**Kettlestone Charities Trusts**

**Annual Report 2017 – 2018**

*1. Trustee Body*

There were no changes to the Trustee Body membership, or the Clerk to the Trustees.

*2. Almshouses Charity* *(Registration number 810337)*

The weekly maintenance contributions for both Almshouses were subject to the usual annual review and the amounts were agreed, within the national guidelines.

*a) Schuldham Almshouse, 80 The Street, Kettlestone*

\* The boundary hedge between the Almshouse garden and Village Hall car park had become overgrown and dilapidated. The Village Hall Management Committee and Almshouse Trustees agreed to share the cost of replacing the hedge with a new, low-maintenance fence. This comprised wooden panels slotted into concrete posts, with gravel boards at the base. To comply with the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and to minimise disruption to wildlife, the fencing work was scheduled for early February. No hazardous waste was found; and a skip was used to dispose of non-combustible material. However, both charities are grateful to the local resident who generously offered his bonfire to burn the huge amount of combustible waste removed from the hedge.

\* A two-way light switching was installed to provide dual controls for the staircase.

\* The bathroom waste pipe was replaced and the drain cleared.

*b) Kettlestone Almshouse, 114-116 The Street, Kettlestone*

\* A light tunnel was installed to improve lighting in the open plan kitchen/living area. The result was amazing with a significant improvement in the level and quality of natural light *(both sun and moon).*

\* A pest controller was called to remove vermin from the roof space.

*3. Other Charities* *(Joint Registration number 206079)*

As is usual practice, the Trustees gave consideration to the provision of grants for those in need, as defined within the terms of the Charity Trust’s aims and objectives; and in the Scheme issued by the Charity Commission.

*a) Education Grant* The Trustees did not receive any applications.

*b) Fuel Allotment / Heating Cost Grant*: No grant applications were received this year.

*c) Discretionary Grant*: No awards made during the period.

*4. Finance*

The Almshouses Charity pays an annual membership subscription to the National Almshouse Association (NAA). It also repays to the NAA the interest-free loan that was granted in 2010 to refurbish 114-116 The Street.

Both sets of Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2018 were agreed for presentation to Kettlestone Parish Council for information. The Almshouses Charity’s Accounts are sent to the NAA as required in the 2010 loan agreement.

*5. General*

Earlier this year the NAA met with officials from the recently created Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to discuss the future of supported housing. It was immensely encouraging to hear there is now a good understanding by government of the contribution made my almshouse charities to the affordable housing mix. Also and importantly, a recognition by government of almshouses’ special legal status under Charity Law; not under the Rent Act.

The Trustees fulfil their regulatory commitments by filing an annual return to the Charity Commission, which includes details of Trustee body membership and income and expenditure totals for the year.

The Chair wishes to thank her fellow Trustees for their ongoing support and commitment to uphold the objects of these Charities Trusts. In turn the Trustees wish to thank their Clerk for her valuable contribution towards the effective operation and administration of these Charities.

*Anna Long*

*Chair, Kettlestone Charities Trustees*

*7 May 2018*