



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Sent by email only to:
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Charity Commission
PO Box 211
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T: 0300 066 9197

Our Ref: 252303

Date: 31 March 2026

Dear Ewan Larcombe

RE: DATCHET RECREATION CENTRE CHARITABLE TRUST - 252303 ('the charity')

I am writing to you as the named Contact for the above charity and as a listed trustee on the Charity Commission's ('the Commission') Register of Charities.

The Commission has been made aware that there may be a dispute in the above-named charity. This has resulted in the trustee and contact details for the charity changing on several occasions throughout 2025.

Having reviewed the charity's records it is evident that individuals involved in the charity are relying on their Register entry and access to My Charity Commission Account (MCCA) to assert authority over the charity's administration. Individuals have also approached the Commission seeking support to validate their role within the charity.

It is important to set out that the Commission cannot interpret the charity's governing document, nor can we determine who is validly appointed as a trustee. Being named on the Commission Register of Charities does not confirm that individuals have been validly appointed.

Over the last 10 months, we have received correspondence and telephone calls from various sources raising concerns about removal and appointment of individuals from MCCA and the Register. On that basis, I sought advice from one of our Senior Case Managers.

The Manager noted that there is no specific power within the Trust Deed dated 21 March 1967 relating to the appointment or removal of trustees. As a result, appointments would need to rely on the statutory power under the Trustee Act 1925, which can only be exercised by properly appointed trustees, a matter that ultimately only the courts can determine.

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Although the Commission has powers to appoint trustees in circumstances where there are no validly appointed trustees, this can only be done following a court determination or with agreement from all relevant parties. Similarly, a Parish Council can only assume control of, or appoint trustees to, a parochial charity with the Commission's authority, which has not been provided in this case.

We also considered the action in relation to the Parish Council appointing two trustees in 2019 following confusion over a separate deed concerning a village hall management committee. It remains unclear what authority was relied upon for those appointments, which resulted in two individuals being listed on the Register. Likewise, at the 2025 AGM, the Parish Council appears to have reappointed itself as corporate trustee, but it is unclear what power was relied on to do so or whether any appointments or removals were compliant with the statutory requirements. In summary, several changes have taken place over the years and from the available information it is unclear whether appropriate action has been taken.

In light of the significant uncertainty regarding all appointments, we have decided to remove all trustees and contacts from the Register (this may take up to 48 hours to reflect on the Public Register of Charities) and record that no further updates will be made until the dispute has been formally resolved.

We are urging all parties to put their personal differences aside to resolve the matter in the best interests of the charity. We are providing all interested parties with the same regulatory advice and guidance under section 15(2) of the Charities Act 2011. We expect all involved to consider the following guidance on disputes and how to resolve them:

[Disagreements and disputes in charities - GOV.UK](#)

If you are considering or taking legal action, you need to consider our guidance on litigation: [Charities and litigation: a guide for trustees - GOV.UK](#)

Once the dispute has been resolved and you have sought appropriate advice in respect of the charity's governing document, you can email me with clear evidence that formal mediation has taken place. I will liaise with the appropriate colleagues to seek permission and/or update our records.

Yours sincerely

Amanda Rees
Customer Service Advisor