

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Trustees of Burton Joyce Old School Trust (“the Trust”), and Southwell & Nottingham Diocesan Board of Finance (SNDBF) as Custodian Trustee, wish to provide responses to the questions raised initially at the public meeting organised on Tuesday 20 June 2023 by Burton Joyce Parish Council, and the variation of them posted on the Parish Council website and local Facebook pages.

Governance

The Trust was registered as a charity (no 1155418) with the Charity Commission for England and Wales in January 2014, having previously operated as an unregistered charity.

The Trust, and its Trustees, are subject to the provisions of the Charities Act and regulated by the Charity Commission. The Trustees take their legal, and moral, responsibilities to steward the resources of the Trust wisely, in accordance with the Trust Scheme (dated 27 January 2012) and their legal obligations.

The Trust’s sole charitable Object, as stated in the Trust Scheme is “to promote the education of persons under the age of 25 who are in need of financial assistance and resident in the area of benefit”. The Trustees are legally obliged to steward the resources of the Trust in pursuance of this objective.

Financial affairs

The funds of the Trust, which slightly exceed £225,000, are held in accounts with financial institutions protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The Trust’s other assets are the freehold titles to the Old School building, leased to the Parish Council on a 125-year lease, and the Carnarvon Rooms.

A summary of the Trust’s income and expenditure is available online from the Charity Commission at [Financial history, BURTON JOYCE OLD SCHOOL TRUST - 1155418, Register of Charities - The Charity Commission](#).

The lease premium paid to the Trust was recognised as income in the Trust’s annual accounts when it was received in 2018, as under UK Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) it was required to be held on the Trust’s balance sheet and recognised as income over the 125-lease term (ie at a rate of £1,800 per year).

Carnarvon Rooms

Historically, it was understood that the beneficial owner of the Carnarvon Room (the “Room”) was Burton Joyce Parochial Church Council (PCC). On this basis the PCC entered into a licence agreement with the Local History Society in 2000 for a fee of £30 per month, which was subsequently increased to £50 per month. This income, together with limited other income from lettings, was used to offset the running costs of the Room.

Having sought legal advice, it was established during 2022 that the beneficial owner of the Room is the Trust.

Future of the Trust

Emerging from Covid, the Trustees sought to more widely advertise the availability of funding to potential beneficiaries to gauge the level of need based on the current charitable Objects. Although additional grants were made, it became apparent there was a clear case to consider potential widening of the current charitable Objects in order to make best use of the Trust’s funds for the benefit of the parishioners of Burton Joyce.

The Trust recently had exploratory discussions with Nottinghamshire Community Foundation, a registered charity, chaired by Paddy Tipping, with experience of working with local charities as they seek to advance and develop their charitable objects. The scope of these initial discussions was to review the Trust's charitable objects, with a view to potentially expanding its scope, and relieving the Vicar and Churchwardens as being the only Trustees by increasing the number of Trustees to be more representative of the village as a whole. These discussions will be progressed shortly, with further information shared when appropriate.

Yours faithfully

Anna Alls, Trustee
Martin Cooper, SNDBF Chief Executive
Jo Foster, Trustee

27 June 2023