

**GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK**

Registered Charity no. 1116940

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held at  
The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
at 7 pm on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Present:**

Cllrs Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Marcus Themans, Duncan White – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates  
Bill James – Cricket Club, Mike Mowling – Wenlock Olympians, Ian Dadswell – Wenlock Olympians Athletics Club, Colin Wildblood – Much Wenlock Bowling Club, Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School

**In attendance:**

Trudi Barrett – Secretary and Treasurer

**1) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2) Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mary Hill, who was unwell.

**3) Declarations of interest**

None.

**4) Minutes**

The minutes of a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 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 December 2019:

	£
Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019	15,795.59
Expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	16,832.74
Income to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	13,590.68
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2019	12,553.53

It was noted that income from Wenlock Olympians and Wenlock Estates was still awaited.

It was noted that an unauthorised direct debit in the amount of £23.00 had been taken by British Gas on 27.12.19. Barclays Bank had been notified and had agreed to investigate. Barclays had been asked to put a block on any further direct debits from British Gas for the next 13 months.

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
30.11.19	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance November 2019	657.62	131.52	789.14
31.12.19	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance December 2019	657.62	131.52	789.14

**6) Drainage**

- Members noted that the additional drain would be installed when the weather improved and the ground dried. A diagram showing the location of the drain had been received from Alan Lewis. The drain would run along the Linden Walk side of the field.
- The school were keen to know when the football pitch would be playable and marked out. The consultant and contractor had been asked and a reply was awaited. Mike Bainbridge would check with the PE department on the frequency of play to inform the marking out regime.

## 7) Water Charges

Committee members considered responsibility for payment of the water charges associated with the Ground. **It was AGREED that the charity would cover the cost of supply and disposal of water on the site and that the relevant clubs would pay for usage.**

It was noted that the old water meter in the Cricket Club was not operational.

**It was AGREED to fit water meters in the Cricket Club and the Bowling Club to monitor usage and allow the costs to be passed on.**

The Secretary would make the necessary arrangements.

## 8) Maintenance Requirements

- a. Committee members considered the standard of maintenance to be undertaken on the Ground. It was noted that Andrew Scott had confirmed the required pitch sizes for the youth teams.

Appropriate maintenance would need to be carried out to protect and preserve the new drainage. Chris Bowden had drawn up a spreadsheet to display the various maintenance options, but information was required from the clubs and school on their requirements and what contribution they might make to the maintenance regime.

Once all information had been collated, it would be determined what work could be carried out 'in-house' and what would need to be contracted out. Appropriate agreements could then be drawn up with the user groups and quotes sought from contractors. It was noted that the current agreement with Spacecare would expire at the end of March 2020.

Bowling Club: the season ran from April to September. It was noted that currently the bowling green was cut regularly by the contractor during the season, but the club might carry out a further cut before a game, which was a duplication of work. It might be possible for the Bowling Club to help with cutting the hedge around the green.

Cricket Club: the club would prefer to retain the current system whereby they cut the cricket square and the outfield between April and Sept. This meant that the club could cut as they needed, rather than relying on the contractor's schedule. The club owned a considerable amount of equipment and club members were asked to consider whether they might help with additional maintenance on the Ground.

William Brookes School: the school had been satisfied with the standard of cutting and marking out last year. Use of the pitch depended on how well the school teams did in competitions and how many games they played. Cones were used as markers for games such as rounders. During the summer the school used the outfield of the cricket pitch, which was cut by the Cricket Club.

Chris Bowden agreed to add the details he had to the spreadsheet for the consideration of members. Following this, meetings would be arranged with representatives of the user groups to discuss any amendments required and what contribution they might make to maintenance.

- b. It was noted that maintenance of the grounds of William Brookes School was carried out in-house but recommendations for contractors had been obtained from other schools.

## 9) Play Equipment

It was noted that the repair to the gate into the enclosed play area had been completed. The Town Council's handyman had carried out some minor repairs to the play equipment. Quotations had been requested for replacement parts and repairs outstanding.

## 10) User Agreements

Consideration of user agreements was deferred until the maintenance had been resolved.

## 11) Path and Access Project (LEADER)

- a. It was noted that there was still a shortfall of £11,729 in funding.
- b. It was noted that the order for the fencing and gate to create the new access from William Brookes School had been placed with The Great Outdoor Gym Company. A drawing had been obtained and the work was scheduled for February Half Term, 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2020.

It was noted that a quote for the installation of an electronic lock was awaited. Mike Bainbridge would chase this up.

- c. Mike Bainbridge had offered the services of the school campus manager to oversee the fencing installation work on site. Committee members expressed their thanks. The Secretary was asked to check whether the contractor would be able to remove the existing post and wire fence, which occupied the line of the new fencing. A pre-start meeting would be arranged in due course.
- d. Committee members considered the specification for the perimeter path, prepared by Chris Bowden. It was noted that the existing path alongside the school fence belonged to Shropshire Council and was their responsibility to maintain.

The new path would give access around the site to pedestrians and disabled visitors and would provide a track to jog along. At a later date it was intended to locate exercise machines along the course of the track.

The path would need to be 2m wide and capable of supporting a 500k disability scooter. The preferred top surface was porous tarmac or porous softpore. Short track spike running shoes could be used on softpore, although the path would need to be covered for cross country runners with spiked shoes. The surface might need maintenance after 3/5 years. An alternative surface could be grasscrete. A more durable concrete edging was preferable to wooden.

The path would connect with the new access to the school site. The route had been chosen to go around the area where dogs might be exercised and to link to the Bowling Club. It would be just on the outside edge of the cricket pitch as currently marked out. It was noted that the cricket pitch could be reduced by a yard if necessary. Shropshire Council had advised that proximity to the trees could be overcome.

**It was AGREED to approve the draft specification for the path.**

The Secretary would contact Chris Bowden regarding any amendments that might be required.

#### 12) Tree and Hedge Management

- a. Quotes were still being sought for the removal of dead wood. **It was AGREED to arrange for the preferred contractor to deal with one particular branch previously identified, if necessary.** It was suggested that members of the Tree Forum be asked to keep an eye on the trees and their condition.
- b. Members noted the formal response from the Tree Forum to the request to cut back the hedges adjacent to the play area. The Tree Forum had advised that their members had planted the hedge some years ago with the agreement that their members would trim the hedge for the first three years. There had been no arrangement for longer term maintenance.
- c. Members considered how to deal with the overgrown hedges. **It was AGREED to form a volunteer working party to reduce the hedges to a height of 3/4ft towards the end of February, prior to the bird nesting season.** Mike Mowling agreed to provide a risk assessment for the work. Arrangements for disposal of the arisings would be agreed at the next meeting.
- d. Work was ongoing with drawing up guidelines for the donation of trees and their management.

#### 13) Next Meeting

**It was AGREED to hold forthcoming meetings of the Management Committee on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February and Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 6.00 pm at the Guildhall.**

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....