

ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
ALMSHOUSE BRANCH  
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 216162

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

KNIGHT BENNETT & CO  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
ALMSHOUSE BRANCH

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

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ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
ALMSHOUSE BRANCH

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019.

**Legal status**

The Almshouse Branch is a charity, registration number 216162.

**Charity Scheme**

The present Scheme was drawn up by the Charity Commission and sealed on 25th November 1982 following on from Schemes dates 6th September 1957 and 4th March 1958. The Cawdor Gardens Trust, Charity Registration No. 216163 was dissolved on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007 and amalgamated with the Almshouse Branch.

**Charitable objects**

The charitable object is the provision of accommodation to the needy via almshouses.

**Organisation and Management**

**Trustees**

The Rector of Ross is traditionally an Ex-officio Trustee and Chairman of the Trustees but the present incumbent has yet to take over the Chair. Mr. Bryan Jones has been appointed Chairman. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 there were three Nominative Trustees in post, two appointed by Ross Town Council, and one by Herefordshire Council and seven Co-optative Trustees. It is hoped to fill the vacancies during the coming year.

The following Trustees served during the year:

Mr. Bryan Jones,  
Co-optative,  
21 Merrivale Lane,  
Ross-on-Wye,  
HR9 5JL.

Mr. Robert Ryan,  
Co-optative,  
26 Court Road,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 7XF.

Mrs. Anne Gray,  
Nominative,  
54 Purlands,  
Ross-on-Wye,  
HR9 5QA.

Mr. N. Gibbs,  
Co-optative,  
83 Duxmere Drive,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 5UP.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

**Trustees**

Mr. Neil Barrington Pascoe,  
Co-optative,  
17 Parsons Croft,  
Hildersley,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 5BN.

Mr. John Williams,  
Co-optative,  
3 Broadleaves,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 7UY.

Canon Freda Davies,  
Ex Officio,  
6 Woodmeadow Road,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 5QG.

Mrs. Jane Roberts,  
Nominative,  
Eddie Cross Street,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 7BZ.

Mr. Dennis Moore,  
Co-optative,  
29 Park Walk,  
Ross-on-Wye.  
HR9 5LW.

**Correspondence**

The contact address for the Trustees is c/o Mrs. B. Hiram, Clerk, Netherton House, Netherton, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7HZ, telephone no. 01989 562060.

**Policies adopted by the Trustees**

In line with the policies adopted by the Trustees of the Almshouse branch of the above scheme, the town's almshouses have continued to be well maintained. It is hoped to carry out refurbishment of further Almshouses as they become vacant. Residents to vacant Almshouses are appointed according to the greatest need and it is interesting to note that in recent years these have been people of a much younger age than previously. The allotments and field for grazing are at present vacant and will eventually be sold.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

**Future policy**

The Trustees will maintain units of accommodation in good repair from year to year. As each unit becomes vacant, a site meeting will be held by the Trustees to determine the upgrade required which can be accorded by the current means available, the main income of the charity being derived from weekly maintenance charge payments. In 2004 the Trustees pursued the possibility of developing a small plot of land adjacent to Webbes Almshouses in Copse Cross Street with a view to providing a further two properties to let at low rentals to needy people. However, this planning application has had to be withdrawn because Welsh Water had placed an embargo on any development in Ross-on-Wye for the time being because of the need for major work on alleviating the flood position in parts of the town.

The Trustees have identified that one of the greatest needs in the town is for housing for couples and young families to be let at reasonable rents. As a result, they have purchased a 3 bedroom house in the town and are endeavouring to sell the land at Cawdor in order to release the necessary capital to enable them to purchase further suitable properties in the town to let to needy people. The land in question has now been included in the proposed Unitary Development Plan for Ross-on-Wye. The railway bridge over the roadway leading to the land was purchased by the Trustees in 2003 for removal and this will give better access and thus facilitate planning permission for development of the land prior to the sale. Part of the old railway embankment was also purchased in 2007.

**Review of the year**

The results for the year set out on page 7 show an excess of income over expenditure of £78,872 (2018 excess expenditure over income of £6,230).

**Investments**

The Charity has investments under the COIF scheme and the National Association of Almshouses Common Investment Fund. Other monies are held in local bank and building society accounts.

**List of property and land**

There are twenty one almshouse dwellings in the town of Ross-on-Wye comprising:

Webbes Almshouses, 1-5 Copse Cross Street

Rudhalls Almshouses, 6-8 Church Street

Pyes & Roberts Almshouses, 36-38 Edde Cross Street

Perrocks Almshouses, top and bottom flats, 2 Old Gloucester Road

Berryfield Villas, 1 and 2 Brookfield Road

Cawdor Gardens, 1-5 Cawdor Gardens

31 Tudor Rise, Tudorville

Field for grazing – to be sold for development

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

**Risk Policy**

The Trustees have reviewed the major risks, both financial and operational, which the charity faces and confirm they have established plans and systems to mitigate those risks.

**Reserve Policy**

The Trustees regularly monitor the charity's reserves to ensure that an adequate level is maintained to meet its stated objectives of the Almshouses.

To this end, the Trustees intend to maximize resources available to the charity by continuing with its policy of prudent resource management.

**Trustee's Responsibilities**

Trustees Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- prepare the financial statements on a 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, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on behalf of the Trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

B. S. Jones  
Chairman

ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
ALMSHOUSE BRANCH

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

This report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, which are set out on pages 7 to 12 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with s.154 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

**Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner**

As Trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144 of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Act.

**Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 154(7)(b) of the Act. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the 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 the Act; and
  - To prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, the attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

David J. Bennett B.A. A.C.A.  
Chartered Accountant,  
Messrs. Knight Bennett & Co.,  
1 Parsons Croft,  
Hildersley,  
Ross-on-Wye,  
Hfds. HR9 5BN.

24th July 2020

ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2019	TOTAL 2018
		£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME RESOURCES</b>					
Incoming resources from generated funds:					
Voluntary income:					
- Donations	2	-	-	-	-
Activities for generating funds	3	-	-	-	-
Investment income	4	1,571	39,999	41,570	(16,279)
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
	5	<u>84,691</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,691</u>	<u>79,240</u>
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<u>86,262</u>	<u>39,999</u>	<u>126,261</u>	<u>62,961</u>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds:					
Fundraising costs of donations					
		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities:					
Direct costs	6	46,559	-	46,559	68,381
Governance costs	6	<u>830</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>830</u>	<u>810</u>
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<u>47,389</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>47,389</u>	<u>69,191</u>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources for the year</b>		38,873	39,999	78,872	(6,230)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Reserves as at 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019		<u>407,452</u>	<u>182,120</u>	<u>589,572</u>	<u>595,802</u>
Reserves as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019		446,325	222,119	668,444	589,572
		=====	=====	=====	=====

The notes on pages 9 to 12 form part of these financial statements.



ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
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BALANCE SHEET  
31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
		<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	7	120,899	120,899
Investment fund	8	<u>262,640</u>	<u>222,161</u>
		383,539	343,060
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Bank current account		129,594	92,058
Bank deposit account		39,443	39,420
NSB deposit account		<u>115,868</u>	<u>115,034</u>
		<u>284,905</u>	<u>246,512</u>
		668,444	589,572
		=====	=====
<b>RESERVES</b>			
Unrestricted reserves	9	446,325	407,452
Restricted reserves	10	<u>222,119</u>	<u>182,120</u>
		668,444	589,572
		=====	=====

The accounts on pages 7 to 12 were approved by the Trustees on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020 and signed on their behalf by:-

B. S. Jones     )  
R. Ryan         ) TRUSTEES  
D. Moore        )

ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
ALMSHOUSE BRANCH

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements were as follows:-

**(a) Basis of accounting**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, accounting standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP) revised in June 2008.

**(b) Incoming resources**

All incoming resources are reported before expenses. Incoming resources represent income generated from the charity's ordinary activities which were continued throughout the year.

**(c) Resources expended**

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities and are accounted for on an accruals basis. Certain expenditure is directly attributable to a specific activity and has been included in those cost categories. Certain other costs, which are attributable to more than one activity, are apportioned across cost categories on the basis of estimated usage.

Direct charitable expenditure comprises of all associated direct costs in pursuance of the charity's objects.

Support costs relate to costs incurred in support of the charity's objects. They include a proportion of attributed overheads.

Management and administration costs include those expenses incurred in connection with the administration of the charity, including compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

**(d) Tangible fixed assets**

The property has been included in the accounts at the historical cost value

**(e) Fixed asset investments**

Investments are shown at market value.

**(f) Fund accounting**

General funds are those funds which can be used in accordance with the charity's objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds are those funds that can only be used for a specific purpose within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for a particular restricted purpose.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2018

2. VOLUNTARY INCOME

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Donations – Bequest	-	-
	=====	=====

3. ACTIVITIES FOR GENERATING FUNDS

Miscellaneous income	-	-
	==	==

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

General:		
UK bank deposit interest	857	549
Dividends	<u>714</u>	<u>696</u>
	1,571	1,245
Restricted:		
Movement in Charity Investment Fund	<u>39,999</u>	<u>(17,524)</u>
	41,570	(16,279)
	=====	=====

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Maintenance charges	84,691	79,240
	=====	=====

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

6. ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Clerk's commission	12,684	12,201
Rates	92	177
Insurance	2,434	2,361
Advertisements	94	22
Subscriptions	-	528
Maintenance, repairs, renewals and refurbishment	20,476	29,031
Legal and professional fees	10,719	23,879
Miscellaneous	<u>60</u>	<u>181</u>
	46,559	68,381
	=====	=====

GOVERNANCE COSTS

Accountancy	830	810
	====	====

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Freehold Property

COST

At 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2019	120,899	120,899
Addition	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	<u>120,899</u>	<u>120,899</u>
	=====	=====

8. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

M. & G. Almshouse Common Investment Fund	249,248	210,365
Charity Income Fund	<u>13,392</u>	<u>13,210</u>
	262,640	222,161
	=====	=====

The Trust holds 2,608 shares in the Almshouse Common Investment Fund which is shown at the value provided by M. & G. on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 of 9555.66 pence per share. £480 was invested into the scheme this year.

The Trust holds 14,819 shares in the M & G NAA Common Investment Fund which is shown at the value provided on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 of 90.37 pence per share.

ROSS CHARITY TRUSTEES  
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2019

9. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Brought forward	407,452	396,158
Excess of income over expenditure	<u>35,873</u>	<u>11,294</u>
	446,325	407,452
	=====	=====

10 RESTRICTED FUNDS

Balance brought forward	182,120	199,644
(Decrease)/increase in accumulated fund	<u>39,999</u>	<u>(17,524)</u>
Balance carried forward	222,119	182,120
	=====	=====