

Ridlington Playing Field

Registered Charity number 522345

Ridlington Playing Field Report 2021 – 2022

The Trustee body is elected at the Parish Meeting on an annual basis and are the custodians for the time being of Ridlington Playing Field.

Their mission is to ensure that the Playing Field is maintained and presented to the highest possible level, that it complies with all current legislation and regulation and that it provides suitable and appropriate amenities for the benefit of the villagers of Ridlington the surrounding parish and visitors alike and for as long as they are required.

Key Activities

Recreational, including relaxation within and enjoyment of the natural surroundings

Dog walking

Sports and leisure

Children's Play Area

Petanque

Trustees

The Playing Field continues to be managed by 4 trustees: Ruth Lees, Julie Hoults, Simon Powell, Chris Lees. They are registered as trustees with The Charity Commission.

We have a number of regular volunteers who assist in the mission of the playing field.

Volunteers being sought to join action group.

Finance/ Legal

Income: Pre pandemic mainly reliant on gifts and fundraising activities together with occasional small time hire.

The return to The Charity Commission was submitted in April 2022.

We need to raise £1500+ simply to cover the annual running costs which include insurance, utility bills, grass cutting, business rates, water rates, play area maintenance etc. (See accompanying Annual Accounts) In 2021 The Playing Field received in common with other businesses/ organisations who were eligible compensation payments for loss of income due to the global pandemic and the lockdowns that have occurred.

Accounts for year ending 31st March 2022 accompany this report.

Ridlington Playing Field AGM

No AGM was held in 2021 due to the global pandemic.

Playing Field Survey Results and Analysis Volunteers now being sought again to be part of an action group to take forward the results of the playing field questionnaire completed by our villagers.

Care and Maintenance of Field

The main grass area was allowed to grow for a hay harvest during the summer months as per the previous year. Grass continued to be mown to maintain and to create new footpaths and elsewhere as required. Nettles and weeds were treated around the pavilion, around the new cricket nets, around the front gates, on and around the play areas and memorial stones.

Normal grass cutting and de thatching regime has recommenced. Rewilding of the periphery of the field continues to be encouraged. The saplings acquired from The Woodland Trust are doing well.

Trees

Visit from a local arborist took place in early Autumn to advise re the maintenance and care of the many trees on the field.

Childrens Play Area -Fresh play bark has been spread recently. New junior swing purchased.

The Cricket Club – no home games throughout the pandemic.

Cricket Pavilion was removed at the beginning of February 22 for health and safety reasons and following liaison with the cricket club. It is hoped that in time an environmentally friendly building will replace it. Discussions are ongoing.

Wooded Area A pathway has now been cleared all the way through due to the hard work of volunteers and being much enjoyed. Bluebell bulbs to be planted in the Autumn.

Football Pitch/Nets. Old nets removed. New nets acquired and awaiting attachment.

Cutting back of bushes left side of field where they spread out quickly has taken place

Dog poo bins proving to be very successful.

Benches New bench purchased and existing bench cleaned and required maintenance carried out.

New wire netting fencing has been erected between the front of the field (which lay at the back of the cricket pavilion) and the road to enhance safety.

Future Fund Raising Ideas Discussions are now taking place as we go forward Volunteers for action groups are actively being sought.

Awaiting ROSPA visit for 2022

April 22 Work Party took place one Saturday in April 2022 . Thanks go to everyone who offered their help and to those who worked so hard to make it such a success on the day. Major clearance of cricket pavilion site and removal of detritus +++, clearance of dead wood etc from wooded area and removal of same, removal of old football nets, weeding of both play areas and petanque area.

Thanks goes to everyone who has supported us especially over the last two years of the pandemic.