

United Charities of Cockfield

Annual Report Y/E 28/2/2024

The Trustees continue to have difficulty in hearing about parishioners who may need help which is both sad and a little surprising given the high levels of inflation during the last year. There have been two instances of requests made on behalf of new residents which have not progressed due to no further contact from those residents. This is frustrating and we again remind the village that we are able to provide some support when people are facing difficult circumstances. We ask that any information about any parishioner who may need help should be passed to any trustee and confirm that all information and identities are dealt with in strict confidence.

During the year the Trustees have spent considerable time in trying to update the existing charities' deed to make it more relevant to the requirements of today's society. I thank Dick Bates for his work on this. The Charity Commission has advised that it cannot accept our proposals in the format presented but has advised how to proceed to update and modernise Cockfield Charities. Further work is required and the trustees will be investigating what is best in the interests of the village to improve the size and scope of the charity.

The audit of the charities' accounts for the year ended 28/2/2023 was again undertaken by Mr Lyndon Mills and we thank him for his work again without charge. He has confirmed that all is correct. I thank Mr Michael Swiney for being our treasurer and for the work that he does.

We have had two ordinary meetings and one extraordinary meeting during the year. The extraordinary meeting was to discuss and approve a revised document to be sent to the Charity Commission. In the other two meetings the trustees approved grants to help 10 parishioners.

Mr Michael Swiney has reported that at 29th February 2024 our investment fund in COIF stood at £19958.84 and that we have current interest available for distribution of £626.08. During the past year we have given grants totalling £1170.60. We withdrew previously re-invested interest out of COIF to provide the necessary funds as our interest income was £531.65 with the balance of withdrawn interest is now in the amount available stated above. We do not have any interest re-invested in COIF, only capital.

The trustees are Mrs Barbara Ruffell, Rev Canon Sharon Potter, Mr Robin Morley, Mr Dick Bayes and Tony Box (Chairman). I thank my fellow trustees for their continued support and commitment.

Tony Box

Chairman, United Charities of Cockfield