

Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust

(IMPFT)

Report for the Annual Parish Meeting 26.4.18

Introduction: Some of you may be unaware that the Inkpen Memorial Playing Field Trust is a **separate Charitable Trust** set up in 1984 for the benefit of the residents of Inkpen to perpetuate the playing field as a village amenity (and Inkpen Parish Council are the Corporate Trustees. The land was originally donated and opened as a memorial to the dead of two world wars on 26th May 1947.

The Aim of the Charity is to provide and maintain the recreation ground for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Inkpen without distinction of political, religious or other opinions and with the object of improving the conditions of life for the inhabitants.

The Trust has no direct income and relies on contributions and donations raised by the use of its facilities to cover mandatory overheads like insurance, utilities and the high maintenance and repair costs. The regular users are: Inkpen Primary School, Inkpen Tennis Club, Inkpen Five a Side Football and Inkpen Cricket Club, who just pay for hiring facilities at the playing field. There is a small contribution raised from the unwanted small change collected by the **Copper Collection** at the Inkpen Market each month.

This year has seen many improvements to the facilities at the playing field:

- The holes in the surrounding netting on the tennis courts were repaired last year, and last weekend the nets were ‘vandalised’ by unauthorised footballers who managed to get onto the hard court and took the nets down. We now face a repair bill to replace or mend them. Jack Marriott, who cannot be with us tonight is now the Treasurer of Inkpen Tennis and hopes to recruit new members to start the 2018 season. Please come along and support the club.
- We have completely refurbished the pavilion changing rooms with new lighting and hot water showers for both home and visiting sports teams and can provide excellent facilities and sports equipment in additional storage areas behind the pavilion.
- Inkpen Spartans Football Club now uses the recreation ground for the Sunday League football – please do come along on Sunday mornings in the season. Cricket will be starting shortly so do please look at the notice boards at the playing field for the scheduled games at home.
- The Children’s play area is very popular with kids, mums and grandparents. Playground advisors tell us what equipment is available as often it is cheaper to repair rather than replace. Equipment has recently been power washed by one of our Trustees, which has improved the overall appearance. We have recently had a ROSPA inspection and are now faced with a bill between £4000 and £8000 to repair or replace some of it. It is heart-breaking to be in this position as we try and keep the children’s play area in line with safety requirements. The inspectors have the last word and approved suppliers are 2 to 3

times as expensive as a normal contractor. We have no choice but to comply with safety standards and legislation.

- The pavilion continues to be used by the Inkpen 92 Group, who has provided a series of fascinating history and heritage talks from a variety of speakers. The main room of the pavilion provides an excellent warm venue for meetings and has been completely refurbished with a new kitchen, carpeted flooring and new chairs that are comfortable to sit on!! This in turn provides a small income for the Charity each month. The use of the new projector, fixed screen and stand are a great success, purchased from a Grant to the 92 Group by West Berkshire Council.
- We do not charge for use of the playground or the casual use of the recreation ground and we remain sympathetic to users of the facilities, be they individuals or groups where standard charges are prohibitive.
- The running costs such as insurance and maintenance are extraordinarily high, SO we are increasingly reliant on donations and support from individuals and those groups who use the facilities. The Charity has no direct source of regular income.
- The recreation ground is an exceptional asset to the whole village – we are lucky to have such a playing field when so many villages are without the amenity - please support the Charity when you can – we need to cherish it. Ideas for fund raising will help to keep it vibrant and well maintained – if you have any ideas or can help in any way please let us know.

Vanessa Tomlinson MBE
Chairman, Inkpen Parish Council
26.4.18