

**MRT REPORT 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Dear Catherine

Thank you for reminding me that there is a Parish Council Meeting tomorrow evening, the 11th January 2021, and you would like an update re the Trust to share with the meeting.

Helen, Alastair and I had our first meeting on the 15th June 2020, via Zoom of course. Some progress has been made since then, although less, and more slowly, than we (and I am sure the Parish Council) would have liked.

We have considered the few documents available, and the letter of initial advice from Louisa Saunders of Birketts solicitors. It is of grave concern that there appears to be no file of papers concerning the Trust. We do have a sealed document which shows the Trust was formalised in 1951, and we have a document showing it was registered with the Charity Commission in 1967 and removed (does not operate) in 2009 - this does not mean the Trust has died, but that it is in abeyance. The land was vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands in 1952.

The Parish Council approved funds for the fees for registration of the land. We have contacted the Land Registry and had a discussion about the procedure for registering the land belonging to a Trust, partly to consider if this is something that can be done without the benefit of a solicitor (and hence cost) but we are of the view that for the moment this should remain vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands until we can find out more of what has been happening.

In addition, we have discussed our position; although we were initially asked if we would consider being Trustees, we have considered this further and believe that, at this stage, we should be described as being 'co-opted by the Parish Council to investigate the current position of the Trust', the question of formal investiture of Trustees being dealt with at a later stage.

As you know, we have contacted the Charity Commission in relation to this matter generally and specifically to confirm the position remains the same as shown in the documents we have. There are now online services to re-instate a charity, and as you can imagine lots of detail required, so we are chasing the Charity Commission first to ensure our understanding of the position is correct. I will telephone tomorrow and try to get a better idea of timing if we have anything further to add to this. I will email or call you after that.

Ideally, we would like real progress to be made and to be in a position to advise the Parish Council about the Trust moving forward as soon as possible. However, we feel that these steps are important to complete before further investigation into the use of the land, what has happened to the running of the Trust in the past, and the current position of the land.

Kind Regards

Mary Ketley