



Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust.

REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 4th MAY 2021

The Parish Council are both the Corporate & Custodian Trustee of the Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust. As trustees it is our responsibility to maintain the playing field facilities as set out in the deeds of 1946 and 1952 to enable the residents of Inkpen to enjoy the physical and mental well-being provided by sporting and community activities.

Following the work done on the playing field last year to improve the benches, remove the encroaching hedge and replant where needed all thanks to volunteers, in May last year we started the renovation of the pavilion.

The renovation was done in phases to ensure that the cost of the renovation was covered by the funds raised. By July the first phase of the changing rooms with 6 showers, two new toilets and a referee changing room and shower was complete. Work started straight away on Phase 2 the main pavilion and this was completed in January this year. Stage 3 is the storage building which will be completed this month.

The pavilion is now ready to be used and is available to anyone over 18 to rent within the guidelines of the Covid restrictions. We have 14 home cricket matches booked in this summer along with 3 resident cricket matches. Tennis, 5 a side football and netball on the courts, the annual Gibbet Challenge and the Walbury Hill Climb. It is hoped that we can encourage many more sports and activities to take place both on the playing fields and in the pavilion.

With regards to the renovation works there is still the car park area behind the pavilion and the front car park to do but funds for these will not come from grants but will have to wait until we raise enough money either through donations or fundraising events.

In addition to this the courts which are used for tennis, 5 a side football and netball need to be re-surfaced having been completed in June 1987 – 34 years ago. We are currently gathering quotes for this work but it looks like it will be £25,000 to £35,000.

The Trustees are also looking into ways of improving the drainage of the playing field. Proposals so far have been too expensive to consider and we are looking at alternative ways to ensure that the ground is not so wet and therefore not suitable to be used during some of the winter months.

The current playground has new fencing thanks to the wonderful volunteers and a donation of an old fence which has been upcycled. We are due to have our annual ROSPA report at any moment and they usually have something that they feel we need to do to make it safe. Last year thanks to volunteer's we managed to make the suggested repairs at a minimal cost.

The woodland playground is nearly ready to be opened we are just waiting for a gate to be put in and the grass to have some time to grow and luckily the recent rain has helped with this. This playground has been made possible not only from the grants and donations received but from the huge amount of time given by volunteers firstly to clear the overgrown wasteland, but also putting up fencing, weeding, preparing the ground and the

donation of fencing, equipment and plants to make what we hope will be a wonderful space for the children in Inkpen.

The renovation of the pavilion, the building of the woodland playground and improvements to the playing field would not have happened without the involvement of so many people. Those of you in Inkpen who not only kindly donated towards the project but took part in challenges, hosted and supported fundraising events. We also have many trusts and grants to thank not least The Good Exchange who not only gave us the first grant but the largest grant to ensure that this project got started. In addition, we are hugely grateful to those companies who have given their services either free or at a discounted rate to make the renovation of the pavilion possible. Special thanks must go to Edge Architecture and Owl Building Control Solutions who both gave their services free of charge and without whom this project would not have been completed.

Inkpen hopefully now has a facility that it can be proud of and that will help encourage activity and well-being for generations to come. Please do use it because as a 'not for profit charity' it is only through you using it that we can maintain this facility and ensure that it is here for you and for future generations.

*Claire Jones,
Vice Chairman, Inkpen Parish Council*