



25th September 2020


Dear 


Please see below response to the queries you raised in your letter dated 24th September 2020.

1) Payments relating to the hiring of St Benedict's Church, Haltham.

There are no payments recorded on the published accounts in relation to The Church Conservation Trust because no payment was made by the Village meeting to the trust. A yearly donation was given to the trust on behalf of the Village by the organiser of the Christmas carol service, which kindly covered the cost of the AGM and November meeting.

This may be where the confusion lies. Haltham Parish meeting met twice last year for its AGM and an extraordinary meeting in November, I seem to remember you were unable to attend either. The Halloween event and Christmas carol concert were and hopefully will be again one day, events organised by the local villagers to raise funds for various causes. This has nothing to do with Haltham Parish meeting. I believe you once organised a folk concert, before my time, in line with these type of events, I understand it raised over £200, well done! Hopefully you can arrange one again in the future.

If someone had issues with the money collected from that event, they would have spoken to you regarding that. Likewise I suggest if you have any questions regarding these two events you should speak to the organiser, 

, who at the time was the Chairman of the Village meeting arranged the booking of the church through Claire Chapman at the CCT, and with their agreement arranged a donation to cover the whole year. I can assure you the Haltham Village Meetings were correctly booked and approved with the CCT, and I am sure they will confirm this if asked. Haltham Village Meeting continues to Support this great charity.

2) Unaccounted for money

As previously mentioned the Carol service is not something the Village meeting organised, which is why it doesn't appear in the Parish meetings accounts. Therefore the responsible finance officer for Haltham Parish meeting has nothing to do with this money and as the money is not Haltham Parish meeting money is not unaccounted for.

3) Why did Haltham Parish Meeting fail to comply with The Churches Conservation Trust Terms & Conditions of Hire in relation to booking St Benedict's for its Carol Service?

Haltham Parish meeting did not book the Church for the Carol service, it was not a Parish meeting event, please refer to the organiser [REDACTED]

I cannot comment, nor justify to you, what the organisers of these types of events choose to spend the money raised on. The organisers decide where to spend the money collected, much like your folk concert. All I will say is that it is kind of the organiser to have paid for the Village meetings use of the Church for the two meetings, under my stewardship the parish meeting will not accept this in future. As for the relationship between Haltham Parish meeting and the Church conservation trust, I believe we have a good working relationship, and I am sure that will continue for many years.

4) Haltham Meeting Declaration of Status of Published Accounts for the Year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

The above document was signed off by me on the 13th August 2020 and made public on the village notice board. It was posted on the village website on the 1st September 2020, after being audited. See link below, then click on audit paperwork

<https://haltham.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/homepage/1/homepage>

For your information I have copied all of this letter to the CCT.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

Acting Chair, Haltham Parish meeting