

Charity for The Benefit of Inhabitant Householders of Parish of Middleham (the 'Charity') Charity registration number: 506048

The Council as sole Trustee of the charitable trust wishes to ensure that all the Town's residents are aware of this charity, how it started and what it does. We hope that the following will explain its aims and management.

Origins and Status

By means of a conveyance (a legal agreement transferring land and other assets) dated 24 November 1925, certain 'manorial lands' were transferred to a charity known as the 'Charity for The Benefit of Inhabitant Householders of Parish of Middleham'. This conveyance is the founding or constitutional document that sets out the charity's purpose and will be called a 'Trust Deed' in this article.

The charity was first registered at the Charity Commission on 21 February 1977 and a copy of its certificate of registration is shown here [\[insert link\]](#). If you wish to look at the details shown on the public register of the Charity Commission, they may be viewed here [\[insert link\]](#).

Aims of the charity – and who benefits?

The Trust Deed gives a description of the purposes for which the charitable income may be used: it's very simple – "to the use of the Council and their assigns forever in fee simple Upon Trust for the benefit of the inhabitant householders of the Parish of Middleham". (Subsequently the Parish became a town, however this made no difference to the charity or its purpose.) In its role as the sole charity trustee, the Council needs to be satisfied that the expenditure will benefit the inhabitants of the Parish. It is a wide ranging power but the Council must do as the Trust Deed directs and cannot apply the charitable funds for anything other than the benefit of the inhabitants of Middleham.

Over recent years, charity income has generally been used to maintain the town: for example the costs of cutting grass, hedges and tree maintenance have been covered by the charity.

What are the Charity's assets?

The charity owns the following:

- The Low and High Moors
- 12 Acres
- Western Willows
- Lowlands 40 Acres
- The Busks
- Some, but not all, of the cobbled areas known as the 'Town Wastes'

The Playing fields are not part of the manorial grounds and are owned directly by the Council and leased to MSCWA.

Management

The conveyance does not specify how the charity should be managed. In managing the charity, as sole Trustee the Council observes the following:

- It holds separate meetings when meeting as Trustee. Unlike Council meetings, the public do not have a right to attend the charity meetings or access minutes and agendas although in practice any residents present are allowed to remain in the meeting room. Councillors

however believe that it is preferable that residents can see how the charity operates and, except where confidential matters might be discussed, copies of minutes and agendas may be viewed here [insert link]

- There is a separate bank account and bookkeeping.

The charity needs to be independent of the Town Council in the sense that decisions about the administration and operation of the charity need to be taken solely in the interests of the charity, with a view to furthering its charitable purposes, and for no other purpose.

The work of the Trustee is supported by the Town Clerk whose principal role is to convene meetings by circulating an agenda, taking minutes, bookkeeping and accounting and providing advice and guidance to the Trustee. The Charity pays 50% of the costs of employing the Clerk and running the Council's office.

What is the Charity's income?

The main income accrues from the lease of the Low and High Moors to the Middleham Trainers Association. Details of all land holdings are shown here: [insert link]

Grant Applications

Most years the income is largely spend on land maintenance. The Trustee intends to develop a grant making policy to formalise how other moneys are spent.

Fundraising

The trustee can apply for grant funding separately from the Town Council.