Skelton Bounty

* Skelton Bounty is a registered charity (number 219370) which operates as an independent grant-maker. The charity came into existence through three bequests made between 1915 and 1931 and is currently governed by a Charity Commission Scheme made in 1991, amended by a Charity Commission Order made in 2004.
* Skelton Bounty’s assets consist of investments worth circa £2 million. The charity’s total grant expenditure is about £100,000 annually.
* Skelton Bounty’s “area of benefit” is the counties of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside (including the unitary areas of Blackburn, Blackpool, Halton and Warrington). The current strategy is to make grants primarily to comparatively small local charities and established voluntary groups operating in these areas.
* The charity can have a maximum of nine Trustees who are appointed by the serving Trustees. The initial term of office is five years and each Trustee can be re-appointed for one further term of five years. Trustees normally meet once or twice in each year.

Duties of Trustees of Skelton Bounty

* To ensure that Skelton Bounty pursues its charitable objects as defined in its governing documents.
* To ensure that Skelton Bounty operates in full compliance with its governing documents, charity law and other relevant legislation and regulations, and with due regard for acknowledged good practice in grant-making.
* To ensure that Skelton Bounty’s investment assets are properly protected and managed to support the charity’s grant-making programmes in both the short and long term.
* To ensure that Skelton Bounty operates with consistency of values and maintains its good reputation as a grant-making charity.
* To ensure that Skelton Bounty is effectively administered, uses its resources efficiently, and maintains financial stability and solvency.

Personal qualities required of Trustees

* Willingness and eligibility to serve as a charity trustee.
* A level of personal integrity and standing in the community that is appropriate for a trustee of an independent grant-making charity.
* An ability when acting as a trustee to exercise good and independent judgement in considering the matters affecting the charity, including acting appropriately when actual or potential conflicts of interest arise.
* A good knowledge of the voluntary sector, either geographically or by sector, in a substantial part of the area which Skelton Bounty serves. Previous experience of grant-making is desirable but not essential.
* Common sense, supported by an approach which is open-minded, plus the abilities to listen, influence, and explain.
* Skills and experience in one of the areas of expertise (such as publicity, investment matters, and information technology) which are needed among the Trustees as a group, plus the ability to transfer and apply that experience to Skelton Bounty’s environment.
* A willingness to think strategically about the role which Skelton Bounty plays in the community, including how its governing group should evolve in response to developments in the charity’s own role.