

BENSTED'S CHARITY

Clerk to the Trustees
Mrs S J Bayford

The Alexander Centre
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Chair's Report 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025

Bensted's Charity exists under its governing instrument, a Charity Commission scheme of 1989, as amended on 9th September 2016 and resolutions of the trustees dated 1st February 2010, 3rd February 2020 and 23rd February 2023. It is an unincorporated trustee body.

The principal charitable objectives are the relief of distressed, sick and poor persons, and for the provision of educational and recreational facilities in the area of benefit, which is the twenty-four parishes east of Teynham within the boundary of the Borough of Swale.

Under the Scheme, there are eleven trustees, comprising two nominated by Kent County Council (KCC) and five by Swale Borough Council (SBC), with a term of office of four years. Four further Trustees are co-opted for a term of office of five years.

Although the nominated Trustees are appointed by KCC and SBC they do not represent or act for these bodies and once appointed they act solely as Trustees administering the Trust Deed in accordance with Charity Law. The Scheme dictates that they must be persons who through residence, occupation, employment or otherwise have special knowledge of the area of benefit.

The management of the Charity is the responsibility of the trustees, who make all decisions regarding the awarding of grants. They meet twice a year to consider applications, with emergency grant meetings if required. Notices inviting applications are sent to parish councils, schools and colleges for internal circulation, together with community organisations. Posts are also

made on local social media and websites. Information about the charity and how to apply, including application forms, can be found on Bensted's website (www.benstedscharity.org.uk).

A part-time clerk is employed to provide administrative services. Trustees meet purely to consider applications and have no contact with applicants. The charity does not require the use of volunteer assistance.

Schroders Personal Wealth continues to manage the Charity's funds and income continues to be maintained. There is regular contact with representatives of the company, and reports are issued to Trustees half yearly before meetings, with trustees monitoring the level of risk of its portfolio. The Charity's accounts are examined annually and end of year statements produced.

During the year funds totalling £28,863 were paid out in grants comprising £12,266 for recreation, £860 for education, and £15,737 for need, with some funds set aside until projects could proceed. Organisations which received grants included Faversham Pools, Faversham Scout Groups, Parish Councils, and Village Halls. Grants totalling £5,341 were awarded to 5 individuals.

Trustees continue to give scrupulous consideration to all applications to ensure the Charity's funds are used appropriately and are of public benefit. Trustees endeavour to only pay grants direct to suppliers or to organisations on receipt of relevant invoices to ensure funds are always used correctly.



Cllr Claire Martin
Chair of Board of Trustees
26th February 2026

Bensted's Charity
Management Balance Sheet
As At 30th June 2025

Registered Number - 287497

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	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Capital		
Investments at Market Value	1,440,727	1,364,755
Income Funds		
Investment Account	33,161	29,697
Cash at Bank & in Hand	1,000	(3,314)
	<u>34,161</u>	<u>26,383</u>
Net Assets	<u>£ 1,474,888</u>	<u>£ 1,391,138</u>
The Funds of the Charity		
Capital		
Investment Values brought forward	1,364,755	1,307,334
Increase in Value in the Year	75,972	57,421
Investment Values carried forward	<u>1,440,727</u>	<u>1,364,755</u>
Income Funds		
Funds brought forward (including Capital Funds of £371)	26,383	32,555
Surplus of Income over Expenditure	7,778	-
or (Expenditure over Income)	<u>-</u>	<u>(6,172)</u>
Funds carried forward (including Capital Funds of £371)	<u>34,161</u>	<u>26,383</u>
Total Funds	<u>£ 1,474,888</u>	<u>£ 1,391,138</u>

	2025	2024
Investment Income		
Investment Income	39,072	42,712
Deposit Account Interest Received	25	29
	<u>39,097</u>	<u>42,741</u>
Payments		
LEI Registration fee	60	60
Administration Costs	776	642
Salaries	1,500	1,500
Advertising & Press Notices	120	120
	<u>2,456</u>	<u>2,322</u>
Net Income	36,641	40,419
Grants made	<u>28,863</u>	<u>46,591</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure or (Expenditure over Income)	7,778	(6,172)
Income Funds - Balance brought forward	32,184	32,184
Income Funds - Balance carried forward	<u>£ 39,962</u>	<u>£ 26,012</u>

Accountant's Report

I am reporting to the Trustees on the Accounts of the Charity for the year ended 30th June 2025, as set out on Pages 1 & 2.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees & the Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of Accounts; you consider that the Audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners, under Section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

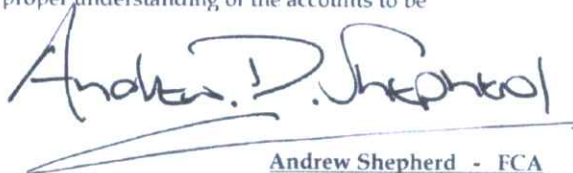
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by an audit, and consequently an audit opinion is not given on these accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - > to keep Accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - > to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Andrew Shepherd - FCA

9th February 2026.

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