

Parish Council AGM 2022

Townland Trust Report

The Townland Trust is a village charity, established in the 1600s to benefit equally the poor of the village and St. Mary's Church. Originally its income came from rent from a number of cottages and parcels of land, but over the centuries most of these were sold, so that now the Trust only owns one cottage in the village plus the Townland's meadow, which is held as a village amenity.

The Trust's income comes from rental on the cottage plus some interest on investments accrued over the years. The Trust's first responsibility is to maintain its assets and any surplus monies are then available for distribution, if and when required.

Support for the church must be used within the village. So, for example, any grant can be used towards maintenance of the church building and churchyard, heating and lighting for services, insurance etc., but donations to the diocese, disaster appeals, overseas missions etc., have to be funded from other sources.

During the last year expenditure on the cottage included installation of a new central heating boiler and other smaller maintenance work. Expenditure on the Townland Meadow has mainly involved grass cutting and hedge trimming plus insurance for the pavilion and public liability for people using the meadow.

All beneficiaries must live in the village. At Christmas, Waitrose tokens were given to those of retirement age who were happy to receive them and small cash grants were also made to a number of individuals and families.

The Trust's finances do not enable it to make regular payments to support individuals, but it can make small(ish) one-off payments to help in times of difficulty or particular need. However, the trustees need to be made aware of anyone who might be in need of assistance, so please be good neighbours and spread the word that the Trust may be able to help. All requests for help are treated in utmost confidence and are known only to the trustees. Currently the trustees are: The Rev. Martin Percival (Chairman), Mr Andy Franklin, Mrs Sandy Rowe, Mrs Jill Sedge and Mrs Sheila Tesh.

The Trust's AGM is held each November, and everyone is welcome to attend. The date will be published on the village web-site.