

# Charity Trusts

Report number **C/01/23**

---

To **Representatives**  
Date **10 July 2023**  
Status **Exempt**  
Responsible officer Secretary to the Trust

Subject **CHARITIES REPORT C/01/23**

**SUMMARY:** This report updates representatives with information that on the Charities that Hythe Town Council represents and manages.

## INTRODUCTION

The Town Council is responsible for the operation of four charities – Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust, Horn Street Recreation Ground, Palmarsh / Burmarsh Recreation Ground, and Eaton Lands. There are usually four meetings of the Charity Trusts each year. These meetings are held separately after Council meetings.

It also provides administrative support to The Wakefield Bequest. Annual returns to the Charity Commission are undertaken by the Town Clerk who has been appointed as Secretary to the Trusts for all the above Charities.

### **Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust ( also known as Gift)**

Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust owns the Oaklands Building on Stade Street and adjoining land. Davis Oaklands is responsible for the provision and maintenance of buildings and grounds at Oaklands, Stade Street, for the purpose of local council offices, local history room, museum, art, culture, sport, and recreation.

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust. The corporate trustee is Hythe Town Council, members of the council are the trustees, they are inducted and introduced to the charity following their election.

The charity does not employ any staff and decisions are executed through a secretary who is employed by Hythe Town Council, this is currently the Town Clerk and RFO. The charity holds a meeting of the corporate trustee at least quarterly, all sixteen members of Hythe Town Council sit and act corporately to make decisions.

Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust pay an annual non-contractual honorarium payment to the volunteer honorary curator. The volunteer honorary curator looks after the museum and is responsible for the different display. Each year the Honorary Curator provide an annual Museum report to the trustees.

The charity continues to support Hythe Town Council with the provision of office space to the council's staff. Accounting procedures are correctly reported and are audited once a year by the External auditor.

### **Wakefield Bequest**

The Wakefield Bequest was created to provide small grants to those who are in need in Hythe. Wakefield Bequest can provide small grants up to £150 to persons in need who are resident in Hythe, the charity has its own board or trustees. Hythe Town Council is not sole corporate trustee of this charity, but its articles require that a number of councillors sit as trustees. The charity currently has one serving councillor sitting as a trustee there should be three. Every representative trustee is appointed to office for a term of four years.

The Trustees meet regularly to consider applications for grants, but emergency cases are reviewed in between meetings.

### **Horn Street Recreation Ground**

Horn Street Recreation Ground is much loved by residents in Seabrook as an area of open space (and in winter, children of all ages use it for tobogganing). New Play equipment has recently been installed along with some picnic benches.

The noticeboard on the corner of Craythorne close is also under refurbishment and it will house a map of Horn Street Recreation Ground similar to that of Eaton Lands.

### **Palmarsh / Burmarsh Recreation Ground**

Burmarsh Road Playing Field caters for people living toward the western boundary of the town. It has woods, open space and play equipment and is well used by local children. In 2018, using a grant from the district council, Hythe Town Council arranged for new play equipment on Burmarsh Road Playing Field land. Further equipment was installed in Spring 2023.

## **Eaton Lands**

Eaton Lands is located between Hythe and Saltwood and was donated to the town by the Deedes family in the 1920s.

Eaton Lands is made up of roughly 30 acres of mainly open space, including allotments, woodlands, a magnificent wildflower meadow and, since February 2020, a Community Orchard. The planting of the trees in the community orchard was the culmination of many years work by the Hythe Civic Society in conjunction with Hythe Town Council and many volunteers.

Eaton Lands is an area of beautiful parkland to the north of Hythe. As well as normal maintenance activities, this glorious open space hosts two thriving sets of allotments. It supports a new community orchard, wildflower meadow and hosts an innovative project to re-introduce short haired bumble bees.

New Play equipment was introduced in May 2023.