

# **Report from the Representative of the Hemingford Abbots Parish Council on the Trustees Management Committee of the Hemingford Peace Memorial Field.**

**Presented at the AGM of the HAPC on 30 April, 2025**

It has been another very busy year at the Pavilion with important improvements to the amenities and to the management of the facilities. Club contributions have been increased to keep up with increased costs and maintenance work on the pavilion building. The continued contribution by HAPC towards the upkeep of the Hemingford Pavilion and Playing Field is greatly appreciated.

During the year maintenance work to the Pavilion building and surrounding areas included amongst many other items, sanding and sealing the Hayward floor, repairs to fire doors, removal of an almost dead hedge by bowls green and replacement with a fence, improvements to front entrance with a raised bed and improvements to the rear carpark. The playing field itself is used a lot by the Cricket and Football Clubs and because of the unusually wet weather, the grass maintenance care has been increased to try to cope with the demand and fluctuating weather conditions.

Due to the increase in energy prices the Trustees have been investigating the cost and benefits of installing solar panels on the Squash Club roof. Several systems and different solar panels were considered and grant funding sort from various donors. After much deliberation, solar panels were finally installed on the Squash Club roof in February 2025. It is estimated that these solar panels will provide up to about 27% of the Pavilion's electrical energy use and have a life span of 25-30 years.

Another major project has been carried out by the Tennis Club. They had for some time been considering replacing the existing old playing surface and also installing LED lights for playing after dark. This has finally all come together in the last few months and been completed successfully. It should be noted that as a consequence of this, the tennis courts are now open to public non-member use during certain hours of weekdays and weekends by paying a small fee.

Fund raising is underway to replace the children's old play park with a new modern Play Park. The cost is around £100,000 and so far half of this has been raised through grants, fund raising and donations. The Trustees would like to thank the HAPC for their contribution and support. It is expected that more grant funds can be attracted in the next few months and that work will begin in the autumn.

On the sporting side, the Bowls Club had a successful season and attracted many new players. The Football Club had another successful season. The Club merged with the Hemingford Colts and Seniors so that now there are 4 senior teams and 15 youth teams. Matches will be held at a variety of locations including the school, Daintree Green, St Ivo Centre and on Sundays at the Pavilion. The Cricket Club had a successful season and was looking stronger for 2025. The artificial pitch was working well. The Squash Club had 228 members and was in a healthy position. Various competitions had been arranged for 2024/5 and a youth tour in Portugal was planned for April 2025. The Gym maintained its numbers over the summer and these were now increasing. The Gym has been very busy.

During the year various activities and entertainment events were scheduled including Friday night barbecues with music, Family Fun Day, Village Sports Day and the Classic Car Show.

The Pavilion Picture films continue to be very popular with performances often sold out. Hall hire which is one of the main income streams has gone well during the year despite the rates being increased.

Ted Burleigh – 30 April 2025.