

TOWN LANDS
Registered charity number 217499

and

NEEDHAM MARKET AND BARKING ALMSHOUSE CHARITY
Registered charity number 237432

together known as

**NEEDHAM MARKET AND BARKING
WELFARE CHARITIES**

Annual Report of the Trustees
and Financial Statements

for the year ended
31 March 2024

INTRODUCTION

The charities exist to benefit residents of Needham Market town and the neighbouring parishes of Barking and Darmsden in Suffolk – their Charitable Objects are shown on page 4.

Grants may be approved to organisations based outside the charities' area of benefit *provided* the application demonstrates a tangible benefit to residents of Needham Market and/or Barking/Darmsden.

Applications

Guidance and application forms can be obtained from the Clerk to the Trustees – contact details on page 3.

Trustees expect grants to be taken up as soon as possible after approval, otherwise funds are blocked that might otherwise be better utilised by other applicants in the year.

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Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities
Charity numbers 217499 & 237432

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

TRUSTEES:

(at date of signing the Trustees' Report)	<i>Basis</i> ¹	<i>Term</i>	<i>Committees</i> ²					
Mrs J R Annis, <i>Chairman</i>	C	2022-2027	A	AH	F	G	CL	CP
Mr D G Bishop	C	2023-2028		AH*		G*	CL*	CP*
Mr S Cochrane	C	2019-2024	A				CL	CP
Mr T Lawrence	C	2023-2027			F			
Mrs S Osborn	NM	2022-2026		AH				
Mr G F Oxenham, <i>Vice-Chairman</i>	NM	2022-2026			F*	G		CP
Mr S Phillips	NM	2020-2024		AH				
Mr C M Walker	C	2022-2027	A		F	G		CP
Vacancy (two)	B							
Vacancy	C							

¹ *Basis of appointment:* NM: nominated by Needham Market Town Council
B: nominated by Barking Parish Council
C: Co-optative

² *Committees:* A: allotments AH: almshouses F: finance G: grants
*Chair CL: Camping Land CP: Creting almshouse project

Clerk to the Trustees: Mrs L S Mills

Principal Address: Needham Market Town Council Office
School Street, NEEDHAM MARKET, Suffolk IP6 8BB

Contact details: Website: nmbwc.onesuffolk.net
Email: nmbwc@btinternet.com
Telephone: 01449 722494

ADVISERS, and their Registered Office

Independent Examiner: C Annis, FCA
LB Group Ipswich
80 Compair Crescent, IPSWICH, Suffolk IP2 0EH

Bankers: TSB Bank plc
Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, EDINBURGH EH2 4LH

Barclays Bank Plc
Business Banking, LEICESTER LE87 2BB

CCLA Investment Management Ltd
One Angel Lane, LONDON EC4R 3AB

Investment Managers: Rathbones Investment Management Ltd - London office
Port of Liverpool Building, Pier Head, LIVERPOOL L3 1NW

J M Finn & Co Ltd - Bury St Edmunds office
25 Copthall Avenue, LONDON EC2R 7AH

Lawyers: Birketts LLP
Providence House, 141-145 Princes Street, IPSWICH, Suffolk IP1 1QJ

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their Annual Report with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Statement of compliance

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) issued in October 2019 and Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from January 2019.

Part 1 – OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES; ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities (the “Charities”) comprise two separate funds registered with the Charity Commission, with common trustees:

1. The Town Lands charity, registered number 217499 (“Town Lands”)
2. The Needham Market and Barking Almshouse Charity, registered number 237432 (“Almshouse”)

Charitable Objects

- *Town Lands*: Trustees shall apply available income for grant-making in the following priority:
 1. To relieve, generally or individually, residents in need, hardship or distress
 2. To provide relief for old age or sickness in the area
 3. To use the balance of income for such charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants as the Trustees think fit
- *Almshouse*: to benefit local residents in need of sheltered accommodation

The area of benefit for both funds is restricted by the 1980 Scheme of the Charity Commission to the town of Needham Market and the parish of Barking in Suffolk. In April 2013, the parish of Darmsden was formed from a revision of the Barking parish boundary; Trustees regard reference to “parish of Barking” in the Scheme document to include the parish of Darmsden.

Public Benefit

Trustees are aware of and have due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and have taken it into account when making any decision. This report demonstrates activities undertaken for public benefit that are beneficial to individual inhabitants or to the community generally.

Objectives

Trustees aim to achieve the Objects by working with individuals and organisations in the local community. Current objectives to achieve those aims are:

- *Town Lands*: to consider applications from individuals and organisations, ensuring individual applicants have received any statutory benefits to which they are entitled.
- *Almshouse*: to liaise with Orwell Housing Association to ensure the charity’s flats have full occupancy, are maintained to a high standard for the comfort & well-being of residents, and ensure occupants have full access to the other facilities within the Drift Court sheltered housing scheme. The charity retains Nomination Rights to their flats.

Activities

Grants approved in the year are summarised in Note 3 to the financial statements.

Ongoing activities

In addition to reviewing grant applications in the year, the Charities provide ongoing activities. These are at the discretion of the Trustees, who review their nature and extent to best utilise the Charities’ available resources.

Ongoing facilities currently comprise:

1. Minibus expenses, in partnership with Town Council and the Community Centre. The minibus provides essential mobility for older residents.
2. Allotments at Quinton Road, Needham Market
3. The historic Camping Land, used as a public recreation and amenity area

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024 – *Part 1 continued*

Achievements and Performance

Town Lands

Trustees assist individuals and groups with hardship grants in a period of continuing cost-of-living issues. This includes on-going support of the local Citizens' Advice Bureau at their Stowmarket office to sign-post help available, plus an additional grant this year to fund walk-in advice at the local Community Centre. Trustees continue to assist with the needs of St John's "Pantry" at the Ark church hall.

Apart from grants to individuals and for on-going facilities, grants made in the year include:

- £5,000 to Needham Market Community Centre, to help replace the broken-down boiler
- £2,000 to St Mary's Church, Barking, to provide wheelchair-friendly access from the car park to main door
- £200 to Needham Market football club, to set up a local "Sporting Memories" group that helps older people with dementia and loneliness
- £57 to Barking Parish Council, to replace defibrillator pads

Almshouse

Trustees remain pro-active to assist existing almshouse residents with any issues that arise during the year, and help to resolve matters for the benefit of all.

With regard to its land in Creting St Mary, the project to build 3 new charity buildings (providing 6 modern units of sheltered accommodation) is nearing completion. A tenant-management partner has been appointed to oversee day-to-day operations. Unlike Drift Court that is restricted to older people, the new Trust Houses will also target younger people in need, and include bungalows designed to be wheelchair-friendly.

Designated funds

The annual budget also puts funds aside for future commitments - see Note 8(a).

Plans for the Future

Although high inflation shows signs of abating, cost-of-living issues are still a major concern. Trustees remain ready to respond to anticipated demand on Town Lands funds from local people suffering from such issues.

It has become increasingly complex over the last decade to administer the allotments. Trustees have decided to wind down their direct involvement in day-to-day allotment operations, which they feel is not their remit.

Post balance sheet event

After some delays in the current year, the project to provide new Trust Houses is now expected to complete after the year-end. Full disclosure of accounting transactions will therefore be made in next year's accounts, together with the re-balancing of Almshouse investment portfolios - see Note 10.

Part 2 – FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Summary

The financial results for the year are shown on pages 9 to 15.

- **Incoming resources £53,983** (2023: £49,410) includes investment income £48,670 (2023: £44,466).
- **Resources expended £40,476** (2023: £45,273) and includes expenditure on charitable activities of £26,994 (2023: £31,833) that incorporates support costs - see Note 3.

Reserves

Trustees aim to spend annual income, subject to a balance between current expenditure and capital growth for future beneficiaries. Whilst Retail Price Index is retained as a benchmark (see Note 9), Trustees monitor several factors to *guide* trustees to possible endowment shortfall in any year, to reduce direct correlation of annual grant-making with economic market swings. Other statistics include a long-term view of large grants in any year with multi-year benefits.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2023 – *Part 2 continued*

Performance

Factors referred to above continue to be broadly positive. Trustees remain confident that future beneficiaries can be serviced on a similar basis to current beneficiaries, and that sufficient funds are available to meet current obligations agreed by the Trustees.

Investments

Trustees delegate investment of financial assets to professional investment managers. Trustees' guidelines include:

- increase funds at least in line with inflation over the long term
- asset allocation subject to a prudent level of risk and the need for diversification
- managers' performance and costs monitored against suitable benchmarks

Town Lands is a traditional endowment that requires income for current grant-making, with capital to grow to provide income for future beneficiaries. Investment Policy provides a balanced return from income *and* capital growth.

Almshouse funds, derived from permanent endowments, includes land and buildings plus funds available for future property. Investment Policy allows flexibility to the fund manager for capital growth *only*, until such time that invested funds are required for capital projects.

Performance

After investment income and management fees, investments of £1.89 million (2023: £1.87 million) reported a £135,277 gain in the year (2023: £130,543 loss). World stock markets reflected a peak in inflation pressures, and therefore an expectation of the interest rate falling, but remained volatile with imminent national elections and the risk of changes to monetary policy.

Trustees take a long-term view of unrealised movements, as stock markets are expected to rise and fall over multi-year periods, typically five to ten-year cycles.

Trustees expect annual income from interest & dividends to rise in the next year. Trustees have sufficient income reserves to ride out any market storm.

Risk Assessment

Trustees examine the strategic, business and operational risks to which the Charities may be exposed, and regularly review all possible risks. They consider the *major* risks arise from:

(a) Operation of a public open space

The area historically known as the Camping Land in Needham Market is regularly maintained. Allotments are overseen by trustees and by members of the local Allotment Holders Association to alleviate issues that arise.

(b) Effects of inflation on income and therefore future grant-making ability

The Reserves strategy attempts to address this concern.

Part 3 – STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The governing document is a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 3 March 1980.

The Charities are managed by a common body of up to eleven persons (the "Trustees") comprising:

- five "Nominative" trustees appointed for up to four years - three nominated by Needham Market Town Council and two nominated by the Parish Council of Barking, and
- six "Co-optative" trustees, who are resident or employed in the area, appointed for up to five years

Vacancies are filled by the trustees and councils, who seek individuals with the skills and experience needed based on personal knowledge or by advertisement in the local press. On appointment, new trustees are given a copy of the Scheme document and the latest Annual Report and financial statements, together with further information such as relevant Charity Commission guidance.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ended 31 March 2024 – *Part 3 continued*

Governance

Trustees appoint their Chairman, and agree the nature and membership of committees, currently: allotments, almshouses, finance, grants, the Camping Land, and development of Creting land. Decisions are made by majority of trustees present at meetings of all Trustees. There shall be at least four such meetings in any year.

Trustees are assisted in their day-to-day duties by the appointment of a Clerk. Trustees appoint professional advisers, as required – see page 3.

Trustees

Trustees who served during the financial year (and to the date of signing the Trustees' report) are shown on page 3, together with current composition of committees. Appointments are normally made at the Charities' Annual Meeting in October; retiring trustees may be re-appointed.

At the annual meeting, Mr Bishop was reappointed to 2028. Three vacancies exist: a Co-optative nominee, and two Barking Parish Council nominees.

Statement Of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the Charities' state of affairs and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charities for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charities and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2018 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charities and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Trustees on 13 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs J R Annis – *Chairman of Trustees*

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees of the Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities on my examination of the Charities' accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 9 to 15.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charities' trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the trustee's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charities as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2018 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: C Annis, FCA

Address: LB Group Ipswich
80 Compair Crescent, IPSWICH, Suffolk IP2 0EH

Date: 16 August 2024

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities
Charity numbers 217499 & 237432

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Total		Town Lands, charity 217499						Almshouse, charity 237432				
2024 £	2023 £		Note	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	2024 £	2023 £	£	Unrestricted £	Endowment £	2024 £	2023 £
		Income and endowments from:										
48,670	44,466	Investment income	1	40,383	-	40,383	37,365		8,287	-	8,287	7,101
5,313	4,944	Charitable activities: income from rents	1	1,372	-	1,372	979		3,941	-	3,941	3,965
53,983	49,410			41,755	-	41,755	38,344		12,228	-	12,228	11,066
		Expenditure on:										
13,482	13,440	Investment management costs	2	-	9,697	9,697	9,735		-	3,785	3,785	3,705
26,994	31,833	Charitable activities	3	26,309	-	26,309	30,888		685	-	685	945
40,476	45,273			26,309	9,697	36,006	40,623		685	3,785	4,470	4,650
13,507	4,137	Net income (expenditure)		15,446	(9,697)	5,749	(2,279)		11,543	(3,785)	7,758	6,416
135,277	(130,543)	Gains (losses) on investments		-	94,825	94,825	(105,407)		-	40,452	40,452	(25,136)
148,784	(126,406)	Net movement in funds for the year		15,446	85,128	100,574	(107,686)		11,543	36,667	48,210	(18,720)
2,451,247	2,577,653	Total funds brought forward	11	275,140	1,395,435	1,670,575	1,778,261		131,096	649,576	780,672	799,392
2,600,031	2,451,247	Total funds carried forward		290,586	1,480,563	1,771,149	1,670,575		142,639	686,243	828,882	780,672

The analysis of Unrestricted and Endowment funds for the prior year is shown in Note 11.

The policies and notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities
Charity numbers 217499 & 237432

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

At 31 March 2024

Total			Town Lands, charity 217499			Almshouse, charity 237432	
2024	2023		Note	2024	2023	2024	2023
£	£			£	£	£	£
431,636	407,855	Fixed assets				422,918	399,137
1,890,678	1,871,674	Property	5, 10	8,718	8,718	345,131	412,198
2,322,314	2,279,529	Investments at market value	6, 10	1,545,547	1,459,476	768,049	811,335
				1,554,265	1,468,194		
		Current assets					
85,886	85,886	Investments	6	85,886	85,886	-	-
3,941	3,941	Debtors - accrued income		-	-	3,941	3,941
-	45,965	* Debtor - due from Almshouse	10	-	45,965	-	-
207,549	93,233	Cash at bank		147,972	81,872	59,577	11,361
297,376	229,025	Total current assets		233,858	213,723	63,518	15,302
		Current liabilities					
(19,659)	(11,342)	Creditors due in less than one year	7	(16,974)	(11,342)	(2,685)	-
-	(45,965)	* Creditor - due to Town Lands	10	-	-	-	(45,965)
277,717	171,718	Net current assets	10	216,884	202,381	60,833	(30,663)
2,600,031	2,451,247	Total assets less current liabilities		1,771,149	1,670,575	828,882	780,672
		Funds of the Charities					
433,225	406,236	Income funds: unrestricted	8	290,586	275,140	142,639	131,096
2,166,806	2,045,011	Endowment funds	8	1,480,563	1,395,435	686,243	649,576
2,600,031	2,451,247			1,771,149	1,670,575	828,882	780,672

The policies and notes on pages 11 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Approved by the Trustees on 13 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs J R Annis – *Chairman of Trustees*

Mr G F Oxenham, FCG – *Chairman, Finance Committee*

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Year ended 31 March 2024

The significant accounting policies used by the Charities, consistently applied unless otherwise stated, are:

Public Benefit Entity

Each charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102: an entity whose primary objective is to provide goods or services to the general public, community or social benefit (rather than provide a financial return to equity providers, shareholders or members).

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value, and presented in sterling which is the Charities' functional currency.

Going Concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis as Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist for each charity. In making their assessment, Trustees consider the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for at least 12 months from authorising these financial statements, and concluded that budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the Charities to continue as going concerns.

Fund structure & Objects

All funds are used for the Charities' Objects.

- Restricted funds, including endowment capital & expendable income, are used by Trustees for purposes specified by donors.
- Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees.
- Designated funds are funds earmarked at the Trustees' discretion for specific projects or reserves.

Income recognition

All incoming resources are recognised in the financial statements as soon as all conditions for receipt have been met, namely: entitlement, probability of timing, and measurement of amount.

Expenditure recognition

Charitable grants and other expenditure are recognised in the financial statements as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. Expenditure on charitable activities includes all overhead and governance costs that are incurred in support of the charitable Objects.

Taxation

No tax charge arises as the Charities are exempt from taxation of income and gains to the extent they are applied to charitable purposes. The Charity is not registered for VAT; irrecoverable VAT is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Freehold Properties

Freehold properties are held for the Charities' use and are stated at nominal or cost value, as appropriate. No depreciation is charged on freehold land; buildings are depreciated only if impairment to their value has occurred. Costs incurred to bring a tangible asset into its intended working condition is included with the property's cost.

Investments

Investments are initially shown at fair value (normally the transaction price including transaction costs) and subsequently measured at their fair (market) value. Changes in value during the year, whether realised or unrealised, are included in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial Instruments

Apart from investments, the Charities only have financial assets and liabilities that are regarded as basic financial instruments, which are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Capital Maintenance

Maintenance of capital is based on financial assets keeping pace with inflation, and the calculated amount compared to present value of assets. Trustees also consider other statistics to determine the level of any required reserves.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 March 2024

1 Income from investments and rents

Investment income arises principally from funds under long-term investment, plus interest received from current asset deposits.

Income from rents includes income from allotments, and ground rents from letting of land and buildings. Ground rent for Drift Court is reviewed every five years; the last review was 2022 effective February 2023.

2 Investment management costs

Investment managers are paid a fee according to the total funds under their management. Their gross fees for the year were £13,482 (2023: £13,440) including VAT. Additional fees arise from transaction charges.

3 Charitable activities

	Town Lands		Almshouse	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Grants approved in the year comprise:				
Grants to individuals in need	850	3,998	685	945
Grants for relief of old age or sickness	4,524	10,119	-	-
Other grants to benefit the community	8,684	6,892	-	-
Total grants approved in the year	14,058	21,009	685	945
Support costs comprise:				
Clerk's salary	10,309	8,453	-	-
Independent examination fee	1,234	1,100	-	-
Legal and professional fees	-	(473)	-	-
Meeting room hire	153	181	-	-
Other expenses	555	618	-	-
Total attributed support costs	12,251	9,879	-	-
Total grants and attributed support costs	26,309	30,888	685	945

The principal grants approved in the year are stated in the Trustees Report.

Support costs include governance costs and are allocated 100% to charitable activities. There were no employees earning more than £60,000 during the year (2023: none).

The movement in Town Lands comprises:	Brought Forward	Under/(over) provisions	Grants approved in the year	Grants paid in the year	Carried Forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants approved not yet paid - Note 7	5,151	-	14,058	(8,913)	10,296

4 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

None of the trustees received remuneration during the year (2023: £nil) and no expenses were claimed or reimbursed during the year (2023: £nil). None of the trustees or members of key management or parties related to them has undertaken any material transactions with the Charities or with connected persons during the year (2023: £nil).

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities
Charity numbers 217499 & 237432

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 March 2024 - *continued*

5	Fixed Assets - property	Town Lands		Almshouse	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
	Land and buildings comprise:				
	Drift Court – land (value of gift)	-	-	130,000	130,000
	Drift Court – 2 buildings (net cost)	-	-	184,181	184,181
				<u>314,181</u>	<u>314,181</u>
	Camping Land – 4 acres	2,400	2,400	-	-
	Land at Quinton Road – allotments	6,318	6,318	-	-
	Land at Creting St Mary – 6 acres	-	-	108,737	84,956
		<u>8,718</u>	<u>8,718</u>	<u>422,918</u>	<u>399,137</u>

The two pre-1860 almshouses had become difficult to maintain and let. With Charity Commission approval, Trustees replaced the original Permanent Endowment capital (land & buildings) in 2007 to build modern almshouses within the Drift Court sheltered housing scheme in Needham Market, in a joint project with Orwell Housing Association. The two buildings, providing a total of four flats, are named in honour of the original benefactors, Alexander and Maws.

Costs of £23,781 (2023: £38,731) associated with improving the Almshouse land at Creting have been added to Fixed Assets - see Note 10 post balance sheet events.

6	Investments at market value	Town Lands		Almshouse	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
	Fixed asset investments comprise:				
	Listed investments at market value				
	Brought forward at beginning of year	1,436,886	1,529,395	409,308	425,000
	Add: additions to investments, at cost	84,243	199,174	7,990	9,444
	Less: disposals at carrying value	(124,884)	(205,765)	(125,599)	-
	Net gains(losses) on revaluation	94,980	(85,918)	37,213	(25,136)
	Carried forward at end of year	1,491,225	1,436,886	328,912	409,308
	Cash held as part of investment portfolio	54,322	22,590	16,219	2,890
	Total investments at market value	<u>1,545,547</u>	<u>1,459,476</u>	<u>345,131</u>	<u>412,198</u>
	comprising:				
	Investments and cash at original cost	1,253,413	1,263,279	172,792	272,908
	Cumulative unrealised investment gains	292,134	196,197	172,339	139,290

Fixed asset investments are stated after transferring out £35,776 (2023: £35,669) generated from interest and dividends received to the Charities' bank accounts to provide funds for grant-making. Additionally, £3,942 (2023: £3,304) was transferred into Almshouse funds, and £115,000 (2023: £nil) transferred out in anticipation of completion of the new buildings - see Note 10 post balance sheet events.

There are no material individual investments; investments in unit trusts are regarded as fully diversified. All listed investments are on a UK-recognised stock exchange.

Current asset investments relate to bank deposits available for use during the year.

7	Creditors	Town Lands		Almshouse	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
		£	£	£	£
	Allotment deposits received	2,350	3,075	-	-
	Grants approved not yet paid - Note 3	10,296	5,151	-	-
	Accruals and deferred income	4,328	3,116	2,685	-
	Amounts falling due within one year	<u>16,974</u>	<u>11,342</u>	<u>2,685</u>	<u>-</u>

Grants for ongoing activities include accrued estimates where final bills are outstanding. There are no other commitments, liabilities or provisions that are not included in these financial statements.

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities
Charity numbers 217499 & 237432

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 March 2024 - *continued*

8(a) Summary of fund movements

	Brought Forward £ '000	Incoming Resources £ '000	Outgoing Resources £ '000	Transfers £ '000	Gains & Losses £ '000	Carried Forward £ '000
Town Lands						
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>						
Designated* - minibus replacement	25	-	-	-	-	25
General funds: undistributed income	250	42	(26)	-	-	266
	275	42	(26)	-	-	291
<i>Endowment funds</i>						
Funds utilised for fixed assets	9	-	-	-	-	9
Unrealised investment gains	196	-	-	-	95	291
General endowment funds	1,190	-	(10)	-	-	1,180
	1,395	-	(10)	-	95	1,481
Total funds: Town Lands	1,670	42	(36)	-	95	1,771
Almshouse						
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>						
Designated* - Drift Court replacement	48	4	-	-	-	52
General funds: undistributed income	83	8	-	-	-	91
	131	12	-	-	-	143
<i>Endowment funds</i>						
Funds utilised for fixed assets	399	-	-	24	-	423
Unrealised investment gains	139	-	-	-	33	172
Designated* - Drift Court replacement	50	-	-	-	-	50
Designated - other capital projects	62	-	(4)	(24)	7	41
	650	-	(4)	-	40	686
Total funds: Almshouse	781	12	(4)	-	40	829
Total charity funds	2,451	54	(40)	-	135	2,600

**Designated funds comprise:*

1. Town Lands

On the basis of ongoing support of the minibus, Trustees have designated £25,000 (2023: £25,000) over 10 years to replace the 2013 minibus.

2. Almshouse

Trustees designate the annual rent to create financial assets to replace the Charities' existing almshouses upon 99-year lease expiry. An initial £50k plus cumulative rent totaling £102k (2023: £98k) are managed in a long-term portfolio with a year-end value of £144k (2023: £125k).

8(b) Summary of net assets by fund

Total funds comprise:	Unrestricted £ '000	Endowment £ '000	2024 £ '000	2023 £ '000
Fixed assets: property	-	432	432	408
Fixed assets: investments	155	1,735	1,890	1,871
Current asset investments	86	-	86	86
Other current assets	212	-	212	143
Current liabilities	(20)	-	(20)	(57)
	433	2,167	2,600	2,451

Needham Market and Barking Welfare Charities
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Year ended 31 March 2024 - *continued*

9 Changes in resources available for charity use

Trustees assess whether long-term capital is sufficient to service future beneficiaries on a similar basis to current beneficiaries. A benchmark is the purchasing power of assets keeping pace with inflation, as measured by Retail Price Index ("RPI"). Although no longer an official UK statistic, the Office for National Statistics still publish RPI as there are many users. Town Lands use RPI based to 1980, the Scheme date; Almshouse funds are based to 2007, when principal endowment assets were crystallised into cash.

	Town Lands (base 1980)		Almshouse (base 2007)	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Estimate of shortfall, if any, using RPI:				
Actual total funds	1,771	1,670	829	781
Calculated RPI estimate of funds	1,964	1,897	647	636
Estimated surplus / (shortfall)	(193)	(227)	182	145
Surplus on calculated estimate	- 10%	- 12%	+ 28%	+ 23%

Market volatility can be $\pm 25\%$ (or more) of the portfolio total, giving rise to Town Lands' volatility of $\pm £376k$ relative to £42k annual income. RPI was previously used as the Reserves benchmark, but stock market fluctuations could restrict grant-making during economic downturns despite an underlying healthy fund. Trustees now assess RPI as one of several factors in reviewing adequacy of Reserves.

10 Post balance sheet event

The Almshouse land at Creeping St Mary is undergoing development to provide 6 new Trust Houses costing £1.68 million, to complement existing Drift Court almshouses. After unforeseen delays, completion is now expected in August 2024. Town Lands provided an interest-free loan to help pay for associated legal & professional fees and avoid breaking an Almshouse investment portfolio in a period of stock market turmoil; this loan was repaid at the year-end. The remaining investment portfolio will be re-balanced on project completion to meet future needs: with a long-term "bricks-and-mortar" Replacement Fund and a shorter-term maintenance Repair Fund.

11 Statement of Financial Activities for the *prior* year

The analysis of Unrestricted and Endowment balances for the prior year are as follows:

	Town Lands, charity 217499			Almshouse, charity 237432		
	Unrestricted	Endowment	2023	Unrestricted	Endowment	2023
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Investment income	37,365	-	37,365	7,101	-	7,101
Charitable activities: income from rents	979	-	979	3,965	-	3,965
	38,344	-	38,344	11,066	-	11,066
Expenditure on:						
Investment management costs	-	9,735	9,735	-	3,705	3,705
Charitable activities	30,888	-	30,888	945	-	945
	30,888	9,735	40,623	945	3,705	4,650
Net income (expenditure)	7,456	(9,735)	(2,279)	10,121	(3,705)	6,416
Gains (losses) on investments	-	(105,407)	(105,407)	-	(25,136)	(25,136)
Net movement in funds for the year	7,456	(115,142)	(107,686)	10,121	(28,841)	(18,720)
Total funds brought forward	267,684	1,510,577	1,778,261	120,975	678,417	799,392
Total funds carried forward	275,140	1,395,435	1,670,575	131,096	649,576	780,672