

MARSH GIBBON CHARITIES

❖ The Hine Trust ❖ The Unknown Donors Charity ❖ Marsh Gibbon Tenderland Charity

Report by the Secretary to the Marsh Gibbon Charities to Year ended 31 December 2020 for presentation to the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting

I present this report on the Marsh Gibbon Village Charities for the year ending 31 December 2020. There are three village charities being

1. The Unknown Donors Charity

The assets of this Charity comprise a five acre parcel of land situated at Hill Farm, Piddington which is currently let on a full agricultural tenancy under the Agricultural Holdings Act 1976, to Mr G Burchell. The rent was increased to £345 per annum with effect from 29th September 2016 and a decision to leave the rent unchanged for the time being was taken in September 2019.

The proceeds of this Charity are put towards the educational benefit of Marsh Gibbon parishioners, typically in the form of bequests for the purchase of books and resources for Further Education students. The amount distributed annually depends upon requests received but would not normally exceed income or accumulated income.

2. The Tenderland Charity

The assets of this Charity comprise a 10 acre field known as the Tenderland situated at Heet Road, Marsh Gibbon. The Tenderland was traditionally let annually by tender under a Profit of Pasturage for the period 25th March to the 31st October in any one year but a change in Grant aid rules under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with effect from 31st August 2012 led to a significant reduction in payments received from the EU.

This left the Trustees in a difficult position and they had to consider three options open to them. They unanimously agreed to let out the Tenderland on a five-year Farm Business Tenancy, which would enable an arrangement with the new tenant to be able to claim the CAP support Payments and also allow the possibility to renew all fencing during the course of the tenancy.

Following a Tender procedure, the Trustees agreed on a Farm Business Tenancy in favour of Mr E Burborough, a well respected local farmer. A term was agreed running from 1st May 2015 to the 31st October 2019. In September 2019 the parties agreed that the tenancy would holdover until either party decided to terminate. A rent of £1000 per annum is currently being paid.

The proceeds from this Charity are for the benefit of the poor within the Parish of Marsh Gibbon and typically the Trustees try to distribute the amount of income received annually from rental income.

For 2020 the Trustees decided that bequests would be made for three deserving individuals within the Parish in the form of £100 "Christmas Gifts" for two people and an exceptional payment for the purchase and installation of a washing machine for the third.

Hine Trust Reg. Charity No. 261658 Unknown Donor Reg. Charity No 202148

MG Tenderland Charity Reg. Charity No. 202149

Clerk to the Trustees: Lynne Jones, Clementine, Clements Lane, Marsh Gibbon, Bicester OX27 0HG

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3. The Hine Memorial Trust:

The Hine Memorial Trust is a private Charity, the assets of which comprise 4,608.75 units invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF).

The proceeds of this Charity are used for the benefit of the Parish of Marsh Gibbon as follows:-

- One third to the poor of the Parish
- One third to recreational facilities within the Parish, and
- One third to St Mary's Church, Marsh Gibbon

Under the terms of the Charity, the Trustees are able to distribute the annual income and are actively encouraged by the Charity Commission to distribute an element of accumulated income where appropriate.

4. Financial Reports

Barclay's Bank Account

The Correspondent to the Charities, Mr C A Anstey, moved out of the area in autumn 2020. As a result, the Trustees attempted to change the bank mandates at Barclay's Bank to allow a smooth transition between the signatories and the new Secretary to the Charities, Mrs Lynne Jones.

Unfortunately, due to some inexplicable errors at the Bank, the amendments were rejected until the Bank authorities had re-established the correct paperwork for their records, effectively setting up new accounts. This has resulted in the accounts being inaccessible to any of the Trustees or the Secretary, and is still not finalised.

A formal complaint has been made and the Trustees are very concerned that there has been a catalogue of inefficiencies and mistakes at the Bank that has resulted in the original request and subsequent problems being exacerbated. There was no possibility to change banks since the accounts were frozen and the only course of action has been to continue with the very lengthy process that the Bank has in place.

At today's date, I am assured that the necessary papers are now in place and that the accounts will soon be available.

The Charities Commission has been notified of the situation and been very helpful and understanding in the circumstances.

This sorry state of affairs means that it is not possible to provide financial reports for the Parish Meeting.

Signed: *Lynne Jones*

Date: 16 May 2021

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