

**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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Present:**

Cllr Kate Southan – Much Wenlock Town Council (Chairman)  
Cllr Dan Thomas – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Cllr Adam Davy – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates  
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club  
Colin Wildblood – Much Wenlock Bowling Club  
Mike Mowling – Wenlock Olympians  
Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors

**In attendance:**

Trudi Barrett – Secretary and Treasurer

**1) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2) Apologies**

Apologies were received from Mike Bainbridge (unwell).

**3) Declarations of interest**

None.

**4) Minutes**

The minutes of a meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019 were considered for approval. **It was AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

**5) Treasurer's Report**

a. Members noted income and expenditure to the end of August

	£
Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	15,795.59
Expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	14,342.03
Income to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	10,390.00
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2019	12,244.24

Income of £1,500 had been received from William Brookes School in September. Colin Wildblood agreed to check progress of the Bowling Club payment at the Club's forthcoming meeting.

b. **It was AGREED that payment of the following invoice be approved**

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
31.08.19	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance August 2019	760.36	152.07	912.43

c. **It was AGREED to retrospectively approve renewal of the insurance policy with Zurich at a cost of £1,236.46.** It was noted that a reduction in the premium had been achieved by reducing the sums insured for the old cricket pavilion and bowling green, whilst retaining an appropriate level of cover.

## 6) Committee Membership

It was noted that Graham Edgcumbe Venning had resigned from the Town Council due to ill health and would therefore no longer be a member of the Management Committee. Three voting members were required to make a quorum and there were currently four on the committee.

## 7) Drainage

- a. Committee members noted a report on progress with the drainage report. Alan Lewis had carried out three site visits to check progress and overall the project was going well.
- b. The following issues had been raised:
  - a correction had been made to the termination point of the water pipes, which needed to be at least 1 metre away from the storm water drain and were now installed as per the original scope of works.
  - additional space had been required for the spoil from the excavation and this was now being spread along the fence. The height would be reduced to a small bump.
  - concerns raised by members of the Bowling Club regarding the orientation and depth of the drains. The consultant had advised that the herringbone pattern was used regularly up until 1970 but now, on regular shaped areas, the grid pattern had taken over because modern drainage equipment was more efficient putting in straight long lines, not the shorter lateral drains with the herringbone pattern. The lateral pipes were placed at 450mm depth, just above the water table. They would be sufficient to hold the water from normal rainfall and in the event of a serious storm, the water would soak away in around 20 minutes. The main drain was at 600mm depth due to the depth of the outfield and fall of the land.

Members discussed the possible benefit of aerial footage to record the drain layout.

## 8) Maintenance Requirements

- a. Members noted information from Spacecare regarding maintenance during the period of the drainage work and immediately afterwards. It was noted that usually Spacecare invoiced maintenance work evenly over the whole year, but the work itself was not evenly spread. Spacecare had provided an amended price for maintenance during the period that Dan Shotton, the drainage contractor, would be maintaining the pitches following the drainage work.
- b. Members considered information provided by Alan Lewis regarding ongoing maintenance requirements following the drainage work.
- c. **It was agreed to accept the revised quotation from Spacecare and to extend the contract to the end of the financial year.**

It was agreed to arrange a meeting of voting members with Alan Lewis, Dan Shotton and Spacecare to consider the maintenance requirements. The meeting would inform consideration of how to deal with grounds maintenance in the next financial year and the contribution users might. Quotations would then be obtained for ongoing maintenance.

Cutting of the grass along the edge of the path by the school side of the Ground, although properly the responsibility of Shropshire Council, would be included in discussions.

The secretary was asked to check when the epicormic growth on the lime trees was last trimmed.

## 9) User Agreements

- a. Once the cost of and arrangements for maintenance were known, user agreements and charges could be considered.

It was noted that some work, such as tree maintenance, was not the responsibility of users, but of the management committee as a whole. Regular, professional tree inspections were carried out and recommendations implemented. Any concerns about tree safety should be raised with the Secretary for action. The trees on the railway line side of the Linden Walk were the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

- b. It was noted that appointments would be made with individual user groups to discuss user agreements, probably during the second half of October.

**10) LEADER Application**

Members noted that the Local Action Group had offered 50% (£36,215) of the cost of the project to create a new accessway through to the school and a pathway around the site. 80% of the project cost had been hoped for. There was therefore a shortfall of £21,729. The Council had agreed to accept the funding and to underwrite the shortfall. The project had to be completed by June 2020 and the Council was now seeking funding to cover the shortfall. Funding options were being explored and potential funders were being approached directly. User groups were asked to consider whether they might undertake some fund raising.

It was noted that to qualify for the LEADER funding the project had to be delivered as stated in the application and the scope of the project could not be reduced.

**11) Samaranch Tree**

Members noted that a tree had been purchased and that a small ceremony would be arranged to mark its planting. The tree would be planted in line with the Linden Walk trees, in the corner near the wildflower area and Bowling Club. It was agreed that Cllr Kate Southan and Chris Bowden would meet members of Tree Forum to check the location and then agree a date for planting when the Ground was more accessible.

**12) Friends of the Gaskell Recreation Ground**

- a. Members noted that a call for volunteers would be included in the October edition of the Wenlock Herald. It was hoped to gather a group of volunteers to undertake minor work, fund raise and help to keep an eye on the Ground. It was noted that a Friends of the Gaskell facebook page had been created in late 2015; Chris Bowden agreed to speak to the administrator about transferring the administration.

It was noted that this would be a good opportunity to discuss dogs on the field and to change arrangements for dog walking, e.g. keeping dogs on a lead around the play area. The Secretary was asked to add this item to the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

- b. Next steps would be considered following responses to the advertising for volunteers.

**13) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Management Committee would be held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00pm in the Guildhall. Apologies in advance were noted from Mike Mowling and Colin Wildblood.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....