

Item 14. Report on the future of Tiptoe Green Trust

Background

In 2008/9 Hordle and Sway Parish Councils both contributed towards purchasing the field that now forms Tiptoe Green. The green is managed by a local charity – Tiptoe Green Trust. Hordle Parish Council has two councillors sitting as trustees, with local residents comprising a further 5 trustees and 2 specialists (CPRE and accountancy) comprising the remainder.

The Trust maintains the green and organises events such as the May Fayre, which helps to raise funds for its upkeep.

Current Situation

As with many charitable organisations, the Trust has found it difficult at times to recruit trustees and volunteers and is exploring ways to safeguard the green's future. One of the options they are considering could be for Hordle and Sway Parish Councils to become joint trustees and oversee the day-to-day management of the green. This option would ensure the green remains protected as a community resource in perpetuity. A "Friends" organisation would retain events organisation. The Parish Councils would ensure local representation for the green going forward.

Next steps

The Trust is holding an information session for Tiptoe residents on Monday 14th October 4-7pm in the Young Farmers' Hall. Representatives from the Parish Councils will be available to answer residents' questions. The Trust will use the feedback from this evening and other consultative methods to decide how to proceed.

If the Trust then decides to approach the Parish Councils to become joint trustees, further legal advice would be sought, as well as suggestions on the division of administration between the Councils and the "Friends" organisation, and any associated costs, before both Councils make a formal decision.