

NOTT Chairman's Report to Annual Parish Meeting – 19 May 2021

As there was no Annual Parish Meeting last year, this report will cover the two years to 31 March 2021.

During the financial year 2019-20 the Trustee met 13 times and there were 13 Committee Meetings covering Riverside, Estates, Highways and Finance and General Purposes. The coronavirus pandemic hit in March 2020 and since then NOTT has held its meetings virtually, with 6 meetings of the full Trustee, and 8 committee meetings.

At the end of the financial year ending 31 March 2020 NOTT made a surplus of just under £50,000. The financial year ending 31 March 2021 was rather more complicated. NOTT's income was greatly affected by the pandemic and we were forced to put some plans on hold until the situation became clearer. However, I am pleased to say that we still managed to come out with a surplus, and hope that the current year will see income returning to a more normal level.

At the Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 I reported that the Trustee had started a new Housing/Property Fund with the intention of putting money aside to help to provide and maintain domestic houses or land for housing for local people. I am very pleased to report that NOTT was able to purchase a 2-bedroom bungalow in Orford last June, and a local family is now living in it. I am delighted to report that NOTT has recently received a very substantial donation from an anonymous benefactor for the Housing Fund, which will hopefully result in another purchase in the near future.

Between April 2019 and March 2020 the Trust gave just under £1900 in smaller donations to organisations with a local connection, and distributed £2000 from the Village Fund. Money from this Fund was given to Orford Museum towards the printing of leaflets, to cover payment for the band for the Village Feast, and to the Good Neighbour Scheme for set-up costs. NOTT continues to fund this village initiative and on behalf of the Trust I would like to thank all those involved in the scheme which has made such a difference to so many people. Because of the pandemic donations were put on hold last year.

Finally, my thanks go to all Trustees and Trust Staff for their support and work on behalf of the Trust, during what has been a particularly challenging period.

Ian Thornton
NOTT Chairman