

Beercrocombe Village Trust

The Trust was set up in 1978 with the proceeds of the sale of the schoolroom and adjoining school house which had been left "for the good of the parish" at the time of the sale of the Wyndham Estate in the 1920s. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) had previously helped maintain the house and it was sold after the last tenant, Mrs Stone, left.

The house was sold for just under £7,000, which provided the capital for the Trust. The five Trustees administer the income. The Trustees are the current Rector, an appointed representative of the PCC and an appointed representative of the Parish Council. Another two Trustees are co-opted by the others. The Trustees have various lengths of tenure to ensure that there is a gradual turnover which will maintain familiarity with the working of the Trust. The Trustees appoint a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer, as laid down by the Charity Commission Scheme. The Trust Schedule, which was drawn up with the Charity Commission, has 26 sections laying out the rules for giving grants and running the Trust.

The Trust can make grants to any local organisation that can show that they have a member who is living in the Parish and is using facilities which provide benefits for them "by improvement of the conditions of life, by developing their physical, mental or moral capacities through their leisure-time activities." Grants can cover non-statutory facilities at schools, village halls, WI, play groups, youth groups and scouts. These organisations have to provide the Trustees with audited accounts to show that they are in a good financial state to continue operating and that they can partially match the amount of the grant requested. Church of England and charitable works within the parish can also be supported. Student grants to help with tools, clothing and books when entering a trade, profession or further education will be considered.

The Trust is allowed to give grants which are for "other charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Beercrocombe." The Trust has always supported the planting of native trees, fruit trees and native species hedges in the parish. They are keen to help where schemes are adjacent to footpaths or roads and can enhance the environment for passers-by and for neighbours.

Meetings of the Trust are held quarterly usually in March, June, September and December. Dates are advertised on the Parish Notice Board. Written applications should be made to the Secretary at least one week ahead of the meeting.