



Chairman's Report

Recreation Ground A.G.M & Annual Parish Assembly

The Recreation Ground offers a substantial resource to both villagers and folks from the wider area. The facilities include: the play area, the open fields, sports pitches, tennis courts, a multiple use games area, an outdoor gym and the club house. Aside from its use for general recreation we have several clubs based at the ground comprising: Football, Cricket, Tennis and Bat and Trap. Hopefully, people are aware that members of these sports groups also comprise the bulk of volunteers that keep the whole show on the road, helping to keep the facilities alive. We're pleased to note that the football and cricket teams are particularly successful. They keep our club house busy and the main source of our funding. We host an annual 10k and 5k run every year run by Sporting Events UK. This year, as always, it was very well organised. The event puts Wingham on the map for that day.

The Recreation Ground is managed by a small group of volunteers who form a management committee. They put their spare time into running the day-to-day upkeep of the ground for everyone's enjoyment. We receive significant help from the parish council by way of grants, help with mowing and with management of the play and gym areas. The Management Committee would like to thank the Parish Council and the Parish representative for their cooperation when needed and a thank you for the Grant which is a huge help maintaining the grounds.

During the year the committee were not made aware of any vandalism or unsociable behaviour on the grounds. However, a year must not be allowed to pass that does not mention the routine vandalism that is dog fouling. Despite more efforts to curtail the issue this year, our work proved in vain. It is a pity that dog walkers, the single largest user group we have, does little or nothing to help us diminish this scourge.

Users may be pleased to hear that, thanks to a larger than usual Parish Council grant, we have been able to re-surface the car park. We have had the persistent holes dug out and re-filled so hopefully this surface will last a little longer.

The Committee is always looking for new volunteers, if anyone is willing, please come forward, it really is a case of the more the merrier. We are also always looking for help to assist with helping to obtain grants and funding, anyone with knowledge in this field would be a great asset.

A great deal of hard work is put in by all the volunteers for others to enjoy and without these volunteers as with many other organisations around the village the facilities probably wouldn't exist. I thank them all sincerely.

Below please find a brief report from our treasurer on the Recreation Ground finances

Ian Pettman

I. Pettman

Chairman

Finance Report

The land comprising the Wingham recreation ground is leased by the Parish Council to a registered charity named as the Wingham Recreation Ground, our registration number is 1012683. Historical annual reports and accounts can be viewed on the Charity Commission website.

We publish our full accounts annually. They are not yet available for the year ending March 31st 2025. Provisional numbers will be circulated before our AGM on May 13th. All Wingham residents are more than welcome, we would love to see more people taking an interest in our work.

Financially, the year continued our general downward trend, determined by increased costs and diminished interest from villagers. This would appear to be a trend both locally and nationally, it would be good if Wingham could buck it somehow. All of our clubs have seen diminishing membership, across the board but the tennis club in particular. At this stage we can reasonably say that we will finish with a small loss, our first for at least five years. There is no immediate threat to our financial position as our balance sheet remains very healthy indeed. It's not easy to disassemble all of the numbers so here are the actual costs relating to upkeep of the grounds themselves and the grant we receive from the Parish Council.

The parish council granted us £2,000 which we received in June 2024 and the following has been committed so far:

Insurances	- £377
Ground Maintenance	- £660 (Car Park)
Fence repairs	- £732

A total of £1,769. It is worth noting that the car park work was much cheaper than anticipated because our chairman managed to source the raw materials free of charge. We still have some ground treatment work to commit to. This was last done in October 2022 at a cost of £582.

In the financial year from April 2024 through March 2025 – we actually spent £2,192 on the grounds. We fund the gap from our club revenues and the £300 we receive from Sporting Events UK for hosting the annual run. It is worth mentioning that the Parish Council also pays for regular 'rough cutting' during the spring and summer. Our volunteers do the fine surfacing and pitch preparation, we would not be able to keep the grounds in such good condition without this help.

David Rothschild

Treasurer