

NPPFF Chairman's report 2022 - 2023

I have been delighted to see the resumption of full hiring activities for the Pavilion and playing fields. Income, excluding exceptional CV-19 government grants, is building back to pre-pandemic levels.

There has been an increase in utility costs in the year which has been partly through the increased usage of the facility but also because of an increase in world energy prices. This looks like it should be tailing back off and once the current contract prices expire I hope that utility bills can reduce. The "Nest" central heating controller gives much more flexibility to setting up the heating system and it is hoped that this will reap rewards in due course.

The Pavilion remains a valuable local asset and, as trustees, it is our responsibility as custodians to maintain it and indeed improve it. Covid has been a challenge and on behalf of the Trustee Board I would like to thank those, including the government and district council, who supported the foundation financially through what have been unprecedented times.

The strategy of the board has been to seek long term agreements with both the football and cricket clubs in order to improve our eligibility for long term capital funding from organisations such as the FA and ECC. I am pleased to see that this strategy is starting to come to fruition and the new board have signed a long-term deal with Sidmouth Vikings Football Club and indeed we are seeing an increased field usage from the agreement extending to Sunday mornings to facilitate girls' football.

Improving the changing facilities, including dedicated girls' / ladies' facilities, remains a long-term goal in my opinion, along with extending the parking as Saturday morning football currently creates tremendous demand for parking for albeit a few hours.

I would like to thank Jacqui Baldwin for her time and efforts as acting Treasurer for the Foundation. Her input and work was essential whilst a new Treasurer was sought. Unfortunately, I understand that the search for such has, to date, been unsuccessful. We need to try harder to be accommodating to potential applicants.

The finances of the Foundation remain in reasonable shape, however I would recommend that a sinking fund is put in place for major items such as a replacement roof, something which will no doubt be required in the next 10-20yrs. Whilst some grant funding may well be available for such a project it is unlikely to pay for 100% of the work.

I hope to see the facilities go from strength to strength and wish the new Chair and Trustee Board every success in the future.

Chris Burhop