

## **READING ALMSHOUSE CHARITY (Registered Charity Number 1152759)**

### **HISTORY AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **1. History**

Reading Almshouse Charity (RAC) is an amalgamation of a number of smaller almshouse charities, which have been providing social housing in Reading for over 200 years. RAC is a non-profit making Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is operated in accordance with its Constitution dated 8 July 2013 and any subsequent amendments. The purpose of the Charity is to provide housing accommodation for persons of good character, in need, who have resided within 20 miles of Reading town centre for at least three years.

#### **2. Administration**

RAC is administered by voluntary Trustees. The Constitution stipulates 5 to 15 Trustees (comprising up to 3 ex-officio and up to 12 appointed from the local community). Day-to-day management is delegated to, and carried out by, the Clerk to the Trustees and the Manager, both of whom are paid employees.

#### **3. Almshouses (or Homes)**

RAC provides unfurnished dwellings, known as Almshouses. The aim is to provide convenient and comfortable accommodation in a setting that allows residents to come and go as they please. Almshouses provide security and residents are encouraged to make friends and share a wider social life through use of the communal lounge and other available facilities and events. However, the Almshouses are not a nursing home nor a care home. Residents must be capable of leading independent lives.

There are two Almhouse sites: Penton House, Kennet Island, Reading and Castle Street, Reading.

Penton House, built in 2011, has 41 almshouse flats (all of which are suitable for couples), plus a communal lounge and kitchen area, guest room, laundry facilities, an extra bathroom and offices for the Charity. Residents are restricted by a planning condition to those aged 55 and over.

The Castle Street Almshouses comprise 27 almshouse flats, (4 of which are suitable for couples), laundry facilities and an office for the Manager.

Both sites have outside areas available for the enjoyment of all residents and where social events are held.