

CottenhamCharities



Trustee Information

Cottenham Charities is an independent local charity serving the community living in the parish of Cottenham in the District of South Cambridgeshire. The charity is registered with the Charity Commission (Charity number 200586) and is a member of the Almshouse Association.

The charity supports individuals, families and organisations in financial need by

- Providing almshouse accommodation at an affordable cost
- Providing grants for household and disability items
- Helping people expand their opportunities through education and training grants
- Supporting community organisations with specific funding to reduce need, hardship or distress

The charity is formed of two working charities

John Moreton Almshouse Charity

The Charity owns and manages 7 residential properties at 25-39 Rampton Road, Cottenham.

Cottenham United Charities

The Charity owns and manages the allotments on Rampton Road, Cottenham.

Management

The management of Cottenham Charities is the responsibility of the Trustees who are elected and co-opted under the terms of the Charity Commission Scheme dated 11th February 1970.

There are 9 Trustees including three Officers – the Chairman, the Secretary (who deals with the day-day administration of the Charity) and the Treasurer (who deals with the Charity's financial matters). All posts are voluntary -

- Ex-officio – Rector of the Parish of All Saints Cottenham
- Nominative Trustees - 3 Trustees appointed by Cottenham Parish Council (4-year term); may be, but need not be, a member of the Parish Council
- Co-opted Trustees – 5 Trustees (5-year term); persons residing or carrying on business in or near Cottenham

The main business of the Charity and policy decisions are dealt with at biannual Trustee meetings held in June and December. Other meetings may be called during the year as and when necessary.

The day-to-day activity of the Charity covers:

- Almshouses – overseeing the ongoing operation, management and maintenance of the 7 almshouse properties on Rampton Road, Cottenham which are Grade II listed
- Resident Welfare – overseeing the welfare of the almshouse residents by visiting monthly or as required
- Finance – revenue income and expenditure management and investment monitoring
- Allotments – overseeing the management and operation of the allotments on Rampton Road
- Grants – considering direct / referred applications for support with household and/or disability items

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How does the Charity generate its income?

The Charity is dependent on the income raised from almshouse weekly maintenance contributions, investment dividends and annual allotment rental fees.

The Charity does not specifically fundraise but may receive voluntary donations from other organisations and individuals.

What does Cottenham Charities use its income for?

- the operation, maintenance and repair of the almshouses on Rampton Road, Cottenham.
- the maintenance of the allotments on Rampton Road, Cottenham.

After meeting these commitments the greatest expenditure is the provision of grants for household and disability items.

In 2026 the Charity has provided grants for furniture (sofas, beds and bedding, curtains), flooring, white goods, decorating, new baby items and travel costs in order to provide practical support to individuals and families on low income.

Additionally, at Christmas, the Charity, in conjunction with the Fitzwilliam Charity, helped over 120 individuals and families on low income with financial assistance.

History

John Moreton Almshouse Charity

By deed dated 1671, John Moreton conveyed to Doctor John Pepys and others of Cottenham half the rental income of houses in Holborn London for poor relief and for apprenticing in the village.

Later two sets of almshouses were supported. *Moreton's Almshouses*, a set of seven houses in Church End, was built in 1816. By the 1960s these had fallen vacant and were demolished. The other set was known as *Little London*, built on Townlands, Rampton Road and in 1837 consisted of four tenements with gardens. After the sale of the Townlands in 1853 to the Trustees of Moreton's Charity for £60, seven dwellings with their prominent pointed windowed 'Chapel' were built on their present site. These almshouses are still in use and were significantly refurbished in 2007.

Cottenham United Charities

Cottenham United Charities was formed in 1970 by the amalgamation of four separate charities

- The Town Lands Charity
This charity was established in 1664 with an endowment of five and a half acres. In 1853 the land was sold to Moreton's Charity and the income spent on poor relief.
- Thomas Maulden's Charity
By a deed of 1713 Thomas Maulden gave land and a common right for which 16 acres were allotted under the 1847 Enclosure Act. Today all that remains of the land are the Allotments on Rampton Road.
- Catherine Pepys Charity
- Thomas Ridge Charity



Why become a Trustee

Cottenham Charities has been supporting the local community for more than 350 years. We celebrated our 350th anniversary in 2021. Working with the Charity by donating your skills and time as a Trustee can be a stimulating, rewarding and worthwhile experience.

The time needed to support the work of the Charity varies but Trustees generally commit a few hours a month and some months are busier than others. The Trustees meet twice a year in June and December. The meetings are usually held on a Friday at 9am at Franklin Gardens Community Room, with other necessary business being conducted during the year either in person or by email and/or telephone. Other meetings may be called during the year as and when necessary.

Trustees are unpaid and there is no provision for travelling expenses but out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed.

Trustees Responsibilities and Skills

Trustees main responsibilities are:

- To ensure that the Charity is carrying out its purpose for the public benefit
- To comply with the Charity's governing document and the law
- To act in the Charity's best interests
- To manage the Charity's resources responsibly
- To act with reasonable care, skill and diligence
- To ensure that the Charity is accountable

We currently have a vacancy for two new Trustees. A background in, or some knowledge of, housing management/maintenance, social care / the welfare system or finance would be particularly useful but we would welcome applicants with expertise in any area that will aid us in the management of the Charity.

Applicants must be eligible to serve as a Trustee as defined by the criteria required by the Charity's governing document and must be able to fulfil the requirement to be a Trustee through residence or carrying on business in or near Cottenham.

Trustees should have the ability to contribute wisely in Trustee meetings, to co-operate well with other Trustees and to show absolute probity and discretion. Trustees and their immediate families must normally have no pecuniary interest in the supply of work or goods to the Charity and must be eligible to serve as Trustees under the terms of the Charities Act.

We hope that you are interested in becoming one of our Trustees. Please apply by completing and submitting the online Trustee application form.

If you would like to discuss the role informally please contact

Bob Turner, Secretary, on 01954 250082 – until 6 October

Malcolm Dee, Chairman, on 01954 250387 – from 7 October