

Welch Alms House Charity - registered Charity 201600

Annual Report to Parish Meeting May 2023

The Trust first housed residents in 1916 and continues to provide 2 one-bed houses. The Almshouses are Listed buildings. The original criteria to be housed was to house elderly retired agricultural workers from the Parish, but over the years the criteria have been modified and relaxed, and we look to house those:

- In housing need
- With a connection to Lamyatt or the surrounding area
- Who are Elderly or
- With a connection to agriculture or local employment, now or in the past

Trustees look to find the best fit when a vacancy occurs, bearing in mind that the accommodation charges levied also help to keep the properties up to date. If only 2 or 3 of these 4 criteria are satisfied the Trustees have to be certain that they offer the accommodation to the best candidate.

We follow all the good practice guidance and policies of the national Almshouse Association, as well as the requirements of the original Trust Deeds, as updated with the Charity Commission.

This past year, David Ash has stepped down from being a Trustee after 11 year and we thank him for his considerable input over that time, and we should also like to thank Simone for the support she too has given as a good neighbour of the residents. David's place as a Trustee has been taken by Keith Pascoe.

The 5 Trustees major in particular roles: Freda Gibbons – chairperson; Paul Chadwick – Secretary; Jonathan Orrell – Treasurer; Keith Pascoe & David Colman – maintenance & repair oversight.

This past year we have said farewell to the almsperson in No2, Alan Ayers, who was able to find an agricultural cottage at his place of work. The vacancy was advertised via the village e-mail system and we had 5 enquiries, all of whom were eligible to be housed in the almshouse reflecting the shortage of low-cost housing in the Parish.

As of 1st May we have now welcomed Lyn & Tim Goat to No2. Margaret Bradshaw continues to reside at No1.

The finances are in good order with sufficient funds to carry out a programme of works identified following the most recent Quinquennial (5-yearly) survey report (2021/22).

Paul Chadwick (Trustee & Secretary)

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