

Malpas Recreation Ground Chairman's Report

October 2018 – November 2019

Introduction:

The period from October 2018 – November 2019 has once again been a relatively quiet year for the Trust and the Management Committee. The trust has performed well increasing the value of its assets over the reporting period.

Accounts and Finance:

An audited set of accounts for the year ending March 2018 were submitted to and accepted by the Charity Commissioners in January 2019.

Expenditure for the year was £ 9,850, this against an income of £ 13,515 from property and car park rental.

Monthly income from the letting of a 4 bedroom property continues to ensure financial sustainability for the Trust.

Site Review

The site continues to be used by the Malpas Alport Primary School for their weekly games period and their periodic sports days.

In addition, regular keep fit classes for women have been run on a twice weekly basis for most of the year.

The site was again provided free of charge for the popular and well attended Village Fair; this in line with the trust principle objective of supporting leisure activities for Malpas residents. The Trustees and I assisted with the logistics of the Fair once again.

November 2018 was the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. The Trustees and I were heavily involved in the organization of the Malpas "100 Years On" Project.

The site was used to hold displays and exhibits that took part in the street parade. A representative WW1 Trench Network system constructed at the top of the site delighted the many visitors attending on a fine Saturday afternoon.

The gathering was addressed by the Lord Lieutenant, David Briggs and the Lord Mayor of Chester, Alex Black.

The Japanese Knotweed previously discovered growing on the verge on Tilston Road and invading the Recreation Ground appears now to have been eradicated. However, I continue to keep a watching brief on the infected area.

Safety and Anti-social Behaviour:

During the reporting period, I have made weekly inspections of the site. These visits consist of an inspection of the play equipment to identify and potential hazards or defects, and also pick litter off the site.

Any defects identified are normally remedied within appropriate timescales, or reported to the appropriate responsible body. Visits, issues and actions taken are recorded in a log book.

Broken glass in the MUGA area tends to be a recurring issue. There is no remedy readily apparent for this problem, and it may get worse as the emphasis on Climate Change moves society from plastic to glass bottles.

A 12 monthly inspection, conducted to BSEN Standards, was undertaken by Morral Play Services certified Inspector on 29th August 2018.

A feedback report was received and any outstanding issues are being addressed.

Dog waste has continued to be a minor issue on the site as it is in the rest of the village. I would ask the committee to report names of any known offenders to Cheshire West Council.

Management Committee:

Over the last few years it has become increasingly difficult to recruit new committee members, and for the reporting period we have only had 8 Committee members in total.

Lack of volunteers is an issue being experienced by virtually every club and organization in the village, and it is unclear how this shortfall might be addressed.

Future Strategy:

The strategy for the future is to develop the site in a unique manner with some greater emphasis on a park with open green spaces on its north western perimeter.

Some of the possible changes to be considered for 2019 - 2020 include:

Remove some scrub trees and bushes from the boundaries on the Tilston Road and Love Lane, and improve the site boundary fencing.

The vision for the future is one of a well-used and maintained green space capable of being enjoyed by all residents and visitors to the village.

Chris Whitehurst,

Chairman

Malpas Recreation Ground Management Committee
11th November 2019