

## **Report on Stapleford Feoffees Charity for annual parish council meeting 2025**

The Stapleford Feoffees Charity is an amalgamation of smaller historic village charities which, broadly, exists to relieve need, hardship and distress within Stapleford. It has a modest net income of about £8,000 pa from investments and a small parcel of land at the foot of the Magog Down. Of the trust income three-fifths has to be paid to St Andrew's Church, to support maintenance and repairs of the church building (reflecting the historic nature of the assets of the trust), and the remainder is applied to the other trust purposes.

The charity is run by trustees appointed in 3 categories. There are two appointed by the parish council for 4 year terms, up to three (the vicar and churchwardens for the time being) from St Andrew's Church, and four co-opted to serve rotating 5 year terms by the other trustees for their knowledge and experience of the village.

In recent years the trustees, acting through the Charity Commission, have reformed the charity. It can now make loans as well as grants, can support both those resident in the village and those not resident but who have a significant connection with the village (because, for example, they attend Stapleford Community Primary School but live outside the village), can make grants not just to relieve need, hardship or distress but also expressly for purposes related to education, and can make grants to organisations not just to individuals, provided that the organisation will use the grant broadly in line with the purposes that would apply for individuals. In addition the trust scheme was modernised to permit email and other remote meetings, and to limit the duration of the terms of co-opted trustees and of the charity's officers, so as to ensure some healthy turnover.

In recent years the non-restricted trust income has been applied to support children in need in the school, the St Andrew's/Age UK Stapleford Community Warden Scheme, individuals resident in the village and beyond, Ukrainian refugees and to make Christmas grants. The trustees believe that a great deal of good can be done with relatively modest grants properly targeted. Application forms for support (separate ones for individuals and organisations) are available to download from the St Andrew's Church website.

**Simon Taylor**

Clerk to the trustees