

**ANNUAL REPORT 1 APRIL 2020 – 31 MARCH 2021
FOAKES FOR RECREATION GROUND TRUST**

a) Trust Management Committee

GREAT DUNMOW TOWN COUNCIL - LAND HOLDINGS

Great Dunmow is fortunate in that the Town Council owns, maintains or has responsibility for, over 17 hectares (52 acres) of common and recreational land in the town. In addition to this there is a parcel of land, The David Cock Bequest Land, of over 23 hectares (59 acres) to the south of the town which was bequeathed to the Council in the will of the late Mr David Cock who lived at Langleys.

The Town has been enhanced by the far-sighted generosity of numerous benefactors over the years – such as the Foakes family and the Countess of Warwick at the beginning of the 20th century to the late David Cock at the end – who enabled a wide variety of land to come under public ownership. One major benefit has been the preservation and improvement of extensive open areas thus maintaining the rural openness of the centre of the Town, so vital with the extensive developments taking place and an added attraction for visitors. This process has been continued with open spaces being obtained as part of planning requirements (e.g. Chelmer Valley) or by direct purchase (e.g. Harp Mead).

The land holding is a mixture of formal playing fields, play areas, allotments and meadows. The playing fields and play areas are maintained with formal grass cutting contracts. The meadows, situated along the Chelmer Valley, are managed as meadows to provide recreational facilities as well as enhanced natural habitats for wildflowers and wildlife. The Council is also responsible for the management of the trees and hedges on its' land holdings.

The Council also has a parcel of land to the rear of Beaumont Hill/Woodlands Park from Uttlesford District Council, which the Council has named Castleden Meadow. The area includes maturing woodlands, scrub and ponds for wildlife habitat. The Downs & Commons Committee of the Council regularly meet to discuss ongoing programmes and proposals for the development and enhancement of facilities on the land.

DAVID COCK LAND

59 acres of Grade 2 agricultural land on the east side of the Chelmer Valley. The land was bequeathed to the Town Council by the late David Cock to: "hold the net proceeds of sale and the net rents and profits until sale, to provide such recreational facilities for the benefit of people living in Great Dunmow as the members of the Council shall in their absolute discretion decide".

There is a stand of willow trees, planted by David Cock, in one wet corner adjacent to the property known as Langleys. The trees belong to the Council and will be matured as cricket bat willows.



In 2010 two pieces of the land were planted with mixed native broadleaves and woody shrubs with the aid of a grant from the English Woodland Grant Scheme.

The Flitch Way footpath, (the old railway line), crosses the land running roughly north/south past Langleys, parallel to the Chelmsford Road.

A footpath connects the land along the valley to Braintree Road. There is limited vehicular access to the land for the public at present, however a neighbouring development could provide parking and a new footbridge in the future.

In 2016 further young trees were obtained with a grant from the Forestry Commission and planted by a group of local volunteers (Friends of the Dunmow Open Spaces), overseen by Rod Pass, the Council's agent and co-ordinated by Cllr. Beedle.

In 2018 the tenant farmer was served notice and the land was planted with 13,000 young trees to form a woodland. The area has been fenced and is traversed by wide grass rides forming recreational walkways which will improve as the woodland matures.

b) Trust Staff

The Estates Manager, is supported by the Dourdan Pavilion Caretaker. The Estates Manager manages the Recreation Ground supported by the Groundsmen. The Bookings Clerk manages all bookings for the facilities at the Pavilion and Recreation Ground.

c) Dourdan Pavilion Bookings and Maintenance

The Dourdan Pavilion is a small venue which is used by various organisations. It is also hired out for children's parties and it is particularly suitable for this as there is a garden area that can be used in the summer. Small family events are also held in the Pavilion. The Town Council also uses the Pavilion for meetings.

d) Recreation Ground Bookings and Maintenance

The Recreation Ground is used widely not only by the public for activities and dog walking but by organisations, boot camps, football clubs, fairs, circuses, town carnival, Park Run, Mummy Buggy Fitness and firework displays. Grass cutting, tree and hedge maintenance has been carried out during the year. The play area and skate park are in constant use, general maintenance has been carried out on the play equipment and the skate park is repaired as required.

e) Covid-19

On 24 March 2020 national lockdown was announced and the Dourdan Pavilion closed to hirers. The Covid pandemic impacted the schedule of bookings.



GREAT DUNMOW TOWN COUNCIL

FOAKES FOR RECREATION GROUND INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

INCOME

Pavilion and Ground Fees		1,556.06	
Miscellaneous:			
General	0.00		
Payphone	0.00		
Wayleaves	146.13		
		146.13	
Investment Income: M&G Charibond		1,702.19	0.00
Grants Received:		138.69	
		0.00	
		1,840.88	
Financial Assistance received from Great Dunmow Town Council		94,411.41	
		96,252.29	

EXPENDITURE

Pavilion Utilities and Payphone	3,539.07		
Pavilion Maintenance	6,000.06		
Pavilion Wages	10,581.51		
Administration Charge	31,376.79		
Establishment Charges	5,838.38		
Skate Park	1,402.91		
Grass Cutting	4,408.29		
Groundsman and supplies	14,138.75		
Groundsman - van and running costs	2,251.91		
Hedging and Treework	3,052.00		
Kerbing, Fencing and Ditching	357.48		
Car Parks, Footpaths, Tracks & Open Space maintenance	2,007.61		
Litter bins, Seats, Picnic Tables and Signs	742.50		
Audit Fees	687.50		
Insurance	1,677.20		
Miscellaneous	2,348.99		
Play Equipment and Safety Surfacing	5,841.34		
		96,252.29	0.00
		£0.00	


ASSETS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

M&G Charibond		5,710.33	
RGT - COIF account Split:			
Recreation Ground Trust	3,086.06		
David Cock Bequest	37,297.22	40,383.28	0.00
		£46,093.61	

Note: * The fund results from the bequest of land to Great Dunmow Town Council by the late Mr. David Cock for the purposes of providing recreational facilities for the inhabitants of Great Dunmow. The monies held in a specific High Interest Business Account were given to the Recreation Ground Trust to be invested in a new COIF account. Fixed Assets consists of land at the Recreation Ground which forms part of the Trust and therefore has no value.

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the Authority as at 31st March 2021


Chairman of Downs & Commons Committee


Mayor of Great Dunmow Town Council

2/12/2021

HEELIS&LODGE

Local Council Services • Internal Audit

Independent Examiner's Report for Foakes for Recreation Charity Trust – 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Registered Charity No: 301313

Income: £96,252.29

Expenditure: £96,252.29

Reserves: £46,093.61

The Council are the sole Trustee of the Foakes for Recreation Charity Trust. The aims of the Charity are to manage the Recreation Ground and Dourdan Pavilion for the purpose of the provision of recreational facilities, upkeep and conservation of open spaces for the benefit of the local community. The Recreation Ground, including the Dourdan Pavilion are well used by the local community for a variety of activities and community events. However, due to Covid there has been restricted access to the facilities.

The 2019-2020 Annual Return was received by the Charity Commission on 21 December 2020. All trustees are members of Great Dunmow Town Council.

The bank reconciliation dated 31 March 2021 is correct and supported by the relevant bank statements. The Committee prepares an annual budget, looking at short, medium and long term planning for maintenance, running costs and improvements. The Trust complies with the Town Council Financial Regulations. At least every quarter and at the end of the financial year a member, other than the Mayor or a cheque signatory, is appointed to verify bank reconciliations for all accounts. Income and expenditure are tracked throughout, providing a clear audit trail. The Finance Officer keeps clear records.

Hire agreements are in place and appropriate safeguards are in place to ensure hirers have adequate insurance and qualifications to undertake safe and proper use of the activity to take place. A comprehensive Standard Conditions of Hire document is in place.

An asset register is in place and is reviewed annually as part of the Town Council procedures. Insurance is in place under the Town Council, this includes all the standard cover including Fidelity. Funds held for the Foakes for Recreation Charity are in the form of shares (COIF £40,383.28) and M&G Investments (£5,710.33).

The annual RoSPA inspection was carried out and considered by the Committee at a meeting held on 4/6/2020. A process is in place for taking forward actions arising from the report. Payroll, income, expenditure processes were examined as part of the Gt Dunmow TC Internal Audit dated 19/6/2021.

There were no matters which give cause to believe that in, any material respect, the Trustees have not met the requirements of the Charity Act 1993.



Heather Heelis

15 November 2021

HEELIS&LODGE

Appointed Independent Examiner

