



Braunston Village Charity

Report to the Parish Meeting 2022

The Board of Trustees has met regularly, albeit the first meeting of the financial year was via Zoom, chaired by the Chair of the Parish Council in the absence of the Vicar of All Saints Braunston and nominees from each of the following organisations: the Braunston Pre-School, Braunston Scouts, the Friendly Club, the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council. The three additional Trustees, co-opted to ensure that, as far as possible, the whole village is represented, have continued their membership. The Board is supported by Steve Rolt as Honorary Treasurer and myself as Honorary Secretary.

The Charity continues to use its own page on the Village website to raise its profile in the village. It is used to enable the Trustees to keep the village aware of how the Board is working to maximise the Charity's income and to ensure that it is used as effectively and innovatively as possible to fulfil its Objectives in the future. The Charity will continue to use the BVN for the same purpose and is producing a poster to further raise awareness of its grants. The Charity has received several donations during the year and is looking to establish a formal donation process.

The Distribution Group of three Trustees has continued to work effectively to ensure that both gifts and grants have been allocated across the village in line with the Charity's Objectives; they have been able to respond promptly to requests for or suggestions of possible gifts and grants. The Distribution Group again reviewed and revised the list of Christmas Gift recipients to ensure it is accurate and up to date. The systems that were established to enable the Trustees to demonstrate that gifts and grants have been made appropriately and to monitor the level of expenditure to ensure the on-going financial stability of the Charity have continued to prove effective.

During the year, the Charity was approached by the Braunston Quilters to nominate potential recipients of a quilt; the Charity has advised them of several recipients within the village and arranged for some quilts to be made available to the Braunston School to support children at times of stress. The comfort provided by the quilts can be highly beneficial to all ages and this relationship with the Quilters provides a means of alleviating hardship other than just financial hardship in the village.

During the year the Charity has successfully used the vouchers it had printed as part of any grants and gifts it has made; these can only be used for specific purposes with shops and services in the village. This year, the Young Carers Appeal that the Charity had supported in previous years was not operating but grants were made to

families that would have benefitted in addition to a total of over £1400 worth of Christmas Gifts to over 60 families and individuals over Christmas 2021.

Somewhat surprisingly, the Charity's expenditure has been less this year than last, despite the impact of the Pandemic; this is perhaps due to other sources of support being established in the village, such as Braunston Heart and the Braunston Food Share and Care scheme. The continuing rise in the cost of living and its predicted acceleration means the need for such support is likely to increase.

The renewal of the lease for the land owned by the Charity has been delayed due to difficulties with the agents but it will be completed next year, when the Trustees will review their long-term vision for the Charity. In the meantime, the Trustees have maintained the Charity's portfolio of investments and assets and continued the policy of allocating gifts and grants rather than change the Charity's activities in any way. Despite the slight reduction in the number of grants and gifts, the likely further increased number in the future due to the current economic situation makes any change in the foreseeable future inappropriate.

The Charity had an income in 2021/22 of £2,599, generated from an asset base in the form of land and investments, of £196,450. The Charity had a total expenditure on gifts and grants for the year of £2,308. The Charity also has cash reserves of £9,443, built up over a period of time.



Pete Morgan

Honorary Secretary

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