AG E N D A

Annual Meeting of the John Bousfield and Kipling Charities held at Bowes Hutchinson's School on 11 November 2025 at 7pm

1. ## Appointment and Trustees and Office Holders

Mr Chris Redfern has announced that he is stepping down as trustee of the two charities. It is proposed that he is replaced from 11 November 2025 by Councillor Mark Thompson leaving the number of trustees unchanged with all five Bowes Parish Councillors serving as trustees along with the Clerk / RFO of the Council and one independent trustee.

2. ## Minutes of Meeting held 12 November 2024

To approve the minutes of the 2024 annual meeting, noting that the original intention was to hold the next meeting (this one) in May 2025, but due to local elections the 2025 meeting was postponed.

3. ## Analysis of Available Funds

At 31 October 2025, the funds held by the two charities are as follows:

John Bousfield

- Barclays Current Account (no interest) £205.20
- M&G Investment (variable return on capital) £368.47
- TOTAL £573.67

Kipling

- Nat West Current Account (low interest) £71.01

In 2024/25 the return on capital for the invested funds was 4.25%.

The Treasurer proposes no change to the banking and investment arrangements with any use of the funds in 2025/26 to come from the current accounts, which earn little or no interest.

4. ## Purpose and Use of Funds

(a) Both funds must be used to provide relief from poverty for Bowes residents.

(b) However, the John Bousfield will is much more specific about the permitted use of the funds stating that the bequest should be for "***four poor and most deserving persons resident in the Parish of Bowes aforesaid, who should not be in receipt of Parish or charitable relief, and should be in greatest want…. The payment should be made annually at Christmas in each year***."

(c) Conversely, the Kipling will is more general stating that the bequest should be for ***"the poor, or visible objects of charity, within the township of Bowes….and distributed by the minister, churchwardens and overseers of the poor, at their discretion."***

5 Options for use of Funds

(a) The 2024 Annual Meeting resolved that the Chair would work with Teesdale Community Resources to identify how they could best to use donations from the charities to relieve poverty in Bowes and report back to the next meeting. One option was to donate to the foodbank that TCR run in Barnard Castle, which serves Bowes residents. Although it was unlikely that TCR could restrict donations to Bowes residents, it was likely that Bowes residents most in need would use this foodbank.

(b) The Treasurer has received one other suggestion for use of the funds. This would involve donating to Bowes Hutchinsons' School for the purchase of books. This would ensure that the beneficiaries are Bowes residents and indirectly by improving literacy the donations should help alleviate poverty by improving social mobility.

(c) The Treasurer's view is that either suggestion would meet the terms of the Kipling bequest, but neither would fully meet the terms of the John Bousfield bequest. However, if the donation to the school were to award prizes (e.g. book tokens) to the four most deserving pupils in receipt of free school meals that would be compliant providing the prizes were awarded at the end of the current school term.

(d) The charities have not spent any funds for many years but in the past trustees have identified individuals believed to be in most need and directly gifted them flowers or coal in December. The risk of this approach is the identification of the four most poor and needy residents is highly subjective and it risks challenge from other potential recipients or stigmatising the actual recipients. When the wills were written, the overseers of the poor would have been acutely aware which individuals should benefit, but poverty is now less visible in the village and organisations with objective data on poverty such as the Government and Durham County Council would be prevented by data protection regulations from sharing the data with the trustees.

6 AOB