

JULY 2023 NEWS

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 18th July 2023. It was preceded by the AGM of the Charity.

All eight Trustees were present.

AGM

The Chairman's Annual Report was approved, as were the Statutory Reports and Accounts for The Catenian Association Benevolent & Trustees Fund and for Catena Trustees Ltd. The Chairman's Report may be downloaded from www.catenianbenevolence.org : select "Reports" then "Chairman's Annual Reports. The Statutory Accounts will be uploaded to the website when they have been signed.

All policies published by the Trustees are reviewed annually at the AGM. In this instance, the Reserves Policy was amended to maintain a reserve of £8m, reflecting the fall in the value of money since it was last changed in 2014.

TRUSTEES' MEETING

At the beginning of the meeting, Peter Devine was re-elected Chairman of Trustees and David Cawdery as Vice-chairman, both for 2023/24.

It was a quiet meeting as far as applications for assistance were concerned. Three awards were made, with grants of £8,500 and loans of £5,000. The attention of the Emergency Committee had not been necessary since the previous meeting in May.

Five cases were reviewed. These are cases where a loan has been made previously and remains outstanding. The Trustees review such cases at intervals of no longer than two years. Occasionally, a beneficiary might offer to start making repayments; more often, it is appropriate to offer additional assistance; most often the file is put away for a further review in two years time.

A further 21 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or from correspondence received.

At the May meeting of the Trustees it was decided in principle, as part of a risk reduction process following a Serious Incident Report to the Charity Commission, to change the Appointing Council for Trustees. Central Council was consulted and has indicated that it objects to the proposal. It was decided at this meeting in July to seek legal advice as to the procedure now to be followed.

The next meeting of Trustees is on Wednesday 20th September 2023.