

Benevolent & Children's Fund News

May 2025

The Catenian Association Benevolent & Children's Fund (catenianbenevolence.org)

The Trustees of the Benevolent Fund meet six times per year and the most recent meeting was on 20th May 2025. It was the first meeting in the Catenian year 2025/26. It was an unusually busy meeting in terms of the number of new applications received.

Five Trustees were present in person with two attending by video conference. There were two apologies for absence.

Twelve applications were received, of which four were re-applications and eight were new. All 12 received awards, with grants totalling £35,250 and loans £239,641. The Emergency Committee had been called into action on three occasions since the previous meeting in January.

Loan repayments received amounted to £7,066.

Ten 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 16 cases were considered, either as a result of actions arising from previous meetings or from correspondence received.

RESERVES

	16/03/2025	18/05/2025
Equities	£5,191,969	£5,401,562
Bonds	£792,998	£784,180
Property Fund	£1,194,600	£1,206,800
Total	£7,179,567	£7,392,542
Cash held for investment	£124,871	£183,962
Cash at Bank	£464,959	£358,107
Total Reserves	£7,769,397	£7,934,611

There were no transfers made from the investment fund to the current account in the period between meetings and no transactions in the portfolio to buy or sell investments.

CHANGE TO A CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (CIO)

The outcome of an informal discussion at a social event between a Trustee and an officer of Central Council reached the conclusion that elements of Central Council should meet the Trustees in person with a view to exploring an amicable and workable way forward. This was put to the Trustees at the meeting and it was agreed by a majority of 5:2 to defer the application to register for a limited time (weeks rather than months) to explore if this is possible without further recourse to legal advisers.

Subsequently the date of the next Trustees' meeting, previously scheduled for 15th July 2025 was put back to 22nd July in order to facilitate the above discussions before the Trustees next meet.