

Earl Stonham Trustees

Annual Report to Earl Stonham Parish Council

May 2026

Introduction

The Earl Stonham Trustees are pleased to submit this report to the Parish Council Annual General Meeting. The Trustees continue to work on behalf of the village community, upholding the purposes of the trust and seeking to maintain and improve the assets and opportunities available to residents of Earl Stonham.

Activities and Highlights - Past Year

During the past year, the Trustees have focused on the following areas:

- Hall and land maintenance: The Trustees have continued to oversee the upkeep and maintenance of trust land and associated assets, ensuring they remain safe, well-maintained, and available for community use. The trees and hedges were surveyed and pollarding has taken place.
- Education grants: The Trustees have administered grants to support educational opportunities for residents and Christmas grants, in accordance with the trust's charitable purposes.
- Play equipment on the village green: The Trustees have continued to take responsibility for the care and safety of the play equipment on the village green, carrying out inspections and addressing any maintenance requirements to ensure it remains safe and enjoyable for all children in the village.
- Guildhall Cottage: The Trustees continue to maintain this property.

Governance and Trustees

- Donna Taylor-Burman took over the Chairman role and Caroline Shield stepped into the secretary role. Henry Stanford has been co-opted as Church representative.

Financial Position

The Trustees continue to manage the trust's resources prudently to ensure its long-term sustainability.

Unaudited Financial Report for Earl Stonham Trust for Financial Year

1/10/24 to 20/09/25

The Trust's Income for the Year was £7196.37, this predominately was from the rent on Guildhall Cottage and Divided Income from our Investments with Black Rock and CCLA. The Expenditure for the Year was £9591.78. The highlights of this were -

A full detailed Tree Survey of the Recreation Ground including action needed for Health and Safety- (This work was carried out late 2025.)

A contribution to the new Village Speed Indicators.

Insurance for the Bowls Club land, Recreation Ground and Guildhall Cottage.

Relief In Need Grants.

Educational Grants (the Principal Trust Aim) only £737.

The Main Maintenance of the Recreation Ground is done by The Earl Stonham Cricket Club who do an absolutely fantastic job of keeping the grounds in an excellent physical and visual appearance and are a real asset to the Village. Their lease to use the ground covers the maintenance of the grounds. The Recreation Hedges are neatly cut in kind by Rice Farms.

The Trust holds a reserve but this is invested and is there to cover future needs of the Trust's buildings and land to keep a healthy income for the Trust.

Philip Hurt, Treasurer

Plans for the Coming Year

Looking ahead, the Trustees have identified the following priorities:

- Repairs and improvements to trust assets: The Trustees intend to progress a programme of repairs and improvements to trust assets, including the play equipment and any land or buildings within the trust's responsibility, to ensure they continue to serve the community effectively.
- Growing community use: The Trustees are keen to encourage greater community engagement with and use of trust assets and activities. This may include reviewing how the trust communicates with residents and exploring new ways to benefit the wider village community.

Closing Remarks

The Trustees thank the Parish Council for the opportunity to report at the AGM and look forward to continuing to work constructively with the Council and the wider community for the benefit of Earl Stonham. The Trustees welcome any questions or feedback from parish councillors and residents.

Submitted on behalf of the Earl Stonham Trustees

Date: 18 May 2026