

GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK

Registered Charity no. 1116940

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held remotely by video-conference
at 6 pm on Tuesday 28th April 2020

Present:

Cllrs Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Mary Hill, Marcus Themans, Duncan White – Much Wenlock Town Council
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club, Peter Gyldard – Much Wenlock Bowling Club, Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School, Mac Bardsley – Wenlock Olympian Society.

In attendance:

Trudi Barrett – Secretary and Treasurer

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this was the Committee's first remote meeting.

2) Apologies

None. (Apologies were received following the meeting from Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors Football Club and Ian Dadswell – Wenlock Olympian Athletics Club)

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) Outbreak

- a. It was noted that the Gaskell Recreation Ground was still open but that the play equipment and benches on the Gaskell Recreation Ground had been taped off to prevent use and reduce the risk of the spread of coronavirus.
- b. It was noted that signage had been displayed asking dog owners to keep their dogs on leads to reduce social interaction.
- c. It was noted that the meeting of the Management Committee scheduled for 21st April had been postponed.

5) Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 10th March 2020 were considered for approval. **It was AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED, signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

6) Treasurer's Report

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

	£
Balance b/f at 1 st April 2019	15,795.59
Expenditure to 31 st March 2020	21,737.57
Income to 31 st March 2020	18,690.68
Balance as at 31 st March 2020	12,748.70

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
28.02.20	Callum Flory	Chipper hire	300.00	0	300.00
06.03.20	Mr Moleman	Mole removal	200.00	0	200.00
31.03.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance March 2020	657.62	131.52	789.14
01.04.20	Joffrey Watson	Removal of dead branches from lime tree	120.00	0	120.00

7) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

a. Bowling Club

Members of the Bowling Club were delighted that the new access through from the school had been completed and conveyed their thanks for the work undertaken and the ongoing management of the Ground.

b. Cricket Club

There was currently no play due to the Coronavirus restrictions. The advice received from the drainage contractor about the height of grass cutting had been noted and cutting was due to commence the following week.

c. Wenlock Olympians

It was noted that the Wenlock Olympian Games had been cancelled. It was hoped that an event could be organised in September.

d. Wenlock Warriors

No report due to the absence of Andrew Scott.

e. William Brookes School

Mike Bainbidge reported that a very small number of pupils had been continuing to attend school since the lockdown. There was some talk of schools re-opening towards the end of May/beginning of June but there would probably be no use of the field.

The fencing installation had gone well and the card reader was expected to be installed later in the week. Timings for the gate still needed to be agreed. A number of cards for use during times when the gate was closed could be distributed to the clubs and Councillors.

8) Drainage

a. It was noted that installation of the remaining drain had been completed, the spoil mounds had been graded and further grass seed had been sown, completing the drainage project.

b. The secretary was asked to check whether wild flower seed for the spoil mounds was included in the drainage specification. It was noted that an appropriate mix would need to be sourced should this not be the case.

As the area outside the Scout hut was being used during the path installation, the TGO contractors would make good the ground here, rather than Dan Shotton.

9) Water Charges

Committee members considered options for the installation of water meters on the Gaskell Ground:

- a. To install separate supply meters at the Bowling Club and Cricket Club.
- b. To install sub-meters at the Bowling Club and Cricket Club (plumbing required).

It was AGREED to install separate supply meters at the Bowling Club and Cricket Club and that the meter next to Station Road at the entrance to the Gaskell Ground should remain in place.

It was noted that the leak on Station Road was related to the feed to the stone house next to Scoltocks Yard and it was understood that a repair had been carried out by Severn Trent.

10) Grounds Maintenance Requirements

Committee members considered an amended proposal from the current contractor for maintenance for the coming 8 months, covering grass cutting on the open areas, ditches and around trees and perimeter areas and the play area. It was noted that the requirement for external maintenance had reduced due to welcome offers from the Bowling Club and Cricket Club to carry out some maintenance.

It was noted that Dan Shotton would carry out aeration of the pitches this year.

The Secretary was asked to check whether the installation of the path and consequent change to the ground would affect the price quoted for maintenance.

It was AGREED to accept the quotation from Kevin Mears for cutting the main field (excluding the cricket outfield), around the trees, perimeter area and play area for the current year, in the amount of £5,295 + VAT (annual cost), subject to clarification of the above.

11) User Agreements

Committee members discussed how to move forward with user agreements. Existing agreements would be reviewed and revised to reflect the current arrangements, making use of data and information to hand. It was suggested that a standard agreement with specific schedules for each user group would be preferred. It was agreed to arrange separate meetings (remote if necessary) with each user group from mid-May.

12) Path and Access Project (LEADER)

- a. It was noted that installation of the fencing and gates on the school site had gone very well and had been completed satisfactorily. **It was AGREED to sign the Certificate of Completion for TGO.**
- b. It was noted that the card readers on the gates had yet to be fitted and should be set at a height accessible by wheelchair users. The Bowling Club provided details of the times of their games. It was noted that play would usually finish by 11pm and access cards could be used if members needed to use the gate after that time. It was agreed that timings for access would be discussed between Councillors and the school outside of the meeting.
- c. Installation of the path around the Gaskell Ground was progressing well. It had been necessary to reduce the width of the path for a stretch on the school side to retain the necessary area for the cricket pitch. A length of hard tarmac would be laid outside the cricket pavilion to reduce damage by spiked shoes. A connecting spur had been provided to link the school access gate and steps with the path.
- d. Committee members considered opportunities for extending the path in certain areas.
It was AGREED to install an additional strip of tarmac to link the path with the table and benches overlooking the play area at a cost of £300 + VAT, to be covered by the Gaskell Recreation Ground. This work would be separate from the main contract.

It was noted that TGO would make good the ground outside the Scout hut and the area between the hut and the field at the end of the works.

13) Tree and Hedge Management

- a. It was noted that dead branches on the lime tree had been removed by the contractor.
- b. It was noted that temporary fencing was still in place alongside the hedge by the play area and it was agreed to leave this in place until the hedge greened up, expected to be the end of May.
- c. It was noted that information on Tree Protection Orders on the Gaskell Ground had been provided by the Shropshire Council Tree Officer to inform the drafting of guidelines for the donation of trees and the management of donated trees. The Secretary was asked to re-circulate the tree placements agreed by the Committee previously for discussion at the next meeting.

14) Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 11th June, time and venue to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....