

KETTERING TOWN COUNCIL

REPORT FOR DECISION

Item No 2021/87

Meeting:-	COUNCIL
Date:-	November 2021
Author:-	Martin Hammond, Clerk
Report Title:-	ADMINISTRATION OF KETTERING CHARITIES
Wards Affected:-	All

1. Purpose of Report

To seek the Council's agreement to take on the administration of the Kettering Charities for the Poor.

2. Recommendations

2.1. Council is recommended

- a) To agree to provide administrative support to the Kettering Charities for the Poor, on the basis that the direct costs of administration, including any dedicated staffing resource, are recharged to the Trustees.
- b) To agree to appointing four Trustees to the Trustee Board, subject to agreement by the Charity Commission that this transfer of the power of appointment can take place
- c) Subject to agreeing (b) above, to appoint to the remaining vacancy of trustee and to confirm the continuing appointment of Cllrs Bunday, Don and Mrs Jenny Henson

2.2. Council is also asked to consider whether any costs, or proportion of costs, incurred by the Town Clerk in managing the charities should also be recharged to the Trustees.

3. Information

3.1. The Kettering Charities for the Poor are a collection of local charities that have been administered for the Trustees by Kettering Borough Council since the 1950s, at no charge to

the trustees. North Northamptonshire Council has indicated that it is not prepared to continue providing this service and the Trustees have agreed to ask the Town Council to assume this role.

3.2. The charities comprise three main elements:-

- a) The William Martin Charity which exist to provide housing for elderly people without independent means. The charity owns a flat at The Lawns, Kettering, which is managed on its behalf by NNC Housing, and which produces some income each year. The charity has a bank balance of about £46,000 which is insufficient to buy any new property, but cannot be used for many other purposes.
- b) The Kettering Fuel Grants charity. This provides a grant to retired single people on a low income in Kettering and Barton Seagrave to help defray their fuel bills each year. Approximately 300 grants of £45 have been made each year. This is a somewhat laborious process of grant making which consumes a good deal of time in autumn each year.
- c) The Kettering Apprenticing Charity which provides grants to students and apprentices to meet unusual costs associated with their studies or to provide support and opportunities which are otherwise unavailable to individuals.

3.3. The Trustees comprise 4 people appointed by the Council – historically this has been by Kettering Borough Council and is now proposed to transfer to the Town Council – and three people then appointed by the Trustees. The Rector of SS Peter and Paul Kettering is an ex officio member of the Trust, as the church benefits from income from one of the component charities (the church and town allotment charity); this charity in turn provides an element of the income for the fuel grant and apprenticing activities). There are currently vacancies on the Trust Board.

3.4. The existing appointees are appointed to serve until May 2022 and comprise, for each charity :

- a) Kettering Charities (Apprenticing and Fuel Grants)** – Lloyd Bunday, Jenny Henson, and Cliff Moreton* - two vacancies arise as Mr Moreton wishes to stand down.
- b) Kettering Church and Town Allotment Charity** – Duncan Bain*, Lloyd Bunday, Jenny Henson and Shirley Stanton* - two vacancies arise as Mr Bain and Mrs Stanton wish to stand down.
- c) William Martin Charity** – Lloyd Bunday, Maggie Don, Jenny Henson and one vacancy

3.5. If the Town Council is to accede to the request from the Trustees, it should be aware that the workload associated with the fuel grant administration is not insignificant and that there are costs associated with publicity, postage, printing, banking fees (for cheques) and administration, which the principal authority has swallowed but which will be an extra strain on the Town Council's budget unless recharged. The principal Council has devoted a full time member of staff to this activity for about a month a year in the past, although it is possible to reduce this workload, for example, by electronic banking rather than the issuing of cheques.

4. Consultation and Engagement;

None – the Council is responding to a decision by NNC and the Trustees on this matter.

5. Finance, Legal and Resource Implications

5.1. The Council can take on the administration of these charities if it wishes, but it is proposed that they agree with the Trustees that some costs are recharged to or directly borne by the Trustees, eg the specific costs of publicity, postage and printing incurred, but also any costs arising from the need to employ additional clerical support for the period that the fuel grants are administered.

5.2. Members may also want to take a view about whether any costs associated with the clerk's time should also be recharged, although it is difficult at this time to assess what those costs might be.

6. Policy Implications

The charities provides a valuable service to residents of Kettering in alleviating poverty in a small way.

Background Papers

Correspondence with NNC

Minutes of the meeting of the Trustees held on 4th November

