

Background Of Gwernaffield Playing Field

Extract's taken from Original meetings

A public meeting was first organised to be held on 5th February 1905 but was cancelled due to only four people turning up.

March 14th 1935 a public meeting was held and twelve people were present. W D Tattum addressed those present that he had called the meeting with the object of providing a playing field for the children of the Parish. He referred to two occasions where children had been killed.

Mr Tattum suggested that all persons present could be the playing field committee. The suggestion was proposed by Mr T R Jones and seconded by Mrs Alwn Jones, everyone supported this.

It was agreed that Mr D Tattum be the secretary, and Mr T B Jones assistant secretary (sports)

It was suggested that Commander Heaton to be the Chairman.

It was decided to hold a Whist Drive and dance , the secretary to ask the Vicar for a date.
Meeting Closed.

A further meeting was held on the 24th March 1935 Where the secretary informed the Chairman, Commander Heaton of the names of the committee.

Treasurer : T R Jones

Secretary: W D Tattum

Committee:

Mrs A Jones, Mr B Blackwell, Mrs M Jones, Mrs E Evans, Mrs J R Jones

Mrs S Jones, Mrs E Parry, Mrs W J Parry, Mrs G Williams.

Residents who had been in contact with the secretary since the public meeting and wished to be committee members: Mr Bruce, Mr Dobson.

On the advice of the Chairman , those members were added to the committee.

The Chairman's remarks were, we need a very strong committee, and if anyone wishes to become a member we should welcome them.

It was decided to form an agenda for the next meeting for a Sports and Carnival.

The Following Months/Years

Over the following months the committee worked hard to organise a sports and Carnival Day in July 1935 to raise funds. Commander Eaton offered the Committee a loan of £15 towards the prizes for the sports the committee decided to accept this.

Splitting the members into a family committee for stalls and a men's committee for other stalls. They decided to keep separate minutes etc for the carnival and normal committee meetings so that it did not take up too much time.

The secretary sent out over 100 letters to the community asking for help with the event or gifts of cash or items for stalls. At a meeting in August of that year it was reported that they had made £9 .

Later that year in October a public meeting was held and a proposal that the field would not be open on a Sunday. This was agreed by all present.

A further £25 was made from a Welsh night .

During December 1935 the secretary had been looking for a suitable field and had turned down Mrs Clemence's (?) field as it was too near the road. He had also been to see the agents of the Lord of the manor office in Mold. Various fund raising events were held, dances, whist nights including a talent show in Pantymwyn.

On 28th June 1936 at a public meeting, a member of the public thanked the committee for all their efforts and hard work and the enormous effort from the secretary was putting into the project. "I hope " he said "that I shall live to see the fruit of victory for his sake"

More fundraising was carried out during 1936 and 1937 holding annual Carnivals, Welsh nights, talent contests and dances.

We cannot find any minutes about the playing fields from 1938 until 1949 presumably this was due to WW2.

In June 1949 a meeting was held where new officers had to be elected due to death and ill health of the presiding Chair Mr Dobson and the secretary Mrs P Morris.

The treasurer read a statement of the accounts which stated that the fund for the Playing Field was £197 four shillings and sixpence.

During the month of August 1949 it was decided that a dance would be held and the secretary Mr Tattum promised to see Mr Schofield about having the dance advertised on the screen at Mold Picture Palace. This he so arranged at a cost of five shillings for every night for one week.

Over the next few years it seems that the Playing Field Committee were in touch with The Playing Fields Association in London, Mr Williams the Town and County Planning Officer

had visited a proposed field. Mr Williams advised the committee ways and means to secure a Playing Field and gave a rough estimate of the grants to be obtained.

During a meeting in November 1950 Mr H Parry the North Wales Regional Officer enlightened and advised the committee on matters in connection with the Playing Field. Mr Parry promised to get in touch with London for legal advice on behalf of the committee. Mr Rees would see the Director of Education for his view in support of the Playing Field. The secretary promised to write to Miss Clements informing her of their desire to purchase the field when all obstacles had been removed, and asked her to keep the committee in mind should another party be interested in the field.

Fundraising carried on and by 1952 with all credit to the committee fundraising there was a sum of £314, fifteen shillings and eight pence. (£130 in the bank and £184.15 shillings and eight pence in Defence Bonds.

Mrs Clements had come down in price for the field to £1.250 although the field had been priced at £1200. At a meeting in January 1953 the committee discussed the matter of a field, two suggestions were put forward, the field of Mr Eric Davies and the old tip, members of the committee would visit both places.

In December 1954 the minutes of the meeting stated that all has been done regarding the Playing Field, he had met Mr Rees, deputy Planning Officer and also a representative of the agricultural Committee and Mr John Owen Smith the latter two being in connection with the levelling of the tip and to find out if any deeds for the tip were in being and also the ownership of same.

Mr Curran chairman and the secretary will visit Mr Cyril Jones, solicitor, Wrexham to secure full legal information. The Chair and secretary reported back and it was agreed that the secretary attend a meeting with the Council of Social Welfare for Wales, his expenses to be paid by the committee who expressed he stress the full facts of their efforts and also explain the obstacles they had.

August 1955 Mr Cyril Jones the solicitor advised the committee that they nominate three trustees for the Playing Field. It was proposed that Mr W D Tattum, Mr H E Curran and Mr J Edwards be appointed. These names were unanimously agreed upon by the committee.

September 1955 Mr Curran referred to the long period of time awaiting permission of Holywell RDC for the transfer of the tip to the Committee. He also explained that further steps needed to be taken on the advice of the solicitor.

1/ An accurate measurement by a qualified surveyor, also a plan and copy plan for a gift of part of the field given by Mrs Agnes Davies. These plans when received are to be forwarded to Mr Cyril Jones who will endorse them as a 'Declaration of Trust', and draw deeds showing that the Trustees hold the land on behalf of the committee and Parish.

No work could commence until notified of a grant allowed by the Playing Fields Association. Contractors had been asked for prices to level the ground after a full discussion it was decided to place the contract in the hands of Mr John Owen Smith at £100.00.

June 1956 Mr Curran gave an up to date statement on the position for the consideration of the committee who were asked whether they were prepared to carry on with the levelling of the tip as a playing field, the cost of which would be £800.00. It was agreed to carry on with the project. A copy of the Deed of Trust received from Mr Jones was signed by the nominated trustees.

July 1956 the secretary referred to a meeting by Mr Curran and himself with Hugh Jones, clerk to the County Council, arising from this meeting was the question of having the Playing Field transferred to the Parish Council. It was decided not to hand over Playing Field to said council, but the committee decided that the Parish Council could have representatives on the Committee. The secretary informed members that Mrs R S Davies, the Council Representative did not seem very enthusiastic towards the project.

The deeds and other paper work were finally signed at a meeting in January 1957. An all out effort would now be made to raise money and the work on the Playing Field to commence as soon as possible. Applications for grants were sent out to Welsh Churches funding, The Playing Fields Association, whilst the committee were very busy organising dances, whist drives and raffles.

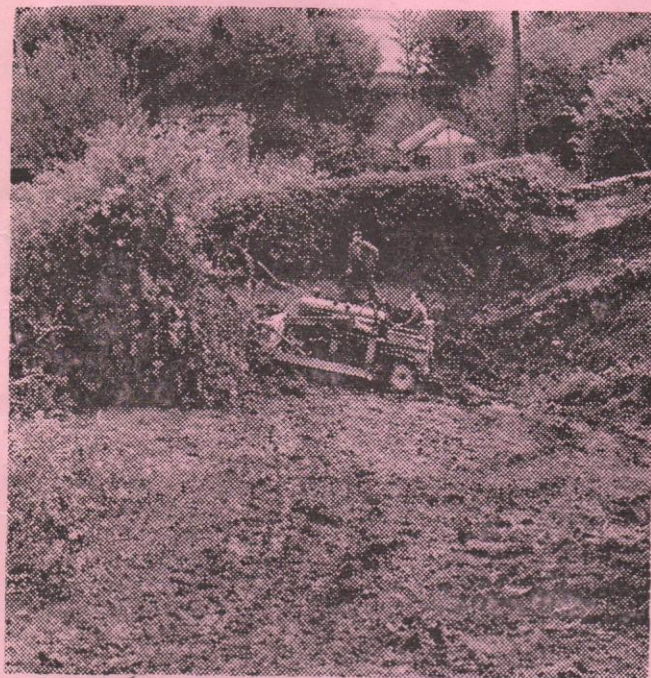
In March 1958 correspondence was read out from Mr Smith quoting the price for completing the Playing Field. The total cost being £ 874 and eight shillings.

At the meeting on Thursday 9th April it was agreed that the opening of the Playing Field was to take place on Saturday 16th May 1959. A souvenir programme was to be made at a cost of one shilling. A notice was to be put up with the rules of the Playing Field. Committee members would organise flags and bunting, make sure that the grass was cut and final finishing of the Playing Field, the secretary to write to invite businesses in Mold to advertise in the Souvenir Programme and to invite guests to the opening Dedication Service.

At long last 54 years since 1905 when the idea of a playing field for Gwernaffield Children was first mooted and started in earnest in 1935 , now after 24 years of hard work by the community of both Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn and the Playing Field Committee and Trustee's the Playing Field was opened on the

16th May 1959

THE VILLAGE TIP AT THE COMMENCEMENT
OF THE LEVELLING.



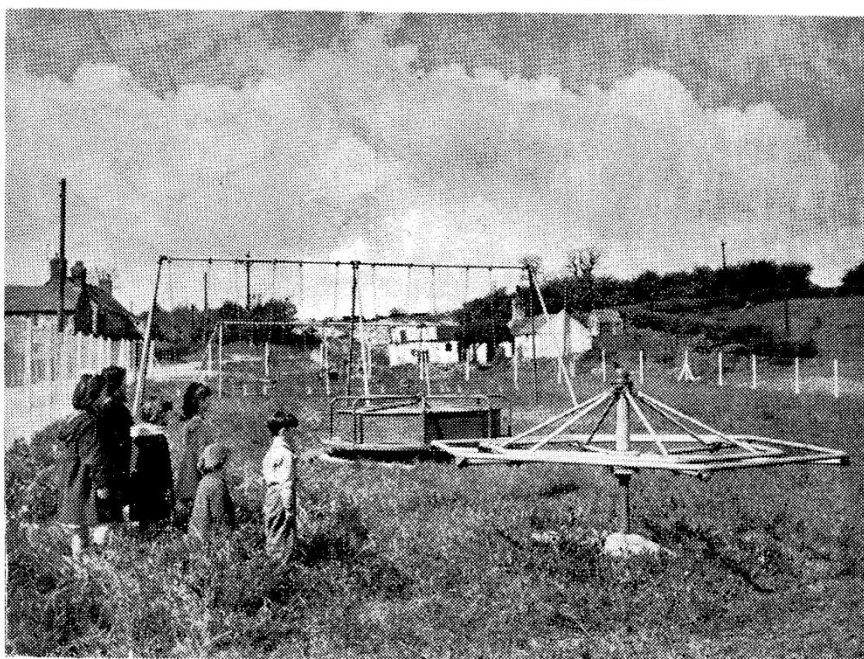
[Photograph by courtesy of the Flintshire Leader].



[Photograph by courtesy of the Flintshire Leader].

THE COMMITTEE. Standing (left to right): Mr. H. E. Curran (Chairman), Mr. W. D. Tattum (Secretary and Organiser), Mr. T. R. Jones and Mr. B. Blackwell. Seated: Mrs. E. Parry, Mrs. E. Tattum, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. W. J. Parry. Members not on Photograph: Mrs. E. Williams and Mrs. S. Jones.

THE PLAYING FIELD AFTER COMPLETION



[Photograph by courtesy of the Flintshire Leader].

Gwernaffield Parish Playing Field

**SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME**

**THE
OPENING CEREMONY**

will be performed by :—

Mr. T. RICH

Local Council Representative

On Saturday, May 16th, 1959

The Opening Ceremony will take
place at the GWERNAFFIELD
SCHOOL at 2-30 p.m.

And afterwards at the Playing
Field

**CHILDREN TO ASSEMBLE AT THE SCHOOL AT 2-15 P.M.
TO PROCEED TO THE PLAYING FIELD**

COST OF THE PLAYING FIELD IS £1,232

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME :: 1/-
including entrance to field

The Opening of Gwernaffield Playing Field

1959



The Years Following The Opening

The Playing Field Committee carried on fundraising and putting in new equipment as well as maintaining the present items of play. After 30 years of being secretary Mr Tattum resigned in November 1969. At a teenage dance held in November a gift from the Committee was presented to Mr Tattum.

At the December 1969 meeting the paperwork and copy of the deeds were passed on to the new secretary, it was pointed out that it was not clear about the deeds and as to how the land was acquired, in fact were they the legal owners of the land. In February 1970 a ordinance survey map of 1912 showed the of where the playing field is now.

1971 April 18th a sub- committee of children was put forward the following children were named, Dawn Blackwell, Stephen Davies, Bernard Cambell, David Thomas and Barry Blythin. The object being was to help with the day to day running of the playing Field, to keep it tidy and prevent damage to the equipment, for the sub-committee to report any complaints or suggestions they may have to improve the facilities and agree on the hours of opening.

Several complaints were given with regard to the use of airguns, knives etc in the playing Field. Dog's and horses being excercised in the Playing Field and of children walking on top of the cabin slide and swings.

July 12th 1972 due to the death of Mr Tattum who was a Trustee, it left just two Trustee's. The solicitor suggested that new Trustee's be appointed and that there should be between 5 – 7 Trustee's. Those nominated were, Mr Eric davies, Mr Authur Shawcross, A Jackson, B Hickie, Mr Walter Blackman, P Winstanley and Mr K Christopher. A new deed of Trusteeship was drawn up by the solicitor. It was agreed by the committee, although Mr Christopher resigned in Sep of that year.

March 8th 1973 the solicitor attended the meeting where he confirmed that the Trustee's were the legal owners of the Playing Field and that the grass verges surrounding the field was also owned by the Playing Field. The area was defined and a plan drawn up. In the grassed area outside the Playing Field, the committee recieved a payment from Manweb for underground cables and that it was stated that it should be shown in the plans.

AGM 1974 - It was agreed that a set of rules be drawn up and after agreement it was to be sent to Peter Bird Solicitors. In October of that year this paperwork had been returned to the Trustee's and committee member and a copy of the rules were forwarded to the bank.

April 1975 a letter had been received from Delyn Borough Council regarding the maintenance of the Playing Field. The matter was discussed and Mr Williams proposed that the offer be accepted provided that the conditions set out be agreed:

1/ Adequate protection be provided for the children.

- 2/ The Committee still control the Playing Field and the Trustee's remain the owners.
- 3/ New equipment is of the choice of the committee.

The Chairman and secretary to meet with Delyn Recreational Officer and report back.

Over the next few years there was controversy regarding the maintenance of the Playing Field sometimes done by Delyn and other times by the committee. It was stated that a letter of agreement had been sent by Delyn agreeing to maintain the Playing Field.

During the early eighties a profitable way of fundraising was the annual pram race which was organised by Mrs Jackie Roberts, this involved asking the police to shut the main Cilcain road whilst the race took place from Ysgol Y Waun down to the church field.

During this time some of the Trustee's either passed away or moved from the district and those that were left did not go to many committee meetings. Mrs Elsie Edwards who was the chairman at that time proposed that letters go out to the remaining trustees for them to show more interest in the Playing Field or that the committee could eventually fold up.

In March 1983 the Playing Field was closed for a short time for this reason.

At the AGM 1983 concern was felt that due to Trustee's either passing away or had moved from the area or could not be contacted that in future if a Trustee wished to resign then those Trustee's left should hold a meeting to appoint new ones and that the committee could recommend somebody.

Mrs Jackie Roberts at the same meeting suggested a history of the Playing Fields be written and put in the local Newspaper 'The Topic'. This was to raise interest in the Playing Field and that new people moving into the area believed that the Playing Field was County Council owned and not privately owned and run by a voluntary committee.

**Unfortunately no minutes can be found that cover the time from 1984
until the present time.**

In the early years of 2000 the Community Council of Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn were concerned with the state of the Playing Fields and that no new equipment or fundraising was being done so they held a public meeting to see who exactly were the Trustee's as there was now no Committee to contact and there was a fear about the future of the Playing Field. After speaking with Mrs Jackie Roberts who was on the last known committee, she passed on details of the Solicitors for the Playing Field so the Council got in touch with Peter Bird Solicitors in Mold.

A public meeting was held and it came to light that there was only one trustee left and he wished to resign. New volunteer's came forward to become trustee's so the Community Council wrote to the solicitor for help in establishing and recording the resignation of the remaining Trustee and the nomination of new Trustee's.

The names put forward were Mr & Mrs White, Ian Haigh, Deryck Hughes, Shirley Roberts and John Elcock. The paperwork was done by the solicitor and the Community Council paid the solicitor's invoice as well as insurance for the playing fields for the first year of the new trusteeship as a gesture of goodwill.

However eighteen months later after the Community Council were concerned that nothing was being done or if the playing field still had liability insurance. The Council wrote many times to Mr White, who they believed was the senior trustee, requesting information but receiving no reply.

The clerk then wrote to Mr Ian Haigh who replied that they had only ever had a couple of meetings and that there was only himself and Mr Hughes left as the others had resigned and that nothing further had been organised, but that the insurance had been paid.

So in early 2015 the Community Council spoke with Mr Haigh and Mr Hughes and if they agreed, that the Community Council of Gwernaffield & Pantymwyn would speak with the Playing Field solicitor to see if it was viable for the council to take over the trusteeship and for the Council as a whole to become the Trustee and therefore the Playing Field would always belong IN TRUST to Gwernaffield Village as a place for the village children to play.

After many months of meetings with the solicitor and the redrawing up of the Trusteeship to the Community Council it was signed and sealed in the summer of 2016.

This was published in the Community Council Newsletter and members of the public came forward to say they would like to create a fund raising group.

A public meeting in August 2016 was advertised in the village to say there was a meeting to be held in the Hand Inn public house for anyone who was interested in creating a fund raising group to raise money for the Playing Field.

Several people turned up and it was decided that all those present would become committee members. Councillor Lynne Pritchard who was there to represent the Community Council took minutes and advised the group that they should have a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and that they should have a constitution and give themselves a name.

Mr Haigh and Mr Hughes who were the last trustee's had also attended the meeting and wanted to become part of the fundraising group.

After discussion it was decided to call the group 'Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Field'. Mr Haigh stated that there was a bank account with some funds in and he would speak with the bank about it being transferred to the new group. This was done and the new constitution for the group was lodged with the bank.

A new chapter for Gwernaffield Playing Field



Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Field

CONSTITUTION 2016

Name

- 1 **‘Friends of Gwernaffield Playing Field’** are people and users of this site from the local community, who wish to contribute to enhancing the facilities at Gwernaffield Playing Field and it’s use by others within our community and visitors from around and about.

Purposes

- 2 Our purpose is to develop and enhance Gwernaffield Playing Fields as a place of recreation, education and enjoyment for the benefit of all sections of the local community and all users of the playing field. This will include working to ensure that the needs all people including the particular needs of women, men, black and ethnic minority people, children, younger and older people and disabled people are fully recognised and reflected in our activities.
- 3 We shall do this by:
 - working with all sections of the local community; democratically elected local representatives; local authorities; and any other person, business or body which the Friends consider can best promote its purpose.
 - fund raising, applying for monetary grants, and arranging activities to achieve the purposes set out in paragraph 2 above and spending grants and funds raised to achieve the purposes of the association as expressed in this Constitution or as resolved by The Friends to the benefit of Gwernaffield Playing Field and its users
 - holding regular public events and meetings.
- 4 The Friends in all its dealings with its members, other people and bodies shall operate without discrimination on the grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, disability, religion or belief or political affiliation.
- 5 The Friends shall not distribute profits and shall apply all of its income to the furtherance of the objects above.

Membership

- 6 Membership is generally open to all who undertake to abide by the letter and spirit of this constitution but it must have two nominated Community Councillors from

Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council who are the Trustees of the Playing field.

Officers

8 The following officers shall be elected at each annual meeting :

- Chair, Vice, Chair, Secretary, Treasurer/ Fundraiser

Executive Committee

- 9 The Friend's shall be governed by the Executive Committee between Annual General Meetings. The procedure of the Committee is for the Committee to determine, including the right of the Committee to invite persons to its meeting as seem necessary for the proper discharge of any or all of its business. Minutes of meetings will be available on request.
- 10 The Committee will consist of the above officers and up to a maximum of five other members who shall be elected at the annual meeting or appointed by the Committee if positions are vacant between annual meetings. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members to the Committee on the grounds that they bring a special expertise to the Committee which is not otherwise available. Nominations for the Committee shall be invited in the notice for the Annual Meeting. Nominations are valid if given at any time up to and including the annual meeting.
- 11 The Committee may only make decisions when a quorum of at least four members is present.

Annual Meetings

- 12 A meeting shall be held each year not later than four months after the end of the financial year which shall be August each year. The Committee shall give not less than 21 days notice of the date fixed for the annual meeting. An annual meeting is in quorum only when at least 25 percent of members are present. If an annual meeting is not quorate the existing Committee shall continue in office for the time being.
- 13 The Executive Committee shall give a report of its stewardship of The Friends at each annual meeting, including financial accounts.

Meetings

- 14 No less than 6 days notice of a meeting shall be given, meetings will be as and when needed. The quorum for the meeting shall be that as for an annual meeting. The procedure at the meeting shall be as the members there present shall determine at the time.

Voting

- 15 At all meetings voting shall be by a show of hands and carried by a simple majority. The Chair of the meeting shall have a second casting vote in the event of a tied vote. At any general meeting five or more members may call for a secret ballot at the meeting, which shall then be held in such a manner as the Chair shall direct.

Accounts and Audit

- 16 Three names shall go forward as signatories: the Treasurer, a Community Councillor and one other member, with any two of the three to sign cheques.

An auditor shall be appointed as an independent examiner of the accounts at the annual meeting or failing that by the Committee. Accounts shall be presented at the annual meeting for approval by the members.

Amending the Constitution

- 17 This constitution may be amended by a motion passed at an annual or urgent meeting. No motion for amendment of this Constitution shall be valid unless it was included in the notification of the meeting to the members. A simple majority of members present at the meeting shall be required for an amendment to be effective.

Winding up

- 18 The Friends may be wound up by a simple majority of members voting for such a resolution at any annual or extraordinary meeting. Should a winding up resolution be passed the Friends shall cease to exist as soon as its funds are disposed of. Any residual funds shall be transferred to the Gwernaffield and Pantymwyn Community Council who are the trustees of the Playing Field.