

URGENT APPEAL

Fivehead Park: Play On

#PlayOnFivehead

Press pack, updated 1 November 2026

Four news releases, key facts, pictures, contacts, and our logos and brand guidelines, for the campaign to reopen Fivehead's play area.

Media contact: press@fiveheadhall.org

Fivehead
VILLAGE HALL & PARK

At a glance

65 years of play

Fivehead's play area has been closed behind temporary fencing since August 2025. The village charity's five new trustees, appointed on 7 October 2026, have launched Fivehead Park: Play On. Our current Play On target is £60,000, focused on reopening and improving the play area. We are obtaining quotations, and the target may increase as costs become clearer. Our longer-term ambition includes the wider park, extra parking, and improvements to the Village Hall and other buildings.

Key facts

October 2026	Five new volunteer trustees appointed on 7 October. They launch Fivehead Park: Play On. Our current Play On target is £60,000, focused on reopening and improving the play area. We are obtaining quotations, and the target may increase as costs become clearer. Our longer-term ambition includes the wider park, extra parking, and improvements to the Village Hall and other buildings.
13 August 2025	Play area closed for safety reasons and fenced off.
6 August 2018	Surfacing repairs by Play UK Playgrounds Ltd of Stoke St Gregory, £7,180.80.
2005	Play area refurbished by Wicksteed Leisure: play tower, roundabout and new swings (£23,756). The Village Hall opens.
3 July 2004	Village children vote for the new design at the Fivehead Junior Superstars event, and raise £309.14 towards it.
20 May 1982	The committee thanks Mr J.P. Matravers of Isle Moor Works for repairing and reinstating the rocking horse.
18 June 1973	Charles Wicksteed & Co invoice for parts for the metal rocking horse and 10ft swings, both from 1961. Total £11.47.
1961	The date given for the metal rocking horse and the 10ft swings on the 1973 Wicksteed invoice.

Contacts

Press and interviews
press@fiveheadhall.org

General enquiries
hello@fiveheadhall.org

Spokespeople
Stuart Wild, Chair of Trustees
Peter Headington, Treasurer

Where
Fivehead Village Hall & Park, Stowey Road, Fivehead, Taunton, Somerset TA3 6PP

Online
fiveheadhall.org/about-us/press/
fiveheadhall.org/play-on/
Hashtag #PlayOnFivehead

The four releases

1. The launch: news
2. The heritage: feature
3. Then and now: fundraising
4. The people: call-out

Story · October 2026

Village with play area receipts from 1961 launches £60,000 bid to bring back play

Fivehead Park: Play On aims to reopen a much-loved village play area, closed behind temporary fencing since August 2025.

Update, 22 October 2026. Our current Play On target is £60,000, focused on reopening and improving the play area. We are obtaining quotations, and the target may increase as costs become clearer. Our longer-term ambition includes the wider park, extra parking, and improvements to the Village Hall and other buildings.

A Somerset village whose play area records go back more than 60 years has launched a campaign to get it open again.

Fivehead's play area, beside the Village Hall on Stowey Road, closed for safety reasons in August 2025 and has been behind temporary fencing ever since. The five volunteer trustees who took over the village charity on 7 October 2026 have made reopening it their first priority, and have set an ambitious first target of £60,000 through a new campaign, Fivehead Park: Play On.

The charity's archive tells the story of a play area the village has looked after for generations. A 1973 invoice from Charles Wicksteed & Co of Kettering lists parts for a metal rocking horse and 10ft swings, both dating from 1961. The parts cost £11.47. In 1982 the committee wrote to local engineer Mr J.P. Matravers of Isle Moor Works to thank him for repairing and reinstating the rocking horse, which "has given much pleasure to the children of the village over many years".

In 2004 the village went further. A questionnaire went to every home, and children voted on the new design at the Fivehead Junior Superstars event on 3 July 2004. They chose a climbing tower, a roundabout and new swings, and the Junior Superstars raised £309.14 towards the cost.

The play area has suffered from a lack of funding while safety standards for play equipment have moved on. Swing chains, netting, safety matting, some of the metal equipment and the fencing all need attention. New assessments will establish what can be saved and what needs replacing.

Stuart Wild, Chair of Trustees, said: "Generations of Fivehead children have grown up on this play area. Our first priority is simple: get it open again and get those fences down. We want to keep everything that can safely be kept, and give the village a play area that works for every age, from toddlers to teenagers."

Peter Headington, Treasurer, said: "Fivehead has a MUGA, two football pitches and a Village Hall side by side, which very few villages can match. Play On is about making the most of that, starting with the play area."

Play On will pay for getting the play area open again, with new equipment, safety flooring, fencing and swings. After the play area, Play On will improve the rest of the Park, then parking, and then the Village Hall and buildings. All plans are subject to consultation, and the Fivehead Park: Play On Working Group is exploring options, informed by consultation, assessments and quotations.

The trustees are also asking anyone with photos or memories of the play area, from the rocking horse to the 2004 vote, to get in touch.

Ends

Notes to editors

- Fivehead Village Hall & Park is the working name of Fivehead Village Hall and Playing Field CIO, registered charity number 1204704. It runs Fivehead Village Hall and Fivehead Park on Stowey Road, Fivehead, Taunton TA3 6PP, for everyone in Fivehead and Swell.
- Fivehead Park has a play area, a fenced MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area) and two football pitches, used by North Curry Football Club youth teams. The Village Hall opened in 2005.
- The trustees are Stuart Wild (Chair), Peter Headington (Treasurer), Ed Jenkins (Secretary), Sharon Edwards (Events Lead) and Laura Bardell (Village Liaison Lead).
- Archive documents and photos are on our press page, free to use with credit to Fivehead Village Hall & Park.
- Photo calls and interviews: press@fiveheadhall.org

Story · October 2026

Swings from 1961, a horse saved in 1982, a tower chosen by children in 2004: Fivehead fights to reopen its play area

The archive of a Somerset village play area tells 65 years of village life. Now it is behind fences, and the new trustees want it back.

Update, 22 October 2026. Our current Play On target is £60,000, focused on reopening and improving the play area. We are obtaining quotations, and the target may increase as costs become clearer. Our longer-term ambition includes the wider park, extra parking, and improvements to the Village Hall and other buildings.

Fivehead has looked after a play area since 1961. Its records read like a history of village childhood.

The oldest records are for a metal rocking horse and 10ft swings, both dated 1961 on an invoice from Charles Wicksteed & Co of Kettering, the company famous for its playground equipment. The invoice, from 18 June 1973, lists new parts for them at a total of £11.47 including VAT. In September 1981 a free Wicksteed inspection checked an 18ft 6in slide, the swings and the rocking horse.

On 20 May 1982 the committee wrote to Mr J.P. Matravers of Isle Moor Works, Fivehead, to thank him for repairing and reinstating the rocking horse, which "has given much pleasure to the children of the village over many years".

In 2000 to 2001 a district council audit gave the play area "a particularly poor score". The village responded. In 2004 a questionnaire went to every home and found 48 children living in the village. On 3 July 2004 the children voted for a new design at the Fivehead Junior Superstars event, and the Junior Superstars raised £309.14 towards it. The new climbing tower, roundabout and swings went in in 2005, the same year the Village Hall opened next door.

The play area closed for safety reasons in August 2025 and has been behind temporary fencing since. Five volunteer trustees took over the village charity on 7 October 2026 and have launched Fivehead Park: Play On, with an ambitious first target of £60,000 to get it open again.

Stuart Wild, Chair of Trustees, said: "Generations of Fivehead children have grown up on this play area. Our first priority is simple: get it open again and get those fences down. We want to keep everything that can safely be kept, and give the village a play area that works for every age, from toddlers to teenagers."

The trustees are asking anyone with photos or memories of the play area, from the rocking horse to the 2004 vote, to get in touch.

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Story · October 2026

"In 1973 the parts cost £11.47. Today we need £60,000": Fivehead launches Play On

A Somerset village charity is asking supporters to give £19.61 (or more), after the year on its oldest play area receipt, to help bring back play.

Update, 22 October 2026. Our current Play On target is £60,000, focused on reopening and improving the play area. We are obtaining quotations, and the target may increase as costs become clearer. Our longer-term ambition includes the wider park, extra parking, and improvements to the Village Hall and other buildings.

Fivehead Village Hall & Park has launched Fivehead Park: Play On, a campaign with an ambitious first target of £60,000 to reopen the village play area, which has been behind temporary fencing since August 2025.

The charity's records show how much has changed. In 1973 a Wicksteed invoice for parts for the play area's 1961 rocking horse and swings came to £11.47. The last major refurbishment, in 2005, cost £23,756. Today, new equipment, safety flooring, fencing and swings mean a first target of £60,000.

Supporters are being asked to give £19.61 (or more), after 1961, the year of the rocking horse on the oldest receipt. Businesses are invited to become Play On partners, from tailored local support to major project partnerships, and one organisation can become the Founding Partner of Fivehead Park with a proposed £50,000 contribution. Every partnership is agreed with the trustees. Money already raised through Bring Play Back stays with the play area. Fivehead Park: Play On raises money for Fivehead Park and its buildings, starting with the play area.

Peter Headington, Treasurer, said: "Fivehead has a MUGA, two football pitches and a Village Hall side by side, which very few villages can match. Play On is about making the most of that, starting with the play area."

Play On's first priority is to get the play area open and the temporary fencing down. Then it will improve the rest of the Park, then parking, and then the Village Hall and buildings, used for racquet sports. All plans are subject to consultation, and the Fivehead Park: Play On Working Group is exploring options, informed by consultation, assessments and quotations.

To give or find out more, visit fiveheadhall.org/play-on/.

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Story · October 2026

The children who chose Fivehead's play area in 2004 are now being asked to help save it

Fivehead's trustees want to hear from the village children who voted for their play area's design in July 2004.

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In 2004 a questionnaire went to every home in Fivehead and found 48 children living in the village. On 3 July 2004, at the Fivehead Junior Superstars event, they voted for a new design for their play area: a climbing tower, a roundabout and new swings. The Junior Superstars raised £309.14 towards the cost, and the new play area opened in 2005.

Those children are now in their twenties and thirties, and some have children of their own. The play area they chose has been behind temporary fencing since August 2025.

The new trustees of Fivehead Village Hall & Park, appointed on 7 October 2026, have launched Fivehead Park: Play On to get it open again, with an ambitious first target of £60,000. They are asking the Junior Superstars of 2004 to get in touch, share what they remember and come back to the play area for a photo at the fence.

Stuart Wild, Chair of Trustees, said: "Generations of Fivehead children have grown up on this play area. Our first priority is simple: get it open again and get those fences down. We want to keep everything that can safely be kept, and give the village a play area that works for every age, from toddlers to teenagers."

Anyone who voted in 2004, or who has photos or memories of the play area, can email hello@fiveheadhall.org.

Ends

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Pictures

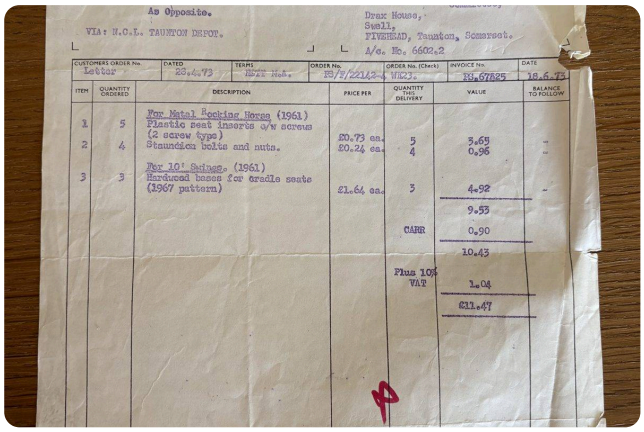
Pictures to use

Free to use with credit to Fivehead Village Hall & Park. Full-size files are in the picture pack on our press page, or email press@fiveheadhall.org.



The rocking horse today

In the play area, October 2026



As Opposite.

VIA: N.C.L. TAUNTON DEPOT.

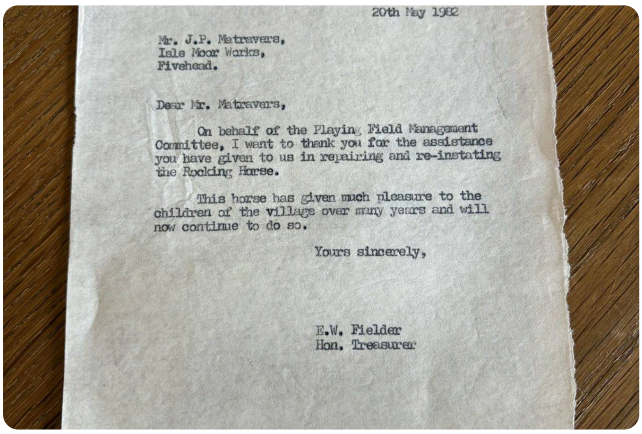
Drax House,
Swell,
FIVEHEAD, Taunton, Somerset.
A/c. No. 6602.2

CUSTOMERS ORDER No.	DATED	TERMS	ORDER No.	ORDER No. (Check)	INVOICE No.	DATE
Letter	23.4.73	[illegible]	PS/F/22142-4	WA23.	PS.67825	18.6.73

ITEM	QUANTITY ORDERED	DESCRIPTION	PRICE PER	QUANTITY THIS DELIVERY	VALUE	BALANCE TO FOLLOW
1	5	For Metal Rocking Horse (1961) Plastic seat inserts c/w screws (2 screw type)	£0.73 ea.	5	3.65	-
2	4	Staundion bolts and nuts.	£0.24 ea.	4	0.96	-
3	3	For 10' Swings. (1961) Harduced bases for cradle seats (1967 pattern)	£1.64 ea.	3	4.92	-
					9.53	
				CARR	0.90	
					10.43	
				Plus 10% VAT	1.04	
					£11.47	

The 1973 Wicksteed invoice

Parts for the 1961 rocking horse and swings: £11.47



20th May 1982

Mr. J.P. Matravers,
Isle Moor Works,
Fivehead.

Dear Mr. Matravers,

On behalf of the Playing Field Management Committee, I want to thank you for the assistance you have given to us in repairing and re-instating the Rocking Horse.

This horse has given much pleasure to the children of the village over many years and will now continue to do so.

Yours sincerely,

E.W. Fielder
Hon. Treasurer

The 1982 letter to Mr Matravers

Thanking him for repairing the rocking horse



The play area after 2005

Tower, seesaw, riders, swings and roundabout



The Village Hall being built

With the old play area in front, 2004 to 2005



The play area today

Behind temporary fencing, October 2026

Brand guidelines

Logos and brand guidelines

One charity, two places and one campaign. The charity circle stands for Fivehead Village Hall & Park as a whole. The Village Hall and Fivehead Park logos are for the two places. Please use the logos as supplied, with clear space around them, and never stretch, recolour or redraw them. Versions for dark backgrounds and in one colour are in the zip.

Fivehead Village Hall & Park
The charity circle

Fivehead Village Hall
The venue

Fivehead Park
The recreation ground, MUGA, pitches and play area

Fivehead Park: Play On
The campaign, with #PlayOnFivehead

Charity circle with Play On
For letters, invoices and headed paper

Our names

- **Fivehead Village Hall & Park** for the charity. When you give the charity number, use the registered name: Fivehead Village Hall and Playing Field CIO, registered charity 1204704
- **Fivehead Village Hall** for the venue
- **Fivehead Park** for the recreation ground, the MUGA, the football pitches and the play area
- **Fivehead Park: Play On** for the campaign, and **#PlayOnFivehead**

Words we use

Say **the Park**, **the recreation ground**, **the football pitches** and **the MUGA**. Please do not describe the Park as a field or a playing field, or by its size in acres.

Colours

Hall navy
#1D334A · Village Hall

Park green
#1D3A2D · Fivehead Park

Gold
#C9913F · accents

Ink
#15201E · text

Cream
#F4F1EA · backgrounds

Leaf green
#A9D18E · Play On

Fonts

Playfair Display for headlines, **Young Serif** for appeals and section headings, and **DM Sans** for everything else. All three are free from Google Fonts.

Follow us

The charity and the Village Hall are **@fiveheadhall**. Fivehead Park and Play On are **@fiveheadpark**. Tag us and use #PlayOnFivehead.

Logo files and the full brand guidelines are on our press page: fiveheadhall.org/about-us/press/