

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustee Board of NEWTON POPPLEFORD PLAYING FIELD FOUNDATION (300848) – 18th January 2018 at 7pm at The Pavilion Building

Chair's Report

The Newton Poppleford Playing Field Foundation is a Trust which is a registered charity. The Trust encompasses the playing fields, playground and the Pavilion. Management of the Trust is through the Parish Council, where all Councillors are members of the Trustee Board. The Parish Council took responsibility for the Trust in November 2000.

The purpose of the Trust is in the interests of social welfare, to improve the conditions of life for the inhabitants of the area of benefit (the parish), without distinction of political, religious or other opinions, by the provision and maintenance of a recreation ground.

Currently, we have several football and cricket teams using the playing field during the year. The school is also using the field whilst they are displaced from their own premises by the new building. The pavilion is regularly used by groups and clubs, and also accommodates the lunch club, parties and other events.

In the last year, the Trustee Board has gone back to the start to establish the basis of the trust and the Parish council's responsibilities in managing it. There was little supporting paperwork, but with our new Clerk, Paul Hayward, we have made significant progress.

The Trustee Board has been established. It will meet regularly 4 times per year and be supported by working groups as needed. We've put in place a governance document to set out how the Trust will be managed, including identifying conflicts of interest. The Trust's finances were partly managed in the Parish Council accounts – so now we have separated the finances out to provide transparency and this will help see the full picture of income and costs for the Trust.

As a Parish Council managing a Trust we need to manage any conflicts of interest and ensure decisions are fair and do not unduly advantage the Trust over other halls and needs.

David Zirker has been managing the Pavilion for many years now, and he and his wife, Rosemary, have put in a huge effort to raise funds to build a kitchen extension and store to improve the Pavilion facilities. They have raised around £34,000 through donations and in running the lunch club and other events. Without all the volunteers that run halls, clubs and events our community would be much poorer.

Looking forward, the new store and kitchen extension build will be starting imminently. This will improve facilities and open up the Pavilion to large events. We are streamlining the hire agreements with users and will put effort into the other maintenance tasks that need doing.

In the parish we have some excellent facilities in the way of the Village Hall, Harpford Hall, the Pavilion and playing fields and will also have community access to the new school hall. Each of these facilities has its own unique characteristics. I'm sure there is more scope to use these halls for community activities and a lot of potential for the halls to work together to benefit the community as a whole.

Hazel Jeffery, Chair of Newton Poppleford Playing Field Foundation and Chair of the Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council.

January 2018