

## **Recreation Ground Trust Report 2017/2018**

The new arrangement for alternating Recreation Ground Trust meetings with the Parish Council ones has been working very well and has enabled both the Trustees and the Parish Councillors to reduce considerably the length of the meetings time. The decision to conduct the business and affairs of the Rec Ground Trust totally separately from those of the Parish Council was taken following recommendations of charity law solicitors and the Charity Commission.

The Recreation Ground Trust regular bi-monthly meetings, with the exception of the AGM, as is the case for any charitable trust, are not normally open to the public, unless previous notification and reasonable reason for attending has been given in writing in advance of the meeting.

Any matters relating to the Recreation Ground, Pavilion, Car Park, Tennis Courts and Playground are discussed at the Recreation Ground Trust Meetings. .

Minutes and accounts for the Recreation Ground Trust are kept separately. The Trust has had a separate bank account from the Parish Council for several years.

### **Car Park**

Work has been ongoing to fill the potholes that regularly appear and more work will be required in future until a more permanent solution can be found.

The car park continues to be heavily used and on occasions it has reached capacity and overflowed onto the grass verges of Mill Road. Larger vehicles and in particular the weekly visit of the 11 ton refuse lorry, which has to reverse to the village hall doorway, continue to damage the surface.

We managed to get ECC to lay down spare tarmac in car park when they had finished resurfacing Church Lane. It is difficult to predict how long it will last.

Finally, on the subject of the car park, I have been asked to bring to the attention of the Parish Assembly a very worrying situation which, whilst not new, has become much worse of late. Last Sunday both the playground area and the car park were littered with numerous Nitrous Oxide gas canisters and balloons used for sniffing (about 70 were counted, never on this scale before) We are planning to report this to the Police and Neighbourhood Watch to ask for their help. We would also like to ask all village residents to report any suspicious activity.

### **Playground**

Regular ongoing maintenance together with annual inspections by ROSPA are carried out to maintain safety.

Maintenance repairs were carried out on a number of equipment as advised by ROSPA including a complete refurbishment of the aerial runway, the basketball stand and a broken bench behind the Village Hall. The Multiplay Tower was also repaired and a tree, overshadowing the area around it causing moss growth and slippery surfaces, was removed.

The weaknesses in the construction of the mound have been addressed and the broken wooden posts surrounding it replaced.

We thank Gary Watson, Martin Bird and Andrew Tetlow for their help with repairs and Sue and Martin Bird for continuing to regularly mow the grass in the playground as they have done for some years..

### **Footbridge**

The footbridge over the ditch on the pathway connecting Deynes Rd to the Recreation Ground has been replaced, widened and it has also been fitted with a hand rail.

We thank Phil Bannister for his help

### **Bins**

Two litter bins and one dog bin have been replaced with new ones on the Recreation Ground

We thank Jim Watson for his help

### **Tennis Courts**

The Tennis Courts Committee applied to the RGT for permission to install lighting for the tennis courts and the trustees agreed the proposal (item 16/026) on the grounds that the lighting, which will enable players to play until 10pm, would increase the security of the Recreation Ground. David Rose, Chairman of the Tennis Court Committee, subsequently advised that the club had looked at various options and decided on four lighting columns on the corners of the courts, just outside the fencing.. A planning application has been submitted to UDC. The lights will be controlled by a timer to switch off at a set time. Once planning permission has been granted, the club will need to raise funds for the installation. It is estimated that the total cost will be £25,000.

### **Other matters**

#### **The location of the proposed new village hall.**

The Recreation Ground Trust agreed to participate in a Mediation Process with the Village Hall Trust to reach a compromise to enable a new village hall to be built in an alternative location on the recreation ground. As a result, the two parties agreed that the new village hall should be built on the site of the Sports Pavilion which will be demolished and rebuilt in a different location on the recreation ground. The current village hall will be demolished but the Community Shop building will be retained and will become the responsibility of the Recreation Ground. The proposal has been submitted to the Charity Commission for consent.