

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 11th February 2020

Present:

Cllrs Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Mary Hill (until minute 11), Marcus Themans, Duncan White – Much Wenlock Town Council

Tim Motley (from minute 8), 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

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) and Ian Dadswell (Wenlock Olympian Athletics Club)

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 14th January 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 January 2020:

	£
Balance b/f at 1 st April 2019	15,795.59
Expenditure to 31 st January 2020	18,719.29
Income to 31 st January 2020	13,590.68
Balance as at 31 st January 2020	10,666.98

It was noted that expected income from Wenlock Olympians and Wenlock Estates had been received in February 2020.

b. It was AGREED to retrospectively approve payment of the following invoices, received and paid between meetings:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
15.02.20	Shropshire Council Countryside Maintenance	Repair of gate to children's play area	230.00	46.00	276.00
23.01.20	Travis Perkins	Wood for repair of children's play house	26.89	5.38	32.27

c. It was AGREED to approve payment of the following invoice:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
31.01.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance January 2020	657.62	131.52	789.14

6) Drainage

- a. It was noted that the Cricket Club had requested that the outstanding drainage work be carried out before mid-April or in September, after the cricket season, as the drain would encroach on the cricket field. It would be necessary to make connections with the previous drains installed. The Secretary would pass on this request to the contractor, but the timing of the work would be dependent on ground conditions.
- b. Alan Lewis had recently inspected the football pitch. He had advised that the ground was too wet for play and that the grass seed had failed in the drainage trenches due to the persistent wet weather. The trenches would need to be oversown to maintain the surface levels and this would not happen until late March/early April, depending on the weather. The grass would then need time to establish. As a result, the football pitch would not be playable until next season.

Committee members queried the impact of over seeding on cricket matches.

The Secretary was asked to check when it would be possible to play other outdoor sports such as rounders on the field. Mike Bainbridge provided information on school requirements for use of the Ground.

- c. It was noted that the drainage was holding up reasonably well given the recent wet weather. However, further drains would be needed in future to reduce the boggy area at the top of the field near to the spring.

7) Water Charges

It was noted that no further progress had been made with the installation / repair of water meters at the Bowling Club and Cricket Club. The Secretary would address this.

8) Grounds Maintenance Requirements

It was noted that the Cricket Club had indicated they would continue maintaining the outfield and square themselves but could not commit to any additional work.

It was important to avoid duplication of work in areas where the Cricket Club and Bowling Club were cutting the grass, as well as the contractor.

It was noted that the school's groundsmen might be able to carry out a small amount of infrequent grass cutting, but this would depend on the requirements.

Chris Bowden was working through the requirements and costs and would report back as soon as possible. He would incorporate the last 3 years of costs from the current contractor.

Mr Motley joined the meeting.

It was noted that the Cricket Club had previously used a roller on the pitch but had been advised this was not best practice. Advice would be sought from Alan Lewis on how to achieve the result required.

9) Play Equipment

Committee members noted quotations for repairs required to the play equipment to remedy low risk issues identified in the RoSPA report. **It was AGREED to delay the repairs until the next RoSPA inspection was carried out as the issues identified were low risk and there was insufficient budget remaining in the current year.**

10) Path and Access Project (LEADER)

- a. It was noted that the installation of the gate and fencing had been put back from February half term to the Easter holidays.
- b. It was noted that once the fence was in place the school's groundsmen would have difficulty maintaining the hedge alongside. School therefore required around 50m of hedging to be cut back by 1 metre. One quotation had been obtained so far for the hedge removal.

A quotation of £3,040 had been obtained for fitting a card reader / timer on the gate to the Gaskell Ground, which included an electrical connection to the nearest building on the school site. This would allow the gate to be operated by a timer during agreed hours so that there would be no need for an individual to manually open and lock the gate each day.

It was noted that there no budget had been allocated for either of the above items and that there was already a shortfall in funding for the overall project.

The Secretary was asked to try to obtain a further quotation for the hedge removal so that the best price could be obtained.

It was AGREED that the Management Committee would cover the cost of the hedge removal from its own reserves and the Secretary was asked to make the necessary arrangements.

It was noted that the hedge removal needed to be undertaken as a matter of urgency, before the bird nesting season.

It was AGREED to seek further funding and to approach the Town Council with regard to covering the cost of the installation of a timer on the gate to the Gaskell Ground.

The Secretary was asked to check what would happen with the LEADER funding allocated if both elements of the project were not completed.

- c. It was noted that the tender invitation for the perimeter path had been issued, with a return date of 19th February. Voting members of the Management Committee would review the tenders received to allow a contractor to be agreed at the full Council meeting on 5th March 2020. The Secretary would check that all necessary documents had been submitted by the tendering contractors. **It was AGREED that voting Committee members would meet at 6.15pm on Tuesday, 25th February in the Mary Webb Room to review the tenders.**
- d. It was noted that amendments to the path specification had been issued to enable a range of surface options and prices to be considered. The Cricket Club had raised the issue of possible damage to the surface by studs on cricket shoes. This would be taken into consideration when reviewing the tenders.

11) Tree and Hedge Management

- a. Committee members considered the quotation to hand for removal of two dead branches. **It was AGREED to place the order for removal of the branches with Joffrey Watson.**
- b. Committee members considered arrangements for cutting back the hedges either side of the play area and for disposal of the arisings. It was noted that a chipper would be required to dispose of the cuttings at a cost of £300. The chippings would then be removed from site.

Mary Hill left to attend another meeting.

It was noted that anyone using a chainsaw would need the appropriate licence and protective clothing. A risk assessment for the work had been drawn up.

It was AGREED to form a working party of volunteers to lower the height of the hedges to 3-4 ft and to hire a chipper to reduce the cuttings. Councillor Thomas would make the necessary arrangements.

- c. Consideration of guidelines for the donation of trees and the management of donated trees was deferred.

12) Moles

Members of the Bowling Club had raised concerns about moles in the area near to the Club. **It was AGREED to accept the quotation of £200 to deal with the moles.**

13) Cross Country Events

- a. It was noted that, owing to ground conditions, the cross-country event scheduled for 19th January had been cancelled.
- b. **It was AGREED to approve use of the Ground for a cross-country relay event on Sunday, 5th July and the first meeting of the new cross-country season on a Sunday at the end of September.**

14) Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 10th March 2020.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed

Chairman

Date.....