

Pensford, Publow and The Stanton Community Trust

Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (“CIO”) No. 1160279

Chairman’s Report for the year ended 31st January 2019

I am pleased to report on our fourth year since incorporation. We have continued to support some very worthwhile projects and causes. Your Trustees believe that the Trust is now embedded as a key part of the lives of the two villages. The members themselves are a real force and the grants we are able to make are having a significant impact in a wide variety of ways. It is pleasing to note that in the year we made the highest number of grants yet. With the pipeline of committed funds and projects under active consideration, we are seeing a quickening pace of activity with more local organisations benefitting.

2018 saw the fiftieth anniversary of the great floods in the Chew Valley of July 1968. It was very uplifting to see our villagers coming together to put on some moving exhibitions of photographs and memorabilia, together with village gatherings, over an ironically beautiful weekend. The Trust was able to play its part by funding the production of an excellent illustrated book. It is very pleasing to report that sales of the book have been such that our funding has been repaid since the year end, providing an example of our ability to facilitate important projects that would not happen without our financial firepower.

Grants

Grants actually paid in the year were as follows:

• Stanton Drew church	tower maintenance	£1,000
• Stanton Drew church	installation of a new bell	£1,500
• Publow church	belltower renovation works	£4,000
• Pensford Local History Group	illustrated walks booklets	£1,100
• First Response	emergency equipment	£1,250
• Stanton Drew	litter posters	£68
• Pensford School	subscription to “The Week”	£193
• Pensford Local History Group	Flood History books	£1,212
• Stanton Drew W.I.	centenary tapestry project	£430

Grants approved but not paid by 31 January 2019:

- Improvements to sports facilities at Pensford School (likely to be summer 2019, following implementation problems)
- Two further finger posts in Pensford
- Stanton Drew W.I. – further grant towards their centenary project
- Pensford School – subscription to “Philosophy for Children”

Pending projects:

Your Trustees are presently considering the following projects:

- St Thomas Becket Tower, Pensford – safety rails to enable re-opening of the tower roof to visitors
- Pensford Memorial Hall – additions to children's playground
- Pensford Memorial Hall – improvements to sports changing facilities
- Stanton Drew – finger posts (there are four in the parish)
- Pensford – the final two finger posts (subject to other funding)

Finances

Our Balance Sheet appears to show a very healthy balance in hand at 31st January 2019. However, your Trustees do not regard this as excessive given that, should all these projects come to fruition, they would absorb our currently available funding, taking account of our Reserves Policy.

In the year we benefitted from a full distribution from the 100 Club of £13,000. We also received a donation following a very successful fundraising event in Stanton Drew on experiences from the Falklands conflict, thanks to the personal efforts of Trustees and a catering team led by Judith Chubb Whittle.

The support of the 100 Club is core to our work and Trustees are hugely grateful to members for their continued belief in what we are doing.

Trustees

Your Trustees have met four times during the year and I am grateful for their interest, hard work and commitment to the Trust. We welcomed Simon Whittle to our number following his election at the last AGM. In particular, our Treasurer, Ken Payne, and Sue Osborne, our unofficial Secretary, ensure the smooth running of our affairs. Liz Richardson keeps our very important website www.ppsct.org.uk up to date and relevant. I am also grateful to Mark Finn, our Reporting Accountant.

Finally, thank you, our members, for the time, money, enthusiasm and support you show to this terrific local charity.

Andrew Hillman
March 2019