

The Melton Trust

Charity Number 212286

Annual Report

For the year ending 31st December 2020

Contact details:

‰ Melton Parish Council 17 Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Suffolk IP12 1QT
meltontrust.suffolk@googlemail.com

The Melton Trust

(Charity Number 212286)

Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2020

Review of the Year

The Melton Trust has had quite a difficult year due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, yet we have managed to meet all applications received to date and distribute funds or make capital purchases for applicants thus meeting the Trust's obligations under the Trust Deed, which originated in 1897 and sets the framework in which we operate..

However, we were expecting a much higher uptake in applications particularly due to the shutdown period. As government support has been made on an unprecedented basis we believe that the pressure will more likely come in the New Year once the furlough scheme is terminated and job losses become prevalent.

The financial standing of The Trust still remains robust and the investment profile whilst taking a reduction in value in the early lock down period has gradually recovered and is now in a more favourable position. The Trust's endowment is invested in funds operated by CCLA, one of the UK's largest charity fund managers, designed to deliver a mix of capital growth and income. This has helped us, over time, to maintain a regular income and the benefits of stock market growth.

Our income from funds(end Q3) amounted to £12,218. Grants made were £9,530., of this 11 grants totaling £5,580 were made to individuals and grants totaling £3,950 were made to Melton Primary School (MPS) and the Salvation Army food parcels in Melton. A number of the individual applicants were referred to DAS for further additional help as well as CAB where help was requested to manage debt recovery.

Whilst The Trust has been successful in distributing its income it remains difficult to get individuals to approach the Trust despite parts of Melton scoring highly on the government's indices of deprivation. It is also ever more difficult in many cases for the Trust to deal directly with individuals because of all the surrounding legislation, data protection and personal safeguarding requirements when dealing with vulnerable people.

The Trust Deed embeds a close relationship with the Church, through the Rector of St Andrews being an ex-officio trustee, Melton Parish Council, through two trustees being nominated by the Council, and the wider community, through three co-opted trustees. The Trust recognises the importance of building relationships as a way of making contact with families in need and the support given to Melton Primary School has provided a very useful gateway to accessing families in need who would otherwise not necessarily approach the Trust for help. In recent years we have also been building relationships with DAS and CAB which has added an additional network of help and support. Links have also been opened up with The Rope Trust with a view to forming further links and cooperation. This had been deferred till after Covid -19 restrictions are lifted. It is hoped that these links will increase the applications to the Trust.

In 2021, we hope to build a wider network of relationships with organisations with charitable objectives.

As reported last year In order to capitalise on this approach The Board of Trustees decided on a more structured approach for 2020 but because of the Covid restrictions much of the setup work has been deferred to 2021 The strategies to be trailed in 2021 include

- *Be responsive to requests for support whilst respecting social distancing and self-isolation guidance*
- *Try as best as we can to meet the requirements of Trust Deed and Charity Commission Guidance whilst recognising that some compromises might be necessary as a result of the Covid-19 challenges*
- *Engage with key organisations and individuals to identify potential grant applications*
- *Investigate alternative ways of paying grants particularly for people who cannot get to their bank to pay in cheques*

Whilst there is much to be positive about, the future of the Trust relies on a proactive Board of Trustees. At the end of 2020 the Board will lose two of its coopted Trustees, one of whom is the current Chair who has relocated out of the county and the other due to family issues

The Trust is organising a recruitment campaign as these vacancies do provide an opportunity to identify individuals from organisations that can help in identifying potential grant applications.

The Trust still hopes that the new initiatives will lead the way to developing some longer term strategies which would benefit the community in a different, positive way and which reflects the changing needs of society and help to provide a more caring and compassionate community in light of the impact that Covid-19 has had on individuals and families.

John Patman, Chair of Trustees

Trustees:

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Mr John Patman, Chairman (term expires 9 July 2023)

Mr Mark Girling (resigned 21 March 2020)

Rev Paul Hambling (ex-officio appointed 30 September 2015)

Mr Roger Hobson (term expires 13 August 2023)

Ms Katy Martin (term expires 8 May 2023)

Mrs Cindy Price, appointed 24 March 2020 (term expires 23 March 2024)

Mr Anthony Thompson, Charity Commission contact (term expires 8 May 2023)

Structure, Governance and Management

The present charity Scheme was sealed 20th May 1991 as "The Melton Trust". The charity, originally dating from 1897, was previously known as "Poor's Estate Charity (inclusive of the Bequest of James Alexander Burness)".

The charity is governed by six trustees: one ex-officio trustee, the Rector of Melton; two trustees nominated by Melton Parish Council appointed for a term of four years; three Co-opted Trustees appointed for a five year term by the Trustees.

Vacancies of Nominated Trustees are dealt with by Melton Parish Council. A vacancy of a Co-opted Trustee is filled by the Trustees after declaring the vacancy. The Scheme allows the re-appointment of Trustees at the end of their term.

The Trustees are obliged to meet a least two times a year. In 2019 they met twice in person to consider grant requests, to review strategy and to review and approve the 2018 Annual Report and Accounts. The Trustees also communicated by email to approve urgent grant requests and review policies.

Grant requests are received through the publicised Contact person or through any trustee. Grants made are at the decision of the Trustees in accordance with the Trust Deed: no person is directly entitled to a grant. A wide range of people are eligible to receive a grant and written guidance was provided by the Charity Commission at the time the Deed was sealed. The Trustees keep abreast of changing requirements and after review during the year agreed to adopt the current guidance published on the Charity Commission website. In considering grant applications the Trustees may, from time to time, seek the guidance of the Charity Commission in considering grant applications.

Objectives and Activities

The income of the charity, after expenses, is applied "in relieving either generally or individually persons resident in the Ancient Parish of Melton who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress by making grants of money or providing or paying for items, services or facilities calculated to reduce need, hardship or distress of such persons" subject to the restrictions of not applying the income directly in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds, and of not committing themselves to repeat or renew the relief granted on any occasion.

A Notice that the trustees will consider at any time of the year grant applications from all people who live in Melton is published in each edition of the Melton Messenger which is distributed to the homes of all potential beneficiaries.

The Trust, in accordance with the Trust Deed, also works with organisations which alleviate or prevent hardship for residents of Melton supporting their work through grants and receiving applications from individuals referred to the Trust.

Risk Management

The Trustees believe their procedures to address areas of risk (particularly financial, governance, operational and reputational) to be robust and maintain Policies on Risk Management, Investment and Safeguarding and have documented Key Financial Processes. An Information Security and Data Protection statement has been developed.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems have been established to manage those risks.

Financial Review

The accounts are kept in accordance with Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and are on a Receipts and Payments basis.

The investment strategy of the Trustees is to invest the endowed capital (restricted funds) through CCLA Investment Management Limited to achieve a balance of income, capital growth and security. CCLA provide specialist investment management for charities, faith organisations, and local authorities and invest money for more charities than any other fund manager in the UK

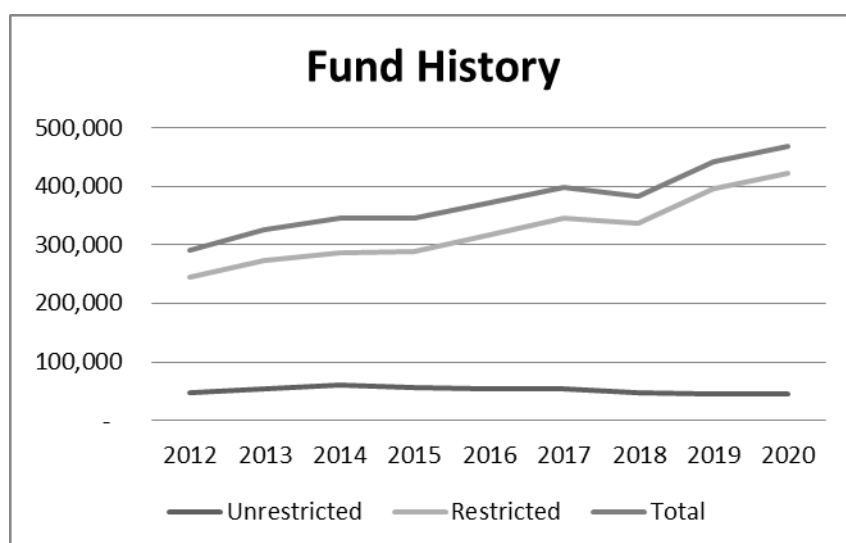
Social, ethical or environmental considerations of the specific investments of the Trust have been considered in using CCLA who describe themselves as pioneers of ethical and responsible investment, who are committed to pushing forward a positive agenda for change on behalf of our clients. .

Income from the investments (unrestricted funds) is kept on short term deposit with CCLA and Barclays Bank and, in line with our social and ethical considerations, the Eastern Savings & Loans Credit Union.

The financial performance of the Trust during the year was:

Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Endowment Funds	2020	2019
Total Long Term Funds		421,684	421,684	396,229
Total Short Term Funds	45,975		45,975	43,287
Total Funds	45,975	421,684	467,659	439,916

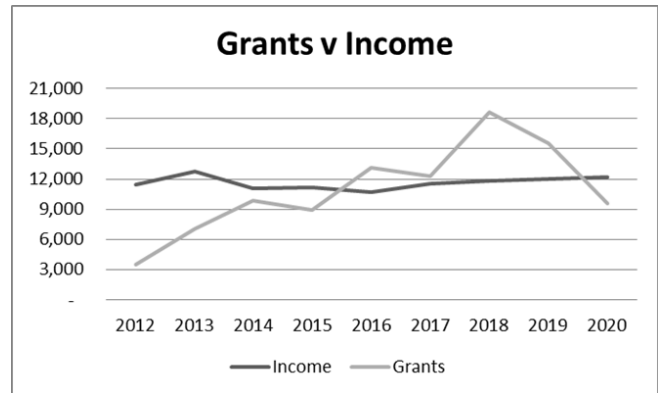
Rates of Return	£	%	
CCLA COIF Income	12,163	3.07%	
CCLA COIF Fund Growth	25,455	6.42%	FTSE Growth
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>37,618</i>	9.49%	-13.1%
CCLA COIF Deposit Fund Interest	54	0.26%	
Barclays Community A/C Interest	0	0.00%	
ESCLU	0	0.00%	
Total Return	37,672	8.52%	
<i>Of which Income</i>	<i>12,218</i>		



Achievements

The Trustees are committed to maximising grants made, whilst complying with the Trust Deed and associated guidance, and continue to actively seek out opportunities to support those in need. In summary, grants made in 2020 were:

Recipients	Number of Grants Made	Value of Grants Made (£)
Grants to Individuals / Families	11	5,580
Grants to Organisations	2	3,950
Total Grants	13	9,530
% Income spent on grants	78%	



Public Benefit

The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance when exercising any powers or duties to which the guidance is relevant.