

Cotton Town Estate Charity

Brief Report to Cotton Parish Council – May 2018

Role and Purpose of the Charity

The Charity manages a small number of pieces of land within Cotton. These are rented for predominantly recreational purposes.

Historically the Charity has also owned a modest portfolio of properties. Over many years these assets became increasingly difficult to manage effectively and much of the original portfolio has been sold. The capital accrued from these sales has been invested at the Trustees' discretion.

Net Rentals received, along with interest derived from investments, is shared each year between the Parochial Church Council and the 'Poor and Needy' of the Parish. Typically turnover is of the order of £1400, so it's very helpful when one or other kind soul agrees to cut the hedges around the allotment for a very modest donation.

As confirmed by the Charity Commissioners on 5th January 1897, two thirds of the annual income is to pass to the Parochial Church Council and one third is to be distributed amongst the 'Poor and Needy'.

There has never been a clear definition of 'Poor and Needy' and the identification of beneficiaries has been at the discretion of the Trustees. Currently the Trustees aim to identify those in the Parish who are 80 years of age, or older, and those with particular disabilities and/or of relatively modest means.

Administration of the Charity

The Charity Commissioner's Order, dated 5th January 1897, specifies that the Charity will be managed by a board of trustees. These trustees shall comprise the Rector and Churchwardens of the parish of Cotton, along with two representatives appointed by the Cotton Parish Council.

Incumbents as at 01 May 2018 are as follows:

Trustees:

Rev Valerie White

Andrew Bullock – local businessman

Carole Jones - Churchwarden

David Williams – Parish Councillor

Pauline Bridges – appointed representative of the Parish Council

Bert Bertoloni -Hon Secretary

Financial Position

The Accounts for year ending 2 March 2018 are in preparation and will be considered by the trustees on 22nd May 2018. A copy will be sent to the Clerk of the Cotton PC. Turnover remains c£1400 and outturn is expected to be around break-even.

May 2018