

Warnford Playground application for a grant from the Warnford Parish Meeting of November 2023

This application is for a grant of £500 from the Warnford Parish Meeting on 14th November 2023 for the year ending 31st March 2025.

Please find attached background information on the Playground, our most recent accounts and projected expenditure for 2024/25.

Warnford Playground, R. P. Chester Memorial Trust Co Ltd

The Charity was set up in 1974 to provide an area of play and open space for Warnford Village residents. It is located off Lippen Lane adjacent to the River Meon in an idyllic setting. The land was donated by the Chester family and is also a memorial to R.P.Chester, who was the first member of the family to live and farm in the village, having purchased the Warnford Estate in the 1930s. He died in 1968. Since its inception, the Playground has been run by a group of unpaid trustees who have traditionally been residents of the village, although an exception has been made for Kate, the granddaughter of R.P.Chester himself; she hopes to move back to the village one day!

The current four trustees administer the charity and take on the responsibility for the upkeep of the Playground itself and the equipment that sits on the land. As well as being a registered charity, it is also a limited company.

Apart from Warnford villagers, the Playground is used by outside visitors, particularly in the summer months, when it is a favourite for family picnics. We believe that all would agree that the Playground is a great asset to our village.

Reasons for the Application

The Playground is a registered charity and has no regular income. It therefore relies on donations and goodwill to keep it running. Annually we receive a 10% share of the Church fete profit, it being held on the Playground and money from the Tom Coles Charity.

In the past, this small income has been 'topped up' with grants from the Parish Meeting and we ask that this continues. One of the major costs each year is the insurance (around £500) together with the upkeep and running of the machinery. General inflation, which seems unlikely to reduce in the near future, has through higher fuel costs, spares and bark etc added to our annual spending. We also need to complete annual running repairs on the play equipment to adhere to the recommendations from the annual playground safety inspections and the cost of constructional timber has risen substantially.

Special Considerations

The issue of ash die-back disease continues to cause concern, having felled four affected trees two years ago, we are keeping a very close eye on our remaining trees, which are looked at annually by the tree surgeon who felled the previous batch, all the remaining Ash trees have die-back and will almost certainly have to be felled when there is more serious evidence of disease. We have been lucky enough to receive an extremely generous donation large enough to hopefully cover the cost of removal of all remaining trees when this eventually becomes necessary. The money will be ring-fenced for this purpose and comes as a huge relief to the trustees.

Financial Outlook

The somewhat damp Coronation Bonfire Party showed a profit of £180.

Next year, however, even without the ash die-back concerns, financial pressures will continue: bark chippings will cost £1000 or more and the climbing frame timber is starting to deteriorate more rapidly as it ages and it is over 20 years old.

The Parish Meeting's previous support has been vital in keeping the charity solvent and we therefore ask that serious consideration be given to this application. If granted, the money will largely cover the annual insurance premium, which this year was £450 but we have come to the end of a five year contract so it may rise significantly next year.

Thank you.

The Playground Trustees: Stephen Short, Robin Athawes, Phil Chadder and Kate Fismer

Warnford Village Playground Accounts Summary

	2022/23	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Bank deposit interest	Jubilee Bonfire 10.32	0.54	1.40	2.72
Fund raising	690.65	0	0	0
Grant from Parish Meeting	750	450	450	450
Donations	6276.40	1256.35	200	512.25
Grants	0	500	0	0
Misc	0	0	50	0
Total income	7727.37	2206.89	701.40	964.97
Expenditure				
Insurance	489.18	486.72	501.05	515.36
Companies House fees	13	13	13	26
Maintenance	236.05	3600	0	77.63
Equipment	293.07	302.01	0	106.62
Rates	28.67	30.84	15.78	64.87
Office	Food etc. for Jubilee Bonfire 0	0	0	5
Safety Inspections	52.45	44.95	44.95	44.95
Misc	195.90	0	0	0
Total expenditure	1308.32	4477.52	574.78	840.43
Net surplus/deficit	6419.05	-2270.63	126.62	124.54
Opening Bank accounts				
Cash	11.69	11.69	11.69	16.69
Current	1199.87	3471.04	3345.82	3219.00
Deposit	5439.19	5438.65	5437.25	5434.53
Total	6650.75	8921.38	8794.76	8670.22
Increase / decrease in bank balances	6419.05	-2270.63	126.62	124.54
Closing	13069.80	6650.75	8921.38	8794.76
Closing Bank accounts				
Cash	11.69	11.69	11.69	11.69
Current	7608.60	1199.87	3471.04	3345.82
Deposit	5449.51	5439.19	5438.65	5437.25
Total	13069.80	6650.75	8921.38	8794.76

RP Chester Memorial Trust Company Ltd Actual to October '23 and beyond budgeted cash flow to Mar 2025

	2023												2024												2025															
	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total														
Cash receipts																																								
Grant from Parish Meeting			225										450			250										500												500		
Church Fete donation													269													250												250		
Tom Coles Charity donation													200													200												200		
Other donations													75													0												0		
Fund Raising			471										471													450												450		
Misc income													0													0												0		
Grants													0													0												0		
Total receipts			696		0		0	25	275	269	0	0	1485			250		450		0	250	250	0	0	200	1400												200	1400	
Payments													444												525												525			
Insurance													117												130												130			
Maintenance (Equip, trees & park)			6					31					60												50												50			
Equip operation (petrol etc)			25		30			27	30				142												30												30			
Fund Raising Expenses													291												200												200			
Water rates													53												26												26			
Companies House fee													13												13												13			
Misc (e.g. WCC inspection)													52												52												52			
Total payments			43		27		58	474	82	291	26	0	1112			39		250		0	575	0	50	26	200	2272												200	2272	
Net income and expenditure			-31		653		-27	-58	-449	193	-26	0	364			211		200		0	-575	250	200	-26	0	-872												150	-872	
Opening bank balance			7609		7578		8231	8204	8146	7697	7890	7868	7962			6680		6891		7091	7091	6516	6766	6966	6940	7090												6940	7090	
Closing bank balance			7578		8231		8204	8146	7697	7890	7868	7842	7842			6891		7091		7091	6516	6766	6966	6940	6940	7090												7090	7090	
Difference check													0													0												0	0	
Deposit account																																								
Opening balance			5450		5453		5456	5460	5463	5467	5472	5477	5482			5502		5507		5512	5517	5522	5527	5532	5537	5542												5547	5552	
Transfer													0												0												0	0		
Interest			3.45		3.10		3.48	3.71	4.04	5.11	5.04	5.00	5.00			5.00		5.00		5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	60.00												5.00	60.00	
Closing balance			5453		5456		5460	5463	5467	5472	5477	5482	5502			5507		5512		5517	5522	5527	5532	5537	5542	5552												5557	5562	
Current plus deposit			13031		13687		13683	13609	13164	13362	13346	13325	13330			12188		12404		12809	12614	12044	12299	12504	12483	12488												12648	12653	

NOTE 1 The £6000 that was given as a donation is ring fenced for work on the deceased trees, as and when necessary and is not for general expenditure.

NOTE 2 £1500 of Deposit account was an endowment to generate interest income to pay the annual water rate charges and is not available for general expenditure.