

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 10th March 2020

Present:

Cllrs Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Mary Hill, Marcus Themans (from minute 8), Duncan White – Much Wenlock Town Council

Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates

Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club, Colin Wildblood – Much Wenlock Bowling Club, Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School, Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors Football Club, Ian Dadswell – Wenlock Olympian Athletics Club

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 Mowling (Wenlock Olympian Society)

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 11th February 2020 were considered for approval. **It was AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED, signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

5) Treasurer's Report

a. Members noted income and expenditure to the end of February 2020:

	£
Balance b/f at 1 st April 2019	15,795.59
Expenditure to 29 th February 2020	19,508.43
Income 29 th February 2020	18,690.68
Balance as at 29 th February 2020	14,977.84

b. It was AGREED to approve payment of the following invoices:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
29.02.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance February 2020	657.62	131.52	789.14
25.02.20	Netley Landscapes	Removal of hedge for installation of fencing to create new access from William Brookes School to Gaskell Ground	950.00	190.00	1140.00

6) Drainage

- a. The Secretary had requested that the drainage contractor install the additional drain before the end of April or after September, if possible, to avoid the cricket season. A response was awaited.
- b. It was noted that Alan Lewis, the drainage consultant, had advised that summer sports could be played on the field when there was some grass coverage on the drainage trenches, after they had been oversown. Wenlock Warriors had requested permission to train the under 12s on the field and advice had been sought from Alan Lewis on whether the condition of the ground was suitable. A response was awaited. Members noted that the field overall was still very wet and so it was unlikely it would be possible to play on it at present.

- c. It was noted that the existing drain in the play area was laid 3.5m to the right of the hedge. If the hedge were removed completely in future an additional spur drain would need to be installed in that area.

Clay soil removed from the drainage trenches had been placed by the old pavilion. This held water and had made the area extremely slippery. This area usually formed part of the route for the cross-country run. It was noted that the soil would be dragged across and infilled further back when the weather allowed. There were also other soil mounds still to be levelled.

7) Water Charges

The Council's Administrative Assistant had met Colin Wildblood of the Bowling Club earlier in the day to check the water supply and position of the existing meter. It was noted that there was only one stop tap for the field. The supply split into two pipes – one had been capped and one went up the field. Just before the Cricket Club the pipe divided into two; one pipe continued to the Cricket Club and one to the Bowling Club.

It was suggested that a meter be installed on the supply as it entered the Ground, another at the Cricket Club, and a third at the Bowling Club. However, to begin with, **it was AGREED to make arrangements to install a replacement meter at the Cricket Club and a new one at the stop tap point at the Bowling Club.** Chris Bowden would provide further information if required.

8) Grounds Maintenance Requirements

Members considered a proposal from the current contractor to continue limited maintenance for the coming 8 months as an interim measure until future maintenance requirements were confirmed.

Colin Wildblood advised that the Bowling Club was prepared to cut the bowling green and maintain the area within the club boundary hedge from April. It was noted that re-consideration of the Bowling Club's financial contribution would be required to take account of this.

The Cricket Club would continue to cut and manage the cricket square and outfield, as previously.

It was understood that Dan Shotton would carry out pitch maintenance for this year, following up on the drainage work. The Secretary was asked to check the drainage contract to confirm this.

If the above areas were covered by the Clubs and drainage contractor, this left the main field, grass cutting of the football pitch (but no additional maintenance), the play area and general outlying areas. The Secretary was asked to obtain a quotation for these areas and to check whether there would be a need to cut the Bowling Green hedge in the coming 8 months.

9) Path and Access Project (LEADER)

- a. It was noted that the hedge on the school site had been removed by Netley Landscapes at a more competitive price.
- b. It was noted that the Town Council had agreed to fund a timer for the gate and associated work. The necessary arrangements were being made by the school. Opening times would need to be agreed with the school and could be varied for term/weekend/holiday periods. An access card could be provided to the Bowling Club to be used for access for matches during the school day under strict conditions.
- c. A site meeting was scheduled with the fencing contractor for 12th March and installation of the fencing and gates would be carried out over the Easter holiday.
- d. With regard to the LEADER funding Shropshire Council had advised as follows:
 - If only one element of the project were to go ahead, funding would still be provided for the other
 - There was no need to advise of additional work commissioned, outside of the funded project
 - Changes to the specification and cost of the project would need to be advised to Shropshire Council (e.g. path surface and price accepted) and a contract variation drawn up
 - No additional funding was available if the project cost were higher than envisaged
 - There was currently no unallocated money in the overall LEADER funding pot.
- e. It was noted that voting members of the Management Committee had reviewed the tenders received from 7 companies for the creation of the perimeter path. They had agreed to recommend a porous tarmac top surface for durability and ease of maintenance. They had passed their recommendation to the Town Council, who had resolved to appoint the Great Outdoor Gym Company to create the path. An initial meeting would be held with the contractor on site on 12th March.

- f. In response to concerns about damage to the path from spiked shoes, it was suggested that coconut matting could be laid over the path for cricketers and runners to cross. Cricketers could be encouraged to stand away from the path if socialising outside the pavilion during matches or training.

10) Tree and Hedge Management

- a. It was noted that a working party of volunteers including Councillors and members of user groups had cut back the hedges alongside the play area on 22nd February. The hedge alongside the path had been reduced to around 3ft high and the hedge adjacent to Linden Lodge to around 6ft. It was intended that volunteers would continue to maintain the hedges.
Members discussed the need to place temporary fencing alongside the short hedge until it greened up and agreed to do this.
- b. It was noted that the order had been placed for the removal of two dead branches from a tree on the Ground.
- c. The Secretary was asked to obtain a plan from Shropshire Council showing trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders on the Gaskell Ground. A copy should be passed to Chris Bowden to enable progress to be made with drawing up guidelines for the donation of trees and the management of donated trees

11) Moles

It was noted that the mole man had attended site and dealt with the moles.

12) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

- a. **Bowling Club**
Nothing further to report.
- b. **Cricket Club**
It was noted that the Club would be celebrating its 150th anniversary this year and was hoping to organise an event to mark the occasion.
- c. **Wenlock Olympians**
It was noted that conditions on the field had been problematic for the Athletics Club. The cross-country relay planned for 5th July had been rescheduled to 28th June with a further event towards the end of September. Plans for the Wenlock Olympics were well under way. The games would be held on the weekends between 28th June and 12th July 2020 with the main athletics events being held over the weekend of 12th July. The Bowling Club had declined the offer to arrange the bowling event this year but hoped to be able to hold the competition next year when the path was in place.
- d. **Wenlock Warriors**
The Club had Under 10 and Under 12 teams. The Under 10s had been knocked out of the cup in the quarter final last weekend. Next season the Under 12s would like to use the Gaskell Ground. The Under 10s would continue at the primary school for two more years.
- e. **William Brookes School**
Nothing to report

13) Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Tuesday, 21st April at 6.00pm at William Brookes School. This would allow members to view the new fencing and gates.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....