



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

Charlotte Coxe Trust Committee

Date and time: Thursday, 25 January 2024 at 2.00 pm
Venue: Room 2 - County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND

Contact Officer: **Colm Ó Caomhánaigh**
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Membership

Chair – Councillor Geoff Saul

Councillor Robin Bennett

Councillor Felix Bloomfield

Councillor Freddie van Mierlo

Councillor Jane Murphy

A G E N D A

1.	Apologies for absence
2.	Declarations of Interest Please see guidance note
3.	Minutes (Pages 1 - 6) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2022 and the minutes of the meeting held on 31 January 2023.
4.	Petitions and Public Address <i>Members of the public who wish to speak at this meeting can attend the meeting in person or 'virtually' through an online connection.</i> <i>To facilitate 'hybrid' meetings we are asking that requests to speak are submitted by no later than 9am four working days before the meeting. Requests to speak should be sent to colm.ocaomhanaigh@oxfordshire.gov.uk</i> <i>If you are speaking 'virtually', you may submit a written statement of your presentation to ensure that if the technology fails, then your views can still be taken into account. A written copy of your statement can be provided no later than 9am 2 working days before the meeting. Written submissions should be no longer than 1 A4 sheet.</i>
5.	Financial Activities for the Year to 31 March 2023 (Pages 7 - 10) Report by Director of Law & Governance The Committee is RECOMMENDED to: a) Approve the Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31 March 2023 annexed to this report and b) Authorise a Council officer to submit data from the Statement to the Charity Commission online before midnight on 31 January 2024 so that annual financial reporting obligations are complied with.

EXEMPT ITEM

In the event that any Member or Officer wishes to discuss the information set out in the

report to Agenda Item 6, the Committee will be invited to resolve to exclude the public for the consideration of the report by passing a resolution in the following terms:

"that the public be excluded during the consideration of the report since it is likely that if they were present during that discussion there would be a disclosure of "exempt" information as described in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 and specified below the item in the Agenda".

THE REPORT TO THE ITEM NAMED HAS NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC AND SHOULD BE REGARDED AS 'CONFIDENTIAL' BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS ENTITLED TO RECEIVE THEM.

6. 33 High Street, Watlington and the Transfer of Trusteeship of the Charlotte Coxe Trust to Watlington Parish Council (Pages 11 - 16)

The information in this case is exempt in that it falls within the following prescribed categories:

1. Information relating to any individual;
3. Information relating to the financial and business affairs of any person (including the authority holding that information); and
5. Information in which a claim to Legal Professional Privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

and since it is considered that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The report containing exempt information under the above paragraph is attached.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED:

- (a) **To allow the family of Ukrainian refugees currently occupying 33 High Street, Watlington to remain there until the earlier of 31 August 2024 and the date when the transfer of the Trust to Watlington Parish Council has completed (at which point the management of the property will cease to be the Council's responsibility);**
- (b) **To instruct officers of the Council to write to Watlington Parish Council on behalf of the Trust (i) expressing its disappointment at the fact it allowed the family into occupation of the property without going through the procedures mandated by the Committee at its meeting on 28 April 2022, (ii) advising that occupation on the current basis should not carry on beyond 31 August 2024 and (iii) advising that occupation beyond 31 August 2024 will require further renovation work to be carried out at the property so its energy performance rating is improved; and**
- (c) **To agree not to pay any of Watlington Parish Council's legal fees.**

Councillors declaring interests

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed 'Declarations of Interest' or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (i.e. payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council's area; licenses for land in the Council's area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor's Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council's website.

Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those member's spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest. If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members' Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members' Code of Conduct says that a member 'must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself' and that 'you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned'.

Members Code – Other registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your other registerable interests then you must declare an interest. You must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and you must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Wellbeing can be described as a condition of contentedness, healthiness and happiness; anything that could be said to affect a person's quality of life, either positively or negatively, is likely to affect their wellbeing.

Other registrable interests include:

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority.

- c) Any body (i) exercising functions of a public nature (ii) directed to charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

Members Code – Non-registrable interests

Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to your financial interest or wellbeing (and does not fall under disclosable pecuniary interests), or the financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate, you must declare the interest.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which affects your own financial interest or wellbeing, a financial interest or wellbeing of a relative or close associate or a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under other registrable interests, then you must declare the interest.

In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied:

Where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being:

- a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- a) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest.

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.