

Highmoor Educational Charity

Trustees Report for the period from January 1st 2024 - April 5th 2025

The charity was established under a Charity Commission scheme dated 22nd January 1982. The capital of the fund arose from a one-third share in the proceeds of the sale of the Church of England school serving the parish of Highmoor at that time.

Objectives

Under the terms of the trust deed governing the charity the trustees are to apply the net income of the charity:

- a) to promoting in such ways as they think fit the education of persons under the age of 25 who are resident in the parish of Highmoor and who need financial assistance in accordance with the principles and doctrines of the Church of England.
- b) in or towards providing such special benefits of any kind not normally provided by the local education authority for any school in the maintained sector attended by children resident in the parish, provided trustees have regard to the principles of the Church of England; and
- c) for the benefit of any Sunday school in Highmoor.

Parochial Restructuring

On 1st June 2012 a pastoral measure combining the parish of Highmoor with the parish of Nettlebed was approved and the parish church of St Paul was closed. Based on consultation with the Oxford Diocesan Office the trustees are of the opinion that the trust continues in its existing form. Eligible beneficiaries remain the young people resident in the historical Ecclesiastical Parish of Highmoor.

Management

The charity is managed by trustees.

- Mrs Judith Anne de Vere Stacpoole – Resident of Highmoor – a Co-optative Managing Trustee appointed 2nd May 2017
- Mrs Catherine Clarke – Resident of Highmoor - a Co-optative Managing Trustee and Treasurer appointed 26 March 2021
- Mr John Thompson – Church Warden of Nettlebed Church- ex-officio Managing Trustee appointed March 2023.
- Mrs Debbie Warren- Price – Resident of Highmoor – a Co- optative Managing Trustee appointed in May 2023
- Mrs Caroline Ahanchian – Resident of Highmoor – a Co- optative Managing Trustee appointed in May 2023.

Under the original terms of the charity there are three ex-officio trustees and two co-opted trustees. The ex-officio trustees were the officiating minister and churchwardens of St Paul's Church Highmoor. The co-opted trustees are people who through residence, occupation or employment have special knowledge of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Highmoor.

St Pauls Church Highmoor is now a residential dwelling and the ecclesiastical parish of Highmoor is now part of the Parish of Nettlebed with no resident incumbent but with two new Church Wardens. It was necessary to make administrative changes to the management of Highmoor Education Charity, and a resolution was passed on 17th October 2023 at a quorate extraordinary meeting of the Trustees.

The Trustees sought the help of the Charity Commission of how best to make the necessary administrative changes to the management of Highmoor Education Charity. We were required to have properly documented minutes of quorate meetings agreeing to these changes.

- 1.A new Resolution stating the administrative changes.
- 2.An Extraordinary meeting of the Trustees to agree the administrative changes.
- 3.Minutes from Nettlebed PCC agreeing to the Administrative Changes.

Copies of all three documents are attached.

Review of the year from January 2024 to 5st April 2025

The trustees actively seek opportunities to assist children of the parish within the objects of the charity. The Trustees have advertised in the Stoke Row News, on the Highmoor Facebook Page, and the Trustees have delivered a flyer to every house in the village. The Trustees have agreed to work closely with the Nettlebed Education Charity and agreed to contact local schools specifically Stoke Row, Peppard, Checkendon and Bishopswood Special School. Local food banks and Nomad have also been contacted

The Trustees meet three times year around the beginning of each school term, all grant applications are received by email, enabling the Trustees to respond quickly. To date we have not refused a grant application.

In March 2024, the Trustees discussed the excess money in the Lloyds current account which was not benefitting any young person's experiencing educational difficulties after some advice the Trustees agreed to put the reserve funds to better use in the broader community and agreed to provide a longer funding agreement with Sonning Common Primary School, a local school with significant need. The trustees agreed to fund a three-year pastoral care project by awarding the school £20,000 over the three years. The Trustees felt that this amount would ensure that there were still sufficient funds to meet the individual requests from the residents of Highmoor, based on the grants awarded over the past five years.

When grants are awarded, the applicant is expected to provide evidence of the cost of the project that they are applying for, and on completion of the project the Trustees request an evaluation form to be completed, which is filed along with the application form.

The charity's investments are held by CCLA (Oxford) and CCLA (London) the Treasurer is wanting to simplify these investments and is in the process of transferring our investments held by the oxford Branch of CCLA over to the London Branch.

The Charity's year will now run from April 5th to April 5th in accordance with the financial year.

Grants

Gants awarded from January 1st 2024 to April 5th 2025. Were to individuals in the village, Sonning Common Primary School, Nettlebed School and Stoke Row School to a total of: £19,708.99

Income and dividends

The value of our investments with CCLA on 31st December 2024 £110,322.33, an increase of £2,469.20 compared to the value on 31st December 2023 £107,853.13

The total annual dividends arising from the Charity's investments from January 2024 to April 3rd 2025 was £3,572.41.

We have £11,979.28 in our active account with dividends being paid quarterly in February, May, August and November.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Chairperson

Mrs Judi de Vere Stacpoole