

ASHTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

Charity Reg. No. 200349

Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Charity Address:

Association of Dunstable Charities Grove House,
76 High Street North, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.
LU6 1NF

Trustees for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024

Ex Officio:

Rector of Dunstable - Revd. Rachel Phillips

Representative Governors Dunstable Town Council:

Cllr Mr Greg Alderman
Cllr Mr Louise O'Riordan

Co-optative Governors:

Mrs Cynthia Gresham	Mrs Elizabeth Bentley
Mr Peter Hollick	Mrs Jana Veyres

Chairman:

Mrs Cynthia Gresham

Clerk to the Governors:

Mrs Julie Tipler

Charity Structure, Governance and Management:

Governing document: Trust Foundation under scheme framed by will dated 30th March 1885, and Charities Act 1960. Amended and updated by Trustees in 2012.

Trustee Selection Methods:

One ex officio – Incumbent of the benefice of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Dunstable

Two Nominative Trustees – Appointed by Dunstable Town Council

Four Co-optative Trustees – Appointed by resolution of the Trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Maintenance and upkeep of the Frances Ashton Almshouses and the gardens and help towards energy and other costs for residents. Concern for the welfare of the six residents.

Achievements and Performance in the past year

Trustees inspect all the flats in the Almshouse and grounds annually. The Chairman/Clerk make regular visits throughout the year. The gardens continue to be well maintained, and all residents are very happy and have been enjoying socialising together in the garden.

Maintenance of the gardens and building is all up to date and replacement RCD fuse boxes will be undertaken next financial year. A flat became vacant and had been redecorated and awaits a new resident. The top floor walkway was re-surfaced.

Finances

Buildings and grounds are the main asset. Money is invested and helps with the maintenance and upkeep of the building, day to day running costs, administration, and refurbishments. Other income is obtained from the maintenance charges from residents.

Mrs Julie Tipler
Clerk to the Charity
4th December 2024

ASHTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY

Statement of Accounts as at 31st March 2024

	Apr 2023 - March 2024		Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	
	£	£	£	
RECEIPTS				
Maintenance Charges		33,937.59		31,250.22
Council Tax Rebate				
Other (Jane Cart Grant -£3120/ £65.01 Grout ins overpay)		3,185.01		9,995.00
Affinity Water				
Income from Investments:				
C.O.I.F	3,035.61		3,085.01	
Higher Interest a/c £47.63& £51.33	163.89		29.66	
National Savings	0.00	3,199.50	23.66	3,138.33
		£ 40,322.10		44,383.55
Total receipts	Income ex Grant	37137.09		
EXPENDITURE				
Administration of Almshouse				
Gas	6,216.84		4,870.00	
Water	936.00		538.76	
Careline	508.80		271.00	
Insurance	1,249.80		1,255.32	
Electricity	2,040.65		2,115.46	
T.V. Licence	15.00		0.00	
Council Tax/ J Bradley	1,493.33		155.58	
Fire Protection Service	66.84		207.78	
Council Tax				
Building Survey				
		12,527.26		9,413.90
Maintenance of Almshouse				
Window/internal cleaning	1,029.00		576.75	
Garden Maintenance	1,768.05		1,861.14	
General white goods/carpets	273.95		1,150.00	
Surveys	2,880.00		0.00	
Signage	744.97		1,193.98	
Electrics	460.10		588.93	
Heating	2,335.20		14,331.60	
Keys/locks	34.56		21.42	
Sundries Voile/blocked drain)	862.73		43.40	
Windows	120.00		377.23	
		10,508.56		20,144.45
Administration of Charity:				
Rent & Admin	0.00		1,484.84	
Payroll Rent & Admin	9,216.00		6,038.85	
COIF goes out then returned	120.00		169.40	
Almshouse Assoc	363.00		216.00	
		9,699.00		7,909.09
Total Expenditure		32,734.82		37,467.44

NET RECEIPTS / (EXPENDITURE)		7,587.28		6,916.11
<u>Balances as at 31st March 2023</u>				
Total of Investments	185,052.83		189,684.26	
National Savings Account	25,444.18		25,420.52	
Total of bank balances	48,764.84	259,261.85	41,872.39	256,977.17
Total assets brought forward				
Add Net Receipts/(Expenditure)		7,587.28		6,916.11
Add movement in investments		19,650.11		(4,631.43)
<u>Balances as at 31st March 2024</u>				
Total of Investments	204,702.94		185,052.83	
National Savings Account	25,444.18		25,444.18	
Total of bank balances	56,352.12	286,499.24	48,764.84	259,261.85
Total assets carried forward				
Check		0.00		£0.00

43 Summer Street
Slip End
Luton
LU1 4BL

15th January, 2025

To Whom It May Concern

ASHTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY – Charity Reg. No: 200349

I have been asked by the Clerk to The Trustees of the above charity, Mrs Julie Tipler, to carry out an independent inspection of the accounts for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

I have been given full access to all relevant documents including:

- The list of current Trustees & their appointment dates
- The Trustees Annual Report for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
- Minutes of the Trustees Meeting 28/6/2023
- Minutes of the Trustees Meeting 1/11/2023
- Minutes of the Trustees Meeting 6/3/2024
- Cashbook spreadsheet 2023-4
- Statement of Accounts for 2023-4 and 2022-3
- Assets & Liabilities Summary at 31/3/2024
- BACS confirmations for all transactions, supported by suppliers invoices.
- Bank Statements for both bank accounts.

I have fully cross-checked all the Bank Statements, BACS payment confirmations, and the relevant invoices for the period against the cash book spreadsheet and have found no inconsistencies or errors. There are no cash transactions. VAT is paid where it is due and is correctly managed. The Clerk has confirmed that all tax and NI due on her salary and that of her assistant is paid and in order – this is managed via the Association of Dunstable Charities to which the Ashton Almshouse Charity pays a monthly contribution. The queries I raised with the Clerk were answered swiftly and satisfactorily. There is no separate budget meeting, but financial matters are addressed as part of every trustee meeting.

The original aims of this historic charity are being well met. There is clear evidence from both the minutes and the financial transactions, that the 6 dwellings and associated gardens are well maintained and are meeting the practical and social needs of the tenants in line with the spirit of the charity. Gardening, property repairs and maintenance are carried out in a timely, efficient and cost-effective manner, by reliable tradespeople known to the Association of Dunstable Charities. These tradespeople, and other suppliers, are paid promptly.

Day to day financial accounting and record-keeping is accurate, efficient and timely. Paperwork is well managed and there is clear evidence that income and payments are regularly scrutinised.

Thank you for asking me to carry out this inspection. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Nicola E West