

The Bush & Bennett Charity

May 2019

Annual Report from the Bush & Bennett Charity

Trustees

The Trustee board is now six strong – with Anna Hyde officially joining us in the summer of last year. As noted at last year’s meeting, Anna is a Solicitor Advocate and brings invaluable legal experience to the Bush & Bennett Charity. Anna lives in Sawston and works for Latham & Watkins LLP.

The rest of the Trustee board comprises: Hannah Axon; the Reverend Alan Partridge; Brian Page (Treasurer); Sally Punshon (Chair) and Marian Watson (Secretary).

The Trustees continue to be supported by many others – in particular

- Ed & Mary Hunt, who give so much support to the Residents and help with day-to-day maintenance issues
- Hilary Seaward, our former Treasurer and who still provides financial and strategic advice and Accounts approval

Residents

We are very happy to report that the four Almshouses and The Old School House are still occupied by the same residents.

The Old School Room

The front of the Old School Room also continues to be occupied by the same tenant, CCPS, until December of this year.

Last year we announced that we were considering, with the Village Hall Committee, the idea of being able to restore and renovate the building as a small village hall. Unfortunately this idea was not viable for either party.

But the imminent end to the front office lease means that it is the optimum time to reconsider how we can make best use of the whole building. Various works have been undertaken over the last year to prevent further decay to the fabric of the building and we are now in

a good position to be able to see how the property could be used going forward.

The Trustees are currently in talks with Architects in order to start the costing process for the restoration of the whole building. The current thinking is that this would most likely be used as rentable office space.

Building Works and Maintenance

General maintenance and repairs have taken place over the last year to the other properties. The anticipated Quinquennial has just been undertaken by a local Architect – Ashley Courtney - and the Trustees are now budgeting and scheduling the appropriate remedial works as recommended in the report.

School Land

We confirmed last year the leasing of the school land (at zero rent) to the Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust for the Babraham School. (This land is under covenant to be retained for Babraham School). The required amendments to the Charity's Governing Scheme have been approved by the Charity Commission.

We are now in talks with the School & the Village Hall Committee as to whether some of this land could be used for a new building for use as a both a new School & Village Hall.

Sally Punshon

On behalf of the Bush & Bennett Trustees

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