

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2011.

Trustees: Mr. N. Poulton Mr. D. Stock
Mr. I. Knight Mr. J. Meischke

The charity was formed on 7th August 1997 to promote sport, sporting activities and recreational facilities within the village of Watton at Stone and the surrounding villages, and to provide an information centre within the village for local residents to use at no cost.

During the financial year the trustees met four times and reported the details of their meetings to the full Parish Council.

A full safety check has been undertaken on all electrical, gas and fire appliances.

Further work has been carried out on the inside and outside of the Community Hall.

This work involved:

- internal decorations to the pavilion
- replacement of numerous broken roof tiles and gutter clearance
- a new Swan urn has been bought for use in the kitchen
- the window mechanisms in the Sports Hall have been replaced
- a new pipe for relaying hot water to the “home team” showers has been installed thus making sure that those showers get hot water
- the window locks in the Pavilion and meeting room have been repaired and replaced
- replace four large swing seats and two cradle swing seats
- replace all the strip lighting in the Sports Hall
- pressure wash and Moss kill the Multi-Purpose Play Area
- installed a new notice board re parking of vehicles in the Community Hall car park.

Concerns have been raised over the noise nuisance by car owners and their occupants playing loud music late into the night and racing their cars up and down School Lane plus the foul language by footballers during football matches both these matters have been referred to the Police for action.

An inspection was carried out by the Play Inspection Company Limited on all the play equipment on the sports field and minor repairs have been carried out following this inspection.

The Manhole cover in the sports field was damaged and has been replaced.

Andrew Leather of Leather Consultancy Limited completed a fire risk assessment on the Community Hall and appropriate action was taken following this assessment.

The short, medium and long term expenditure and the asset register were reviewed and brought up to date.

The hire agreement for the Community Hall has been reviewed and amended accordingly.

Unfortunately, the Community Hall has suffered a spate of vandalism during the year with paint and eggs being smeared on the Pavilion windows, glass panels broken, the exit doors to the car park “kicked in” and petty vandalism to the outside toilets.

A grant application to East Herts Council’s Community Planning Grant. was successful and £1562 was granted for new blinds to the pavilion with the new blinds being fitted in the coming financial year.

Consideration was given to reducing the nuisance to local residents by the noise from cars in the car park by installing a barrier but the cost and management was deemed too expensive and would probably not solve the problem.

The insurance for both the buildings and contents of the Community Hall. has been reviewed and updated.

Again my thanks to Mr. John Meischke who has been on hand to rectify the problems that have arisen in the last year and to deal with the contractors.