is to manage and operate a rural community centre completely with volunteers for public benefit.

There is no other community centre in this rural area and the local council provide no support. The Rural Community Centre is close to the local church and a big benefit is providing after funeral meals and other church events. Local Farmers and Sports clubs also use the Community Centre.

Providing social entertainment, (weekly bingo sessions and fortnightly whist drives) for the elderly.
Improving the lives of people in a disadvantaged rural community.

To promote the rural community, the voluntary sector and the inhabitants of the area for the public benefit.
Provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and other leisure time occupations and to relieve poverty, sickness and the aged with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants of Glenshesk and district area of Co Antrim.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

The main areas of Charitable activity are the provision of community services, (eg. Providing weekly social entertainment and card games with refreshments)

Providing after funeral meals at the community centre.

Providing rental facilities to other groups in the area, fundraising and donations to help with the running costs of the rural community centre.

Applying for small grants to various funding bodies.

Financial review

The principle funding source for the charity is the rental income, and income from small grant donations. In the 2023 financial year there was a total grant and donations income of £6,948 (2022: £8,423).

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a Northern Ireland registered charity NIC 100086 registered 18/11/2014 having previously been registered as a charity with the HMRC. The Rural Community Group operate under an approved Charitable Constitution which satisfies the areas of public benefit - relief of poverty, sickness and aged and promoting the benefit of the inhabitants of Glenshesk and district area of Co Antrim.

The management committee is elected at the Annual General meeting each year as per the conditions of the constitution a financial report is prepared each year running from the 1 November to the 31 October.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Philip Christie
Anne Douthart
Conor Devlin
Jacqueline Breen
Mary Devlin
Damien Gillan

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Philip Christie

Philip Christie
Trustee

18 January 2024