REPORT 2017 from WOORE UNITED CHARITIES (Charity number 243176) to the Annual Meetings of Woore Parish Council, and of Woore Parochial Church Council 2017.

Woore United Charities held one meeting during the past year on 17h November 2016. Councillor Allison and Councillor Higgin representing the Parish Council attended. Other trustees attending were Dr Charles Hoy, Mrs Shirley Rowley, the vicar of St Leonard’s Woore – Rev Don Alcock – and the Clerk, Mrs Hazel Irving. There were no apologies.

The Chairman, Dr Charles Hoy, welcomed all Trustees and explained the items of business to be considered on the Agenda, which had been circulated previously. Matters arising from the last meeting on 20th November 2015 included clarification of the payment to selected pensioners, and copies of the 2016 Annual Report to the Woore Parish Council and Woore St Leonard's Parochial Church Council. The Trustees were then circulated with the Charity Commissioners Annual Report details for 2016 as recorded on the web at CharityCommission.gov.uk for Woore United Charities. The National Grid references from WUC Gravenhunger Poor's land and the restrictions on ploughing over the Pipeline were further amplified and Andrew Furnival's – the tenant - responsibilities clarified.

In the follow up to the Centennial Display of WUC Archives on 12 September 2015, the Chairman explained the correspondence he had had with the Charity Commissioners. Copies of the Charity Commissioners Scheme of 13 March 1906 in respect of WUC responsibilities for the Dame Mary Lake Charity from 20 May 1622 were circulated and discussed. Members were fascinated with the details of the Scheme which went on to provide questions as to the activity of the Deed of 1622, in particular whether it related to specific land at Baschurch. The Chairman explained his visit to Eyton Farm Baschurch last year in preparation for the Centennial Display and meeting with the sister of Mr Kent – the present rentee. It was decided that there should be an approach to the Charity Commissioners to ask if they had any further information regarding the original Deed, asking how much further documentation might be found, and whether or not after all these years, the rent could be reviewed. It was noted that the composition of the Woore United Charities Trustees was not as stated in the 1906 Scheme, but it was judged representative of the Parish Council and the Church Council, so probably met the requirements in fact.

After a lengthy discussion about the mechanisms for the management of the WUC emergency Cash Fund, changes were introduced. The need was highlighted by a certain family who had made two separate requests for emergency funding over the past year. This had been determined as acceptable, and within the limits expected by the Trustees, however, the mechanism for payment was not satisfactory. New routines were to be confirmed by the Chairman, the Vicar and Clerk to avoid any threat arising from any sudden appearance of anyone at the Clerk's door and expecting cash. It was also agreed that the best way was by writing a cheque to meet a specific bill rather than dispensing actual cash. This would also safeguard expenditure accountability. It was agreed that the Vicarage could be the safest place for any approach to be made by individual(s) for use of the Emergency Fund, as had been the case in previous times. This provided a barrier against haste in meeting requests no matter how urgent they appeared to be.

The clerk was to receive her salary and recompense for the out of pocket expenses, and cheques were also to be drawn for the pensioners' Christmas bonus which was agreed as for the previous year – namely £50 for ten households and a likewise sum for the School.

Bank signatories were confirmed as last year, and Trustees raised the question of first priority been given to the Parish Council in the unlikely event of WUC selling any land. This was agreed.

Summary of Income and Expenditure for the financial year 1/4/16 to 31/3/17. INCOME: £990 EXPENDITURE: £625

The most recent balance sheet is available for inspection and further information can be obtained from the Clerk to WUC - Mrs Hazel Irving – as well as on line at the Charity Commissioners.

Dr Charles Hoy.

Chairman:

Woore United Charities: April 2017