

FULL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 6 December 2021
Title: Witney Town Charity Trustees
Contact Officer: Town Clerk - Sharon Groth

Background

The charitable objectives of the Witney Town Charity are:

1. The provision and maintenance of Almshouses for poor persons
2. The relief of poor persons in conditions of need, hardship or distress.

It operates 18 Almshouses and also provides grants for those in need.

Within its constitution it allows for 6 Witney Town Councillors to be on the Trust as nominated Trustees. Attached is correspondence from the Chair of the Trustees requesting that the Council considers an amendment to the constitution and reasons for this.

Current Situation

The current nominated trustees from Witney Town Council are as follows:

A McMahon	November 2021
C Woodward	February 2022
J S King	October 2022
L Ashbourne	June 2024
M Jones	June 2024
J Aitman	June 2025

Cllr A McMahon's term of office has expired – in light of the communication from the Chair of Trustees, the Council is asked to agree that the Charity co-opts someone with relevant experience to meet the needs of the Charity, rather than reappointing Cllr McMahon or an alternative Councillor.

With regard to former Councillor Chris Woodward, the Clerk to the Trustees has indicated that they would be keen to retain Chris because he is the Nominated Person in respect of the Charity's Health & Safety Policy given his extensive knowledge of H&S and facilities management.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

There are no financial implications relevant to the contents of this report

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and

1. consider the request from the Chair of the Witney Town Charity to reduce the number of Town Council nominated trustees from 6 to 4 for it to have greater control over serving trustees who can fulfil particular skill sets (H&S, Legal, Property etc) required for the smooth operation of the Charity.
2. in any case, in the first instance, to agree the continuation of Chris Woodward as Nominated Trustee.
3. dependant on the resolution at item 1 – to agree to the Charity suggesting an appropriately qualified person to be co-opted.