

THE LANGFORD CHARITY

The Langford Charity is an amalgam of a number of four small village charities, all which had slightly different purposes. These charities were combined by the Charities Commission into the single Langford Charity in 1993.

The Langford Charity is managed by a board of trustees comprising four persons who are resident in the village. The role of the board of trustees is:

- To determine the remit of the charity and to agree and publish the criteria by which any awards will be made
- To encourage appropriate applications for awards and to manage the process for assessing applications according to the agreed criteria
- To exercise strategic oversight of the charity in terms of its longer term financial health

Remit of the charity

According to the Charity Commission website:

- Aims and activities: "In relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the area of benefit who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress, by making grants of money or providing or paying for such items, services or facilities calculated to reduce the need, hardship or distress of such persons".
- What the charity does: "general charitable purposes; education/training; the advancement of health or saving of lives; the prevention or relief of poverty; accommodation/housing".
- Who the charity helps: "children/young people; elderly/old people; people with disabilities; the general public/mankind".
- How the charity works: "makes grants to individuals; makes grants to organisations".

As interpreted by the trustees, the purpose of the charity is offer financial support, where there is a clear need, to individuals or families who are resident in Langford, or who have a strong and continuing connection with the village.

Criteria for the award of financial support

The trustees are able to consider offering financial support where the applicant individual or family is deserving of support in relation to one or more of the needs outlined below:

- Medical conditions
- Educational needs
- Training opportunities to gain employment
- Situations where financial support would alleviate hardship

Charity management considerations

The trustees will meet formally at least twice each year, and may meet informally on other occasions if there is a need to consider an application for financial support that is time limited.

The current board of trustees comprises: Kay Lane, Michael Schultz (Clerk and Treasurer), Mark Harris, Richard Kemp (Chairman). As and when a trustee steps down it is the responsibility of the board to co-opt a suitable replacement. Where possible the board will aim to ensure that at least one of its members is also a Parish Councillor.

Applications for financial support may be made at any time, and should be made in writing to any one of the trustees.

The Charity's main physical asset (and only regular source of income) is the allotments field on the Broughton Poggs Road, where there are currently around 40 allotments rented annually by parishioners, people with a Langford connection, or those living in nearby settlements. The management of the allotments is carried out by Andrew Clemons, on a voluntary basis, on behalf of the Charity; Andrew attends Charity trustee meetings.

While the charity has accumulated a modest balance over the years, the income of the charity is strictly limited. Unless there are unusual circumstances the trustees will not make awards in any one year worth more than three times the charity's annual income at the time.

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