

Hughenden Community Support Trust (HCST)

(Previously Allotments for the Labouring Poor)

June 2021

Dear Residents,

This concerns the following areas of land which lie within Hughenden Parish:

Windmill Lane allotments, Widmer End
Naphill allotments
Walters Ash allotments
North Dean allotments
Great Kingshill amenity land

The charity goes back to the 19th century and the land has belonged continuously to the charity since that time. In recent years Hughenden Parish Council effectively acted as holding trustees and managed the land on behalf of the charity. Due to the passage of time, some years ago the original structure was overlooked and the Parish Council inadvertently merged the charity's assets with its own, which has caused the confusion we see today. To redress this there has been a lengthy legal action which has clarified the continuity of ownership of the charity's assets. Also, the Charity Commission had recommended that trustees were appointed to manage the charity. Subsequently, the following residents are our current independent trustees: John Russell, Stan Jones, Neil McMinn and John Moorby.

The objects of the charity are:

The relief of persons in the area of benefit who are in need, hardship or distress by:

- Making grants of money to them, or
- Providing or paying for goods, services or facilities for them, or
- Making grants of money to other persons or bodies who provide goods, services or facilities to those in need.

We have recently become aware of some unfounded rumours being publicly circulated that our charity, Hughenden Community Support Trust, intends to sell allotment land and that allotment holders will lose their allotments. We would like to confirm that this is fundamentally untrue.

To achieve our objects, HCST has leased the land to Hughenden Parish Council for 99 years thus assisting them in fulfilling their legal requirement to provide allotments. We have also leased part of Great Kingshill Common and an area of land off Common Road to HPC as amenity land for the benefit of the community. In addition to complying with the purpose of the charity to invest the rental income to provide grants/donations to those in need within Hughenden Parish, by placing the land within a charity, gives some extra protection against development (*notwithstanding government changes to law which could obviously affect any owner*).

The allotments and amenity land will continue to be managed by HPC on behalf of HCST. HCST trustees will always be available to discuss any concerns from residents. Contact can be made through the Hon. Secretary (details below).

In the meantime, we would like to invite applications for small grant funding from residents of Hughenden Parish, applications to be made through the Hon. Secretary.

We sincerely hope that this letter will allay the false rumours which are being spread.



Chairman

Signed on behalf of the Trustees of HCST