

Castleton Playing Fields 2019 – 2020

We have had a successful year. We are financially stable through our commercial activities (leasing the field and car park for events), grants from the parish council, plus fundraising activity and donations. Derbyshire CC and Hope Cement have also helped during the year. Our thanks to all who have financially supported the charity.

The Trustees met 5 times during the year. John Davies unfortunately could not be with us recently as he has had a stroke - we wish him well. We held a virtual meeting on 10th April instead of an AGM (in accordance with the advice of the Charity Commission). This article and the financial statement are in the interests of good governance and transparency.

Funding Our usual fund-raising events went well, and are part of village life – the Fell Race, Duck Race and Race Night, raised £1619. In recent years grants and donations have overtaken this source of income. The Parish Council is buying a tractor mower for use on the playing field, which should reduce the costs of grass cutting considerably. The Hollowford Centre paid approx. £2000 for hiring the field and car park for various events. Donations are up, caused mostly by a specific gift of two picnic tables - we are grateful to this donor and their family. Another donation of £250 was raised from a birthday party – for which, thanks.

It is difficult to look ahead at the moment but the past 12 months has put us in a good financial position for our next big project – a fence for the tarmac pitch. We have had quotes for this in the region of £8-10,000. This would make it suitable for both five-a-side and walking football. This was requested during a consultation we held with village residents 2 years ago. We will match fund a grant towards this facility.

The Field The grass cutting has been contracted out but we are looking forward to the arrival of a tractor mower, courtesy of the parish council. It was about to be delivered in March but the lockdown has pushed that back. We are grateful to the CPC for the use of this. We tidied up the toddlers' play area and re-set the rubber matting and bark, with picnic tables nearby. We have started work on the woodland above the football pitch. Castleton School is keen to use this wood for their environmental studies and we will have further discussions with them. They will have use of a stone shed, which we have cleared up before putting a secure door on. It is good that the place is being used by local children and we can help with nest boxes and appropriate seating in the wood. The Trustees are keen to ensure the whole area is environmentally friendly, and encourage wildlife. Much of the litter in the bins is single use plastic bottles so we will have separate bins for re-cyclable litter.

There have been regular working parties keeping the place tidy – my thanks to the volunteers who turned out to help. Peter Johnson has kept on top of the many jobs up there.

The committee sees its job as ensuring that the field is a pleasant and safe place for the people of Castleton to use and enjoy. If you want to be involved please get in touch.

Paul Borland
Chair of Trustees

Any comments or feedback can be sent to Paul at paul.borland@virgin.net 621103, or Steve at info@fixitsteve.co.uk 07746287606.

