

INKPEN MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD REPORT

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 29TH APRIL 2024

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 all residents of Inkpen to enjoy the physical and mental well-being provided by sporting and community activities.

The facilities at the playing field have seen a complete transformation and renovation in recent years. This not only includes the pavilion itself but also extends to the adjacent playground as well as the tennis courts to name just a couple.

For all of this we are exceptionally grateful, and it is now our task to ensure that the facilities are utilised to their fullest extent and sustainably so, in order that residents can enjoy the resources for many more years to come.

To make the pavilion more sustainable and limit running costs, we have embarked on a number of initiatives including the installation of solar panels. These are not only sustainable they feed surplus energy back into the grid, providing a modest return and paying back the initial investment.

We have also introduced a new keycard system with the idea here being that we can link access and manage the heating remotely, only bringing the building up to temperature when needed. The next stage is to install a highly cost-efficient air source pump to both heat and cool the pavilion as required.

To this end, we have been successful in obtaining a local grant to supplement the funding of these initiatives. We are further exploring the possibility of installing two 50KW EV chargers. The chargers will not only provide those travelling to Inkpen in an EV with peace of mind that they can fast charge, but additionally, the charger supplier typically pays an annual rental for the hosting of the charging unit. This provides additional income for the charity.

Although the pavilion is well used by Inkpen Primary School, footballers, cricketers, tennis players, visitors to the drop in café as well as for private events and functions, we still need more for it to be truly viable. So, we therefore ask residents to use the facilities wherever possible (particularly during the week & evenings) and indeed promote it as a wonderful venue for all occasions.

We have compiled a very short Questionnaire asking residents what clubs they might attend and whether they, or others would like to run a club at the pavilion, so please give us your feedback to see what we can collectively do.

As we are all volunteers and are truly grateful to those that have helped maintain the facilities in the past including the late Bob May, Richard Bampfyld and John who maintain the grass area, Mark Ingvorsen and Jo Kempster to name just a few, we really do need a few more as many hands really do make light work. So, if you are willing and able to give up a little of your time to support the Playing Field trust it would be very warmly received – do let us know.

Inkpen has a remarkable facility, envied by many and one that we can all be very proud of. Please actively use it and encourage others. Whilst we operate as a “not for profit charity”, we do need your continued support. To this end we will maintain and further improve the facility together to ensure it is enjoyed by all local residents now and for generations to come.

Thank you. *Brian Cox, Chairman of Inkpen Memorial Playing Field*