

# **Report to Corton Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting 2022 Corton Poor's Land Trust and Corton Almshouse Charity**

## **CORTON POOR'S LAND TRUST**

### **Overview**

This charity was founded as a result of an Enclosure Act in 1813, when a piece of land was made available to provide income to be used for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

In early years the income was used to provide coal for poor people but nowadays this no longer happens and the Trust's income is used in other ways.

The Trust still owns allotments on Church Lane, which are available to rent and it also owns agricultural land. However, part of its land was purchased by the local authority in the early 1970's and council houses were built on what is now Fowlers Crescent.

In 1980, the Charity Commission drew up a new Trust Deed which stated that the income of the Trust should be applied 'in relieving persons resident in the area of the Ancient Parish of Corton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress'.

The Ancient Parish of Corton is a bigger area than the present village. Briefly it consists of the village as it is now, the whole of Long Lane and roads leading off it, Blundeston Road, parts of the east side of the A12 towards Hopton and parts of the coast road towards Hopton. There is even a part of the 'Ancient Parish' on Cliff Lane in Gorleston; this was originally part of the village of Newton, the rest of which has disappeared into the sea.

The Trust is administered by seven Trustees, appointed by the local community and a secretary ('Clerk to the Trustees') who meet monthly to conduct business.

Grants are made each Christmas to needy people and the Trustees also consider cases that are brought to their attention at any time. More recently, the Trust has given grants to students to assist with study costs. Those who receive benefit at Christmas are also entitled to assistance with payment for chiropody treatment. The Trust installs and rents Home Alarm telephone systems on behalf of some needy, elderly people living alone.

### **Annual Report 2022**

The trustees distributed Christmas Benefits to applicants on low incomes who reside in Corton. The amount of the benefit was increased from £100 to £120 given the significant increase in living costs that people are facing. The trustees received one application from a Corton student requesting assistance with her study costs and she was granted the full amount of £200.

There is currently a waiting list for plots at the Church Lane allotments. If you would like to have your name added to the list, please contact the secretary, Claire Boyne, via email [cortonallotments@googlmail.com](mailto:cortonallotments@googlmail.com).

A number of home alarms have been fitted in Corton homes in the past year, with the cost of initial installation and monthly rental being met by the trust.

Peter Armstrong has taken over from Fred Taylor as chair of the two charities. Mr Taylor was an original trustee and has dedicated his time for many years to the smooth running of the charities. He will continue as a trustee until March 2023.

## **CORTON ALMSHOUSE CHARITY**

## **Overview**

When the Corton Poor's Land Trust sold some land to the local authority in the early 1970's, the Trustees found themselves in control of a sizeable sum of money which could be used for the benefit of the community so they decided to build almshouses on their land in Fowlers Crescent.

Corton Almshouse Charity was established by a deed in 1983 and took ownership and management of the original ten bungalows and warden's house that were built in 1982. A further four bungalows were built in 1995 and a further two in 2017.

The Charity's is non-profit making and its primary purpose is to provide almshouse accommodation for poor persons resident in the area described in the Deed.

The Warden visits all residents six days a week and there is a Wardencall system installed in each residence which, in an emergency, gives immediate contact with the warden or, in her absence, the East Suffolk Council Central Control.

Residents pay a weekly maintenance charge which is used to meet the expenses of administration and maintenance.

The Trustees are also the Trustees of the Corton Poor's Land Trust

The almshouses are unfurnished dwellings, specially designed with the needs of older people in mind.

Whenever a vacancy occurs, an advertisement is place in the village newsletter and on the noticeboards – the Charity is not allowed to keep a waiting list as such but keeps all applicants details on file and reviews all applications received at the time of each vacancy.

## **Annual Report 2022**

At the time of writing there is one vacant bungalow. If anybody is interested in applying for a bungalow, please email the secretary, Claire Boyne, at [cortonalmshousecharity@gmail.com](mailto:cortonalmshousecharity@gmail.com) for an application form.

Two new tenants were welcomed to the bungalows during the year.

A new relief warden was appointed in February 2022.

Two boilers required replacement in this year. In January 2022, all of the windows and doors were replaced in the 10 original bungalows, plus the warden's house.

The trustees applied a small, slightly below inflation increase to the Weekly Maintenance Contributions paid by the tenants from 1 April 2022.

A defibrillator was installed on the wall of the warden's property on Fowler's Crescent. This was funded by East Suffolk Councillor Paul Ashdown's Locality Budget and is available for use by the whole village in an emergency.

Claire Boyne  
Secretary  
22 April 2022