

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2014

Trustees:	Mr. I Harris (Chairman)	Mr. I. Knight
	Mr. J. Meischke	Mr. D. Stock

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.

The objects were altered by a Deed dated 15th July 1997 and are now as follows, “Trustees shall hold the trust fund and its income upon trust to apply them for the following objects in Watton-at-Stone: to provide or assist in the provision of recreational and sporting facilities for the benefit of the public in the village and surrounding area with the object of improving the conditions of life of those persons”.

During the financial year the trustees met four times, namely on 9th April, 6th August, 14th November 2013 and 14th January 2014 and reported upon the key decisions made to the full Parish Council.

One of the founding trustees, Nigel Poulton was unable, as a result of ill health, to continue as a Trustee and Mr. Harris, another member of the Parish Council had been invited by the Trustees to attend their meeting on 9th April with a view to him being appointed a Trustee.

Mr. Harris was duly appointed and elected Chair of the Trustees. It was further agreed that only members of the Watton-at-Stone Parish Council can be appointed Trustees and that such appointments shall be made and or ratified at the first meeting of the Trustees in each municipal year.

In order to meet the charity’s key objectives the Trustees took all steps to ensure the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the charity’s property, the Community Hall. Matters dealt with included regular servicing of electrical gas and fire appliances and alterations to the internal and external storage areas to allow more usable room within the main facilities.

The charity also took all steps to maintain the items of equipment on the sports field and ensure that necessary repair was carried out so that the equipment could continue to be safely used. The necessary third-party safety checks have been undertaken.

The Trustees have been fortunate to receive externally-raised funds to enable the supply and installation of additional play equipment which has added significantly to the available facilities.

The Trustees have spent some time considering the requirement for a Child Safeguarding Policy and its work in this direction is continuing.

This report cannot be closed without paying tribute to the outgoing Chair Nigel Poulton. Nigel had been a key figure in the establishment of the charity in 1997 and had been the Chair since its inception. Sadly Nigel died during the year. With the full welcome of his family, the Trustees recommended, and the Parish Council agreed, that the Community Hall be renamed The Nigel Poulton Community Hall.

Report by: Iain Harris