

**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 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Present:**

Cllr Adam Davy – Much Wenlock Town Council (in the Chair)  
Cllr Graham Edgcumbe Venning – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Cllr Dan Thomas – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School  
Mike Mowling – Wenlock Olympians  
Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors

**In attendance:**

Trudi Barrett – Secretary and Treasurer

**1) Vice Chairman's Welcome**

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that he had attended and very much enjoyed the recent Wenlock Olympian Games.

**2) Apologies**

Cllr Kate Southan (family engagement)  
Bill James (holiday)

**3) Declarations of interest**

None.

**4) Drainage**

The committee noted that the contractor had now provided the following documents:

- Construction phase plan
- Method statement
- Risk assessment
- Work programme
- Public and employer's liability insurance certificates
- COSHH assessment

The contractor was still awaiting detailed information on the water pipe required and so had not been able to provide revised costings.

The agreement for use of the Youth Club ground as a compound had been received from Shropshire Council earlier in the day. This would need approval and signature by Town Councillors.

Members highlighted the importance of raising awareness of the forthcoming drainage work. A piece had already been submitted for the August edition of the Wenlock Herald. The Secretary would provide information for William Brookes School to circulate via their school comms. system. Notices should be displayed on the Gaskell Ground in advance of the work as well as on the Council notice boards and via social media.

**5) Minutes**

The minutes of a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were considered for approval. **It was AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

**6) 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 31 May 2019 was £5,658.28. Invoices had been issued to the Bowling Club, William Brookes School and the Town Council and payment was awaited.
- Bank statements had now been obtained to the end of May 2019 but the change of mandate was still progressing and it had not been possible to obtain a more up to date statement.
- Two unauthorized transactions had been identified on the statement to 31<sup>st</sup> May. These had been notified to the bank and were being resolved.

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

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
21.06.19	Shropshire Council	Tree safety inspection and report	675.00	135.00	810.00
29.06.19	Joffrey Watson	Tree work as recommended in inspection report	3,700.00	0	3,700.00
29.06.19	Joffrey Watson	Removal of spruce (monkey tree)	200.00	0	200.00
30.06.19	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance June 2019	760.36	152.07	912.43

The Secretary was asked to check the situation with regard to the payment of VAT by the Management Committee. Options for the payment of grounds maintenance bills should also be explored.

**7) Contract Specifications**

It was noted that no progress had been made with the issue of approval of any contract variations which might prove necessary during the drainage work. Should such a situation arise it might be necessary to convene a meeting of the Management Committee or Council.

**8) Tree work**

- a. Members noted that the tree work recommended in the Tree Survey dated February 2019 had been completed and that the 'monkey tree' (spruce) had also been felled.
- b. Members considered a quotation for the removal / reduction of hedges adjacent to the play area. It was noted that there was no allocated budget for this work in the current year. It might be possible for some of the work required to be undertaken by volunteers in the autumn. The Secretary was asked to check whether this would be covered by the insurance policy. The matter would be considered further at the September meeting, along with setting up a Friends of the Gaskell Ground group.

**9) Maintenance Issues**

Signage on the ground had been cleaned as well as the tables and chairs near the play area.

The Council's handyman had reported that he was unable to tighten the wire forming part of the fence to Windmill Hill by hand.

The verge next to the play area in Station Road had been cut back, as had the verge along the path adjacent to the school inside the Gaskell Ground.

The damaged bin had been pointed out to the Shropshire Council Environmental Maintenance Officer who had agreed to see whether a repair could be undertaken or a replacement bin found. It was thought this might already have been done.

**10) Wenlock Olympian Events**

The Wenlock Olympian Games had been held on 14<sup>th</sup> July. The event had been attended by the High Sheriff, a number of Shropshire Councillors and the designer of the London Olympic Park. Several Town Councillors had attended and participated in the Games and the Mayor had awarded medals. Various locations had been used for car parking, which had presented the usual challenges.

It was noted that the Triathlon had been cancelled and there had been no football competition this year. Mike Bainbridge agreed to check whether it might be possible for the school's sports co-ordinator to be involved next year. It was noted that 2020 would be an Olympics year and various organisations might come forward seeking involvement. It was also noted that the tennis competition was small and could be extended.

Councillor Thomas left the meeting at this point as he had a family commitment. The meeting continued informally as it was no longer quorate.

**11) User Agreements**

It was noted that the new maintenance plan would inform discussions and this had not yet been received.

**12) Pitch Marking**

The requirements for the next season would be checked with teams and the school PE department and discussed at the next meeting. It was thought that play would not be possible until January to allow the grass to recover so marking would not be required until then. Markings would be required for 9v9 and 11v11 (not 7v7). Mike Bainbridge agreed to check requirements for primary tournaments organised by William Brookes School and played on the Gaskell Ground.

**13) Leader Application**

The application and supporting Information had been submitted to Shropshire Council and was being checked by officers. The application was due to be considered by the decision-making body on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

**14) Dogs on the Gaskell Ground**

- a. Members considered information from Shropshire Council on the legal position relating to dogs in public places. The Fouling of Land by Dogs and Dogs on Leads by Direction Orders were applicable to the Gaskell Ground. It was unclear whether the Dogs Exclusion Order would apply and advice would be sought from Shropshire Council.
  
- b. Members considered the management of dogs on the Ground. It was noted that enforcement of any regulations was problematic, especially dog fouling. A Friends of the Gaskell Ground Group might help with this as well as local, dog-related businesses and organisations.

**15) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Management Committee would be held on Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August at 6.00 pm in the Guildhall. Mike Bainbridge would be unable to attend.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....