

Rev Cobley Playing Fields – Draycott

Report for Annual Parish Meeting of Rodney Stoke Parish Council - 16th March 2023

The management committee consists of 5 members, 3 from the football club and 2 from the Memorial Hall. The AGM was held on 8th November 2022, the existing committee was re-elected with no other nominations coming in. The meeting was also attended by the Chairman of the parish council.

The current balance of the 2 accounts held with Natwest Bank stands at £3,328.64. Funding continues to come in from the parish council (£1250) and Draycott Charities (£1000), in 2022 - income was also received from users - the football club (£195) plus additional income from RW Fitness (outdoor fitness classes) of £100 and Cheddar Walking Football Club of £50.

The football club continue to pay the expenses on the pavilion. The parish council cover costs for the play area and insurances.

Grass cutting is the largest cost we incur and West Country Ground Care still take care of grass cutting, We, did look for an alternative supplier for this service but were unable to find any company which could meet our needs. The standard of grass cutting improved last summer of the previous one which enhanced the appearance of the field, the grass did stand up well to the drought conditions that we experienced in summer 2022 and came back well when the rain came.

We have had the football pitch verti-drained this month and a report has been received which if adopted would ultimately give that area a better level of grass and improve the playing surface, however that would come with more expense (spraying for weed control and application of fertiliser for growth). No decision has been taken on these items yet.

Hedge cutting is the other expense which is shared between the playing field and Memorial Hall committees. The parish council undertake some maintenance on the surrounds of the fields when required via their own contractors.

The football club continue to use the field for their matches in the Somerset Senior League division 3, a local exercise class used the field for kettlecise training last summer and has hinted that they will continue again this year. Cheddar Walking Football Club also used the facilities on several occasions in 2022. The school also held their sports day on the field and are looking to use the field again in 2023.

We do get occasional enquiries for use and are always keen to get the field used as much as possible which in turn will increase the income we get. We have been advised that there will be no Strawberry Fayre this year.

During the last year, the portable goal posts were wrecked beyond repair, so the parish council replaced with a pair of damage-proof goals which have been installed and are a very popular asset to the younger element of the community.

The parish council have also ordered a 9' oak tree sapling as part of HM Queen Elizabeth's platinum jubilee celebrations and this is due to be planted in the north west area of the field, when conditions allow, the sapling will be fenced with a metal guard for protection.

The management committee is also registered with Sport England via their Active Data Places platform and we get regular updates from them.

Stephen Young

Stephen Young
Secretary and Treasurer – Rev Cobley Playing Fields Management Committee

15th March 2023