**Rode Playing Fields Annual Report 2024**

**Pavilion**

You will all be aware of the subsidence problem of the pavilion. We decided to monitor the problem using an inexpensive procedure by mounting identifiers and measuring any movement. For safety reasons, the Pavilion was closed for a 6 months period whilst we investigated the issues.

With the help of local builder, Nick Frankom, we removed the plasterboard, strengthened the weakened timbers and made good. We have been advised that the building is safe for now, but has a limited life of maybe 5 to 6 years. We are constantly carrying out repairs to the roof.

Its worth noting that we are not covered by insurance for subsidence and do not have funds to carry out a long-term repair solution.

**Joint Community Hall**

With the guidance of the Parish Council, we are evaluating the prospect of a joint facility to include The Memorial Hall, Rode Scouts and The Playing Field. With the help of Graham Jacobs our friendly architect. The three groups are working together to ascertain if a joint facility is feasible within a reasonable time frame in light of the limited life of our existing pavilion.

**Charities Committee Structure**

Andy Picket representing the Parish Council & myself representing the Playing Fields, had lengthy discussions with legal firm D.K Legal (David Kirby), regarding changing the status of the committee from old style “personal responsibility” to that of a modern CIO “limited responsibility”.

Whilst we are establishing the feasibility of a “joint community hall”, to save duplication and costs, we have put on hold changing the existing structure. We will re-visit should the joint venture prove unsuccessful.

**Cricket And Football Facilities**

With the efforts of Rode Cricket Club and Freshford Football Club, with the 106 monies previously obtained, we are re developing new football facilities and re positioning the Cricket facilities. Both clubs are contributing to the costs, each paying 25% and the 106 monies 50% (Match Funding). Subject to weather conditions, we would expect all work to be completed by the end of this year. We also expect all 106 monies to be allocated.

**Footpath**

Thanks to Grant Slade and Mike Moore, the new footpath coming through the Playing Field and linking Church Farm Development is nearing completion. A real benefit, linking Church Farm with the rest of the village.

**Accounts 2024**

We have adequate funds for the general operation of the Playing Fields. Our current bank account balance as of 1st May 2024 is £20,646, including the S106 monies of £6,376. By the end of this financial year, with the S106 monies spent, our balance will be reduced to £14,270, less other operating costs.

**Main Future Events**

Cricket & Football programmes throughout the year will see the Playing Fields extremely well supported.

Rode Fete, this year organised by Hannah Lovell & Grant Slade, will be held on Saturday 13th July. A traditional village event including tractor rides, stalls, games, bouncy castle, bar, food and band. Followed by an evening of bar, food, bands and entertainment. There will be a stage for the day and night.

**In Conclusion**

Of some concern is the condition of the Pavilion that will require maintenance and the state of the children’s play area that will certainly require upkeep.

With the ongoing support of the Parish Council, the Playing Field lottery run by Keith & Jane Sharman and the hard work of the Playing Field Committee, the Playing Fields remains a major and viable benefit for the village.

**Steve Eyles**

Playing Fields Chair

2nd May 2024