

Tollerton Sports and Recreation Club

Chairman's Annual Statement

AGM Wednesday 24th April 2019

The Sports and Recreation Club are responsible for the running of the village playing field, play equipment, pavilion and bike track. This is the only official space within the village where people can go to for many reasons, and as such it is viewed as a valuable village asset. The committee feel very strongly about the need for this facility within Tollerton.

The year has been a very quiet regarding most aspects of the field and equipment, though work has been carried out in the background.

September 2018 RoSPA inspection highlighted a few items that required action. Minor items were weeds at the basketball hoop, but also the small spinner (roundabout) that needs replacement or a new bearing, and erosion on part of the bike track. A more significant requirement was the climbing frame.

The major work carried out has been the overhaul of the climbing frame. Over the past few years, the report has made the consideration of the replacement on a number of occasions, but due to the lack of swings currently, it became a higher importance to ensure that some facilities were in place. All the wooden structure was replaced by Ashfield Leisure, the bridge sand blasted and powder coated, and new flooring. Total cost came to £974.82 which was paid for by the parish council. During the work it was clear that the fence around it had become rotten, so this has also been replaced at a cost of £1140, also provided by the Parish Council with thanks. To complete the refurbishment, funding was secured from Councillor Peter Sowray of £572, to recover the base with new chipped bark. At this time, this needs to be carried out.

Swings are still out of action due to the need to secure funding, which is explained below.

To gain funding, we needed to show what the community desired. This created the village questionnaire, which was organised by Will Morris with thanks. Thankfully many were returned, giving us the evidence to support grant applications. From the responses, children play equipment came as the most important, followed by the ability to play different sports and fitness. At writing this, we are completing paperwork to secure an award of just over £8285.00, which with Sect 106 monies of £1102.60 and a further £2500 from previous fundraising in the village, we have £11887.60 available. When able to start the work, swings will be the first priority.

The committee have agreed that the use of the field is to be widened, and so have a long term desire to develop it for all ages and requirements, with a plan to develop a track around the field for walking and running.

Income remains low, with the Bridge club providing the largest amount of income. Carol singing in December raised £320, and a kind donation of £300 came from the mini show. Two more donations were gratefully received from Margaret Cochrane, totalling £250; this was from money raised at the fortnightly pub quiz. Balancing income and expenditure continues to be difficult, but the club continues to operate successfully.

Looking forward, the priority is to complete the new bark around the existing climbing frame, and to arrange installation of new swings. Also the further development of new play equipment. Alongside this is the requirement to keep cricket and goal nets replaced as required and some reworking to remove the old electrical coin meter within the pavilion. There is also a requirement to provide some illumination around the barrier at night, to assist pavilion users in the winter months transiting between the car park and the pavilion.

Tim Brook