

**GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK**

Registered Charity no. 1116940

**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held remotely by video-conference  
at 6 pm on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Present:**

Cllrs Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Mary Hill, Marcus Themans, Duncan White – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates  
Colin Wildblood – Much Wenlock Bowling 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 Bill James (Cricket Club), Mac Bardsley (Wenlock Olympian Society) and Ian Dadswell (Wenlock Olympian Athletics Club).

**3) Declarations of interest**

None.

**4) Minutes**

- a. It was noted that that the pages of the minutes from January 2020 onwards had been re-numbered beginning with 01/20, following identification of an error with numbering.
- b. The draft minutes of a meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were considered for approval. Following a minor correction, **it was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be APPROVED, signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

**5) Treasurer's Report**

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

Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	12,748.70
Expenditure to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	1,109.14
Income to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	0
Balance as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020	11,639.56

It was noted that there had been no transactions during June and the cheque for grounds maintenance for May had not yet been presented.

It was noted that some grants were available in connection with the circumstances caused by coronavirus for sports clubs but there did not seem to be anything applicable to the Gaskell Ground as a whole at present. It was possible that money would be available for recovery and resilience in due course. It was suggested that members consider what opportunities might exist to help with the sustainability and resilience of the clubs, supported in principle by the Management Committee.

Members noted that the income and expenditure did not reflect the time spent by Council staff working on matters connected with the Gaskell Recreation Ground. A record could be helpful for grant applications as staff time could be factored into the cost of future projects. **It was AGREED that staff should keep a log of time spent working on Gaskell Ground matters, both general administration and project specific.**

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
30.02.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance June 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46

## 6) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

### a. Bowling Club

It appeared that there had been some confusion about whether the bowling green was open to the public or not. The Bowling Club Secretary had advised the Committee that the bowling green was closed until further notice as it had not been possible to put into place measures required for safe opening, including a track and trace system. This was in line with guidance from the Crown Green Bowling Association. However, it seemed that this message had not been clearly communicated.

**It was AGREED that the bowling green should remain closed until further notice, in line with guidance from the relevant governing bodies.** The Secretary would write to the Bowling Club to this effect and produce signs for both gates. Colin Wildblood would arrange for the gates to the green to be locked, but provide access for maintenance when required.

Colin Wildblood left the meeting

### b. Cricket Club

Bill James had sent a report stating that the Shropshire County Cricket League had advised that a form of league cricket could restart on 25<sup>th</sup> July for a period of 10 weeks. Much Wenlock Cricket Club was intending to participate in the mini league fielding one team each Saturday. Stringent safety requirements would need to be met.

Members queried whether the club would need to take names and contact details of spectators and the Secretary was asked to check this.

The Cricket Club had also advised that members were seeding and filling the lengths of the new drainage runs which have sunk and need attention on the cricket outfield to ensure the ground would be playable by the first fixture. The club mower had needed some major repairs but was expected to be available the following week.

The Cricket Club had reported that the area immediately in front of the cricket pavilion had recently flooded during periods of rain, presumably affected by the laying of the new pathway. Committee members had not noticed this, but Councillor White would check the area next time there was heavy rain.

The Club had also expressed their concern about the increased risk of a member of the public being injured by a cricket ball when using the new footpath along the boundary during cricket activity. They had requested that the Management Committee install permanent warning notices beside the path in appropriate places.

Members considered it would be better to have temporary warning signs that could be displayed when a game or practice was in progress, maybe including a diversion. **It was agreed that Chris Bowden and the Secretary would liaise regarding appropriate signage.**  
The report was noted.

### c. Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS)

A written report had been received: Due to coronavirus WOS had no plans for use of the field in 2020. The use of the field in 2021 would depend on central and local government guidance. The WOS was ready to enter into negotiations with the Management Committee regarding a user agreement based on a 'normal' year.

The report was noted.

### d. Wenlock Olympian Athletic Society

A written report had been received: The club was still restricted in its training due to the Covid-19 limitations. The coaches had now used the field for two weeks and the sessions were going well, with no problems. The intention was to continue until normal training could be resumed. Five groups were running on Saturday. 2 groups of 5 9.00am to 9.55am and 3 groups of 5, 10.05 to 11.00am. On Wednesday the club had been running two groups 6-7pm. The athletes had been using the "lanes" in the field and the new path round the edge. The Club had received some really positive feedback from the parents, which confirmed to the coaches that their decision to resume had been the right one.

The Club had expressed their thanks for the support from the Management Committee.

The report was noted. Members were pleased that the club had been able to resume training.

### e. Wenlock Warriors

No representative present and no report.

- f. **William Brookes School**  
No representative present and no report.

The Secretary was asked to check whether the usage requirements of user groups had been received and to request any outstanding information.

### 7) Drainage

- a. It was noted that the drainage contractor had topped up the drain which had suffered from sinkage.
- b. **It was AGREED to retrospectively approve the purchase of 1 tonne of 50 soil/50 sand rootzone to top up areas of the drainage channels affected by animal digging or similar at a cost of £100 + VAT.** It was noted that the rootzone had been delivered to site.
- c. Apart from matter raised by the Cricket Club above (minute 6b), there were no other drainage matters arising.

### 8) Water Meters

- a. Members considered information from Severn Trent regarding the installation of separate water meters. Severn Trent had now advised that while the installation of a meter was free, the installation of separate water meters would require separate water supplies and there was currently only one supply connected to the field. The cost of a site survey would be £141.22 including VAT, but the cost of installing a new water supply line could be thousands of pounds.
- b. It was noted that two new supply lines were already in place, in preparation for future use: one for grey water from the well and one for a supply to a new changing facility. It would be possible to connect to these but the lines would then not be used for their intended purposes.

**In view of the difficulties associated with connecting separate supplies and installing separate meters, it was AGREED to proceed with the option of sub-meters.**

The main meter next to the main road would remain in place and two sub-meters would be installed where the supply splits at the Cricket Club / Bowling Club. The water supply up to the Cricket Club would remain the responsibility of the charity.

It was noted that one price for the installation of sub meters had been obtained. The Secretary would endeavour to obtain further quotations.

Councillor Duncan White left the meeting.

### 9) Grounds Maintenance

- a. The Secretary was clarifying with Alan Lewis exactly which area needed to be verti-drained. It was noted that the area at the side of the Bowling Club should be included as there was a pipe and spring in that area.
- b. It was noted that the hedges cut back earlier in the year had grown significantly and would need to be trimmed back in September, particularly where the growth was overhanging the school path.

### 10) User Agreements

It was noted that voting members had met on 7<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the draft agreements and had made good progress. However, clarity on usage and costs was needed and the draft agreements were not yet ready to go to the user groups.

### 11) Path and Access Project (LEADER)

- a. Councillor Daniel Thomas had contacted Mike Bainbridge at William Brookes School to request that the gate be opened at 4.00 or 4.30pm, rather than 5.00pm. A response was awaited.
- b. Once agreed, the access arrangements would need to be formalised in an amendment to the lease between the school and Shropshire Council or as a side letter to the lease.
- c. Concerns had been raised by the Scout leader regarding possible damage to the tarmac and paving in front of the Scout hut by contractors working on the Gaskell Recreation Ground. The Secretary was asked to arrange for the Council's Handyman to power wash the area and fill any visible cracks in the tarmac with sand. The Scout Leader should be kept informed of any further use of the ground in front of the Scout Hut agreed with Shropshire Council.

- d. Due to ongoing issues with coronavirus restrictions, **it was AGREED to postpone the official opening of the new access and path until 2021.**

**12) Tree and Hedge Management**

Members considered a request from a member of the public to plant a tree to mark the significant contribution to the town by a local resident. Members agreed that they would prefer to keep the few free spaces available in reserve for other commemorative purposes. Members also commented on the issues associated with the management of trees in public places.

The review of tree placement locations was deferred to the next meeting when an aerial photograph and new plan would be available.

**13) Linden Gate**

It was noted that prices for a replacement for the Linden Gate were awaited.

**14) Play Area**

It was noted that, following a risk assessment, cleaning and display of signage, the play area had been re-opened on 4<sup>th</sup> July, in line with the easing of government restrictions on play areas from that date.

**15) Next Meeting**

**It was AGREED to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 6.00pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....