

Chairman's Report for the year ended 31st January 2016

I am pleased to report on our first year as a registered charitable incorporated organisation ("CIO"). We finally achieved registration on 7 February 2015 with Registered Charity Number 1160279.

As the Treasurer's report will show, we enjoy a strong financial position thanks to the wonderful support of the 100 Club, Rok the Stones and donations during the year.

Behind the scenes, Trustees have developed policies necessary for the effective running of a charity such as ours. These cover areas such as Grant Making, Gift Acceptance and Reserves all of which can be viewed on the PPSCT website

I am delighted to be able to say that we have already made a significant difference to a number of the key charities and other public benefit organisations in our home parishes of Publow with Pensford, and Stanton Drew through the financial grants we have made.

Grants

Through the last 12 months we have made 4 grants:

- Pensford Tennis Club received £3000 towards the £14000 cost of refurbishing two courts to secure the longevity of its service for the residents of both parishes. Pensford School take advantage of the coaching at the Club and Stanton Drew School is also aware of the availability of this extra-curricular opportunity.
- Stanton Drew Pre School received £1000 towards the training and certification of two staff members with first aid training, the purchase of wet weather play wear which would always be available for use, and also funds towards the upkeep of the outdoor storage shed.
- Pensford Memorial Hall received £2500 to supplement fundraising to white line the car park, some improvement to the sports facility, and purchase of items such as water heater, urn, microwave, cooler and fridge.
- Pensford School was awarded £2110.52 to replace a class reading scheme, host a whole day robot coding workshop and purchase a desktop computer.

I am pleased to report that we have a substantial number of pending or potential grant applications, underlining our expectation that once our communities understand that grant money is available, strong applications come forward.

There are some significant and very worthwhile projects in hand involving two key facilities, Stanton Drew Primary School and the Stanton Drew Sports Field Association. The latter is for new changing facilities at the playing field on Bromley Road, long overdue for some investment. The PPSCT is hoping to provide a strand of funding for each.

Fund Raising

The 100 Club anchors the Trust's fundraising and I continue to be amazed by the level of support from such small villages. The monthly draw meetings are well attended and now play a fun role in our community life, providing a worthwhile reason to meet up and socialise.

The Club has seen full membership for the entire year with the exception of 2 months when there were 99 members. I understand that membership is now once again back up to 100 members. The Committee of Clarke, Phil, Sue and Ken work relentlessly to maintain the spirit of the Club and continue to lift its profile. The members should be very proud of what they have formed in coming together to help support and improve our community whilst encouraging a sense of togetherness and caring. Long may we continue to have fun and make a difference.

My gratitude and admiration goes to Simon Whittle and Judith Chubb Whittle and the team of residents who organised and hosted the hugely successful Rok the Stones Marathon, which has grown in popularity and profile from its very successful launch last year. Simon and Judith will want me to echo their thanks for the massive support from residents who gave their time to marshall, host, cater, clean, tow cars out of mud and organise PR and photographic records for all the local papers - keep your eye out for the next issue of the CVG, Mendip Times and Somerset Guardian. It was a huge community effort which attracted national runners to this beautiful part of the world. We all hope that Rok the Stones will continue to grow and bring both publicity for our communities and funds for our charity. A brilliant effort and a job very well done.

During the year some of the Stanton Wick Action Group underwriters donated their final loan settlements to PPSCT under Gift Aid. These donations amounted to an additional £1700 which will increase by 25% once Gift Aid has been collected. I would like to thank these underwriters for their most generous gesture. They wish to remain anonymous, but you know who you are.

I would like to welcome the first 2 direct members as "friends" of the PPSCT and extend our thanks for the donations we received from residents at the Pensford Dog show and the Stanton Drew Flower Show.

Finances

Ken Payne's report is separately submitted. This shows a very healthy balance of funds which may become near fully allocated with the projects before us.

I am grateful to Mark Finn, our Reporting Accountant for his prompt response and expertise in signing off the year end accounts and I ask members to support Mark's reappointment.

Thank You

It would be remiss of me not to pay tribute to the sheer hard work of your Trustees, all of whom have contributed to the development of our charity. It is invidious to pick out individuals but Sue Osborne is tireless in supporting me and the other trustees and ensuring that I do all that I should as your Chairman. I should also thank Ken Payne for his quiet efficiency as your Treasurer

I must also thank Liz Richardson for her work on our excellent website.

Finally, thank you all for your time, money, enthusiasm and support. It is a privilege to be the Chairman of this great community charity.

Andrew Hillman

Chairman of Pensford Publow and the Stanton's Community Trust.
16th February 2016