

# ***Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust***

Charity No: 271210

## **Building an Active Future for Inkpen & sports facilities for the next generation.**

### **TRUSTEE REPORT 2018/2019 Background:**

The land, which is the *Inkpen Memorial Playing Field (IMPFT)*, was transferred by deed by Geoffrey Edward Huth in 1946 and was to be used for the “maintenance and improvement of the physical well-being of residents in Inkpen by the provision of facilities for physical training and recreation” and in memory of those who died in both world wars. The Trust deed of 1946 allows for the Trust premises to be repaired, altered and enlarged (or rebuilt) for the purpose. The playing field, pavilion and tennis court (which opened on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1987) and children’s playground has enabled the village to have an active sports and recreation area in the centre of the village.

The Playing Field, pavilion and playground are held in Trust and on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1984 the Parish Council officially were appointed to the role of Trustees. The new scheme issued by the Charity Commission, operative from 1984 superseded that of 1946, and the Parish Council became Custodian Trustees, initially with a two tier management committee (which was later dissolved) to provide recreation for the residents of Inkpen. The Trust of 1984 means the land, the pavilion and the playground are subject to the same Trust and held in perpetuity for the village. The Trustees referred to are the democratically elected Parish Councillors.

In January 2008 Inkpen Parish Council became the Corporate & Custodian Trustees at the request of the existing Management Committee, to provide a more effective way for running the Charity within the Charity Commission framework. With the elected Parish Council as Trustees this also gives greater protection for the assets of the Playing Field to be held in perpetuity for the village.

It is the Trustees responsibility to ensure that the pavilion and playground are ‘fit for purpose’ and therefore a plan was put together to make sure that these valued facilities were improved for the current and future residents of Inkpen.

The pavilion is sadly no longer ‘fit for purpose’ as it has had little investment for over 30 years. The showers are primitive, there is no permanent storage for all the sports equipment and the main room is too small and not user friendly for any sporting gatherings. It is currently only really suitable as a meeting room and not as a sports pavilion.

As a result of the pavilion not being ‘fit for purpose’ the *IMPFT* is not able to generate an income from it and therefore have until now been unable to raise sufficient funds to maintain the building, let alone improve it.

As well as the village residents the Inkpen Primary School uses the playing field on a weekly basis for sports and science activities. They also use the playing field for their annual sports day and could benefit from an improved pavilion.

There is a cricket club, tennis club and football, as well as junior football which is also played at the playing field.

In 2018 the playground received a poor ROSPA report and it was agreed that much of the equipment should be replaced and improved as like many other parishes the equipment was old and in poor condition.

### **IMPFT Objective for 2019/20**

To improve the current pavilion and playground and make them 'fit for purpose'.

By improving both the pavilion and the playground it will encourage more sporting activity in the village among all ages.

As well as the current sporting activities we are working on building the range of community sports on offer such as rounders, walking football, netball and other outdoor sports that will improve the community spirit and fitness.

### **The IMPFT Plans for 2019/20**

In September 2018 the village was asked if they supported the idea of fundraising for the improvements to the pavilion and playground and there was a lot of support.

Since that time volunteer support has enabled the refurbishment of all the benches, sort out the overgrown vegetation and there have also been fund raising activities which have brought the community together including a Car Boot Sale, Jumble Sale, Bridge Drive, Pub raffle, Tea & Cake gathering.

Free services have been obtained of an architect, building regulations advisor and builders in developing plans for the improvement of the pavilion.

A number of grants and funds will enable us to raise the majority of the funds that are required. There is a team of fund raisers who have volunteered their time to raise the funds and provide an endowment to sustain the future running costs.

The plans for the pavilion include a complete improvement of the interior and an extension of the main room as the current room is not a suitable size for sports teas for visiting teams, tennis tournaments etc. It is also not a room size that attracts sporting activities and without the extension it would not generate any income.

The intention is that the Trust will provide a building that can be used for sporting activities and support outside sport for the residents of Inkpen and its school.

In addition, there is a need to improve the current playground equipment and provide equipment for 2 – 5yr olds which is currently not available in the playground.

The playground will provide social interaction for the younger generate on who will later benefit from coaching in various sporting activities.

There is great support for these improvements amongst the village (a few negative concerns) but it is hoped that they will provide a strong community spirit and attractive facilities to encourage a more active life for both young and old.

***INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD TRUSTEES 2019***