

GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK
Registered Charity no. 1116940

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at
The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
at 6 pm on Tuesday 14th May 2019

Present:

Cllr Kate Southan (Chairman) – Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr Graham Edgcumbe Venning – Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr Adam Davy – Much Wenlock Town Council
Colin Wildblood – Bowling Club
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates
Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club
Mike Mowling – Wenlock Olympians

In attendance:

Trudi Barrett – Secretary
Andrew Scott, Secretary of Wenlock Warriors Football Team

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Apologies

Cllr Daniel Thomas – other engagement.

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 16th April 2019 were considered for approval. **It was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

5) Treasurer's Report

- a. Committee members received the following financial report:
 - The balance brought forward at 1 April 2019 was £15,795.59.
 - Expenditure from 1 to 30 April 2019 was £2,303.25. There was no income so far this financial year.
 - The balance in the bank as at 30 April 2019 was £13,492.34.

It was noted that the large budget allocated for signage last year was intended to fund a new welcome sign for the Ground as well as other replacement signs.

It was noted that the budgeted income figure from William Brookes School for 2019/20 had not been discussed with the school. It was not known at this stage how much the drainage work would impact on the school's use of the Ground during the year.

The Secretary was asked to check what cover was provided by the insurance policy and to confirm details to Mike Mowling. Cllr. Adam Davy requested sight of the specification for the grounds maintenance contract.

It was agreed that the Treasurer's report be NOTED.

- b. **It was RESOLVED that payment of the following invoices be approved (paid between meetings):**

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
12.04.19	Play & Leisure	Basket swing and wetpour repair	1,990.50	398.10	2,388.60
18.04.19	Alan Lewis	Drainage plan	45.00	9.00	54.00
30.04.19	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance April 2019	760.36	152.07	912.43

6) Drainage

It was hoped that the drainage work would be carried out towards the end of August. It would be necessary to keep people off the field for at least two to three weeks following the work and the recovery of the ground thereafter would be dependent on weather.

The Secretary was asked to invite Alan Lewis and Dan Shotten to the next meeting of the Management Committee to discuss details of the work.

Chris Bowden reported that some errors in the pipe layout plan had been identified and corrected. The amendments should be circulated to committee members and then forwarded to Alan Lewis

Committee members noted that it would be the responsibility of the contractor to prepare a risk assessment and manage the site during the project, including the safety of those using the Ground during the work.

After the meeting with Alan Lewis and Dan Shotten, the local community should be advised about the drainage work and precautions to be taken.

7) Contract Specifications

It was agreed that Chris Bowden would send examples of suitable contracts to committee members for consideration.

8) Vehicular Access to the Gaskell Ground

Committee members considered issues associated with vehicular access to the Gaskell Ground and nearby parking. It was noted that vehicular access had been permitted along the lime walk in the past but this had caused damage to the roots of the protected trees and so was now permitted only for individual vehicles for specific purposes.

It was possible that owners of neighbouring land might give access for parking for a small number of events per year. Use of the adjacent railway line land for access and parking could be explored with Shropshire Council and other landowners.

It was noted that the new drainage would leave little space where vehicular access would not damage the ground. Once the drainage was completed potential parking areas could be identified.

Two separate issues could be considered: parking on a regular basis for club use and parking for one-off, large events such as the Wenlock Olympics. Club representatives were asked to consider how much parking on the field they would need/like and to report back. The matter would also be discussed with Alan Lewis and Dan Shotten and put back on the agenda in a couple of months.

9) Tree Survey of Gaskell Ground

- a. Committee members noted that the order for the recommended tree work had been placed with the tree surgeon, who had applied for the necessary permission from Shropshire Council.
- b. A quotation had been requested for the removal of the 'monkey' tree but had not yet been received.

10) User Agreements

It was noted that user agreements would be revised following the drainage work.

To inform discussion of user agreements, Councillors on the Management Committee had reviewed the budget for the current year and forthcoming years. The recommendation was to set a higher budget for future years to ensure sufficient funds for tree work and replacement play equipment. It was recommended that the contingency also be increased and that 6 months' funding should be kept in reserve. It was noted that special projects might arise and would need to be separately funded.

Consideration should be given to ways of reducing costs and generating income to support the Ground. User groups should consider what they would like from the Ground and what they might contribute to it.

11) Goal Posts

It was noted that funding was available from the Football Federation for the *replacement* of goals and that there were some old goals stored on the field. New goals would cost between £500 and £1000 each, depending on size. The pitch was currently marked out for 7, 9 and 11 a side.

It was noted that the provision of goal posts and other equipment should form part of the user agreements.

Committee members noted that the next Olympic Games would be held in 2020 in Tokyo. There might be an opportunity for sponsorship connected with the Games.

12) Leader Application

A meeting had been held earlier in the day with the Shropshire Council officer supporting the application for Leader funding. Revised quotations were being obtained and letters of support for the application had been requested from user groups and members of the community.

If the application was successful, 80% of the cost of the project would be funded, to create a new accessway from the school site and create a surfaced pathway around the field. The remaining funding would come from the Town Council with a contribution from William Brookes School. After discussion with the Shropshire Council officer, it appeared that it would be beneficial if the application were to be submitted by the Town Council, rather than the Gaskell Ground, and agreement would be sought from the Council at the next meeting in June. The application would be submitted as soon as all the required information was to hand.

13) New Plaque for the Samaranch Tree

It was noted that a member of the Wenlock Olympian Society had agreed to raise funds for the provision of the replacement Samaranch Tree as well as a new information plaque.

14) Next Meeting

- a. Members noted that the next meeting of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Charity was scheduled for Thursday, 13th June at The Guildhall.
- b. It was agreed to hold the next meeting of the Management Committee on Tuesday, 18th June at 6.00pm in the Guildhall.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....