

# Glemsford Playing Field Charity Annual Report to Parish Council

For the Year 2024-2025

## Introduction

The Glemsford Playing Field Charity is committed to protecting and maintaining the 'REC' for the community of Glemsford. Its work is made possible by a small group of Trustees, Committee members and volunteers.

Our Charitable objects are the "*PROVISION OF A RECREATION GROUND FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE RESIDENTS OF GLEMSFORD*".

This annual report highlights our achievements, difficulties, and future for the year ahead.

## Chairperson's Report

This year has been tumultuous for the 'REC'.

We started the year positively by organising a series of Car Boot sales which generated some interest and a little revenue – it also identified again the number of people who didn't know the REC exists!

In May we were devastated by the arson attack on our benches which had proved so successful in providing a focal point for people old & young using the REC. Unfortunately, although significant evidence of those responsible was provided to Suffolk Police they decided not to pursue prosecution. It is very sad when people within your own community think they can destroy items that give so much pleasure to others – one can only hope that Karma wins in the end.

This incident did however raise a fantastic wave of support from businesses, groups and individuals all wishing to support the REC. I hope I don't miss out thanks to anyone but to name the main supporters – Debbie & team @ the Angel, GCB Cocoa, Ricki@ CR Civils, Ryan Stratton, our District and County Councillors, and many individuals who contributed to the online fundraising. Together with our insurance monies we now have the funds in place to replace and hopefully increase the number of benches & tables and these new items will be appearing shortly for everyone's use again.

Despite this set back we have seen an increase in use of the REC across all age groups, which is a testament to the value of this unique space.

Later in August we hosted our second Cinema Under the Stars night showing the Greatest Showman. Although the turnout was lower than we had hoped, and the event made a loss, those that attended enjoyed a fantastic evening. Sometimes you have to try things and hope they generate funds.

We suspended plans for a Summer Fete due to potential clashes with other events and the workload of our committee – we have plans to run a similar event to our successful 2023 fete this year.

Our AGM in the Autumn again broke records for attendance and was a constructive evening.

Looking ahead to this year we have plans to plant a woodland area with a mixture of trees, hedging, and fruit bearing plants. We are actively seeking a company to install fencing around the planting area – as the saplings are already sprouting into leaf!

We will run a series of Car Boots and plan to host a summer fayre event. We are working with the Parish Council to improve drainage from the Village Hall carpark through our ditches and progress our long-term plan to improve the access road.

We will never be overrun with funds and so we are grateful for support from the Parish Council through an annual grant and we hope to partner with local businesses for certain projects. We are also actively seeking the involvement of other organisations in either hosting events or collaborating fund raising efforts.

## Conclusion

The Glemsford Playing Field Charity, the trustees and committee is grateful for the unwavering support of our Community, the Parish Council, volunteers, and donors large & small. Together we have made significant strides in improving the REC and enriching the lives of residents. We look forward to the year ahead filled with new opportunities and continued community engagement.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Glemsford Playing Field Charity.

Duncan Grafen

Committee Chair & Trustee

8<sup>th</sup> April 2025