

**GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK**  
Registered Charity no. 1116940

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held remotely by video-conference  
at 7 pm on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**Present:**

Cllrs Daniel Thomas (in the chair), Mary Hill – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates  
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club  
Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors  
Colin Wildblood – Much Wenlock Bowling Club  
Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School  
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 Cllrs Duncan White and Marcus Themans.

**3) Declarations of interest**

None.

**4) Minutes**

- a. The draft minutes of a meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were considered for approval. **It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.**
- b. The draft minutes of a meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 were considered for approval. **It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.**

**5) Treasurer's Report**

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

Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	12,748.70
Expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020	3,201.52
Income to 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020	0
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2020	9,547.18

It was noted that payment of the Town Council's grant to the charity had now been requested and the transfer was imminent. The Treasurer reported that the payment made for the RoSPA inspection had been for the 2019 inspection, which had only recently been invoiced. If the invoice for this year's inspection were received during the current financial year, there would therefore be an overspend in this budget heading.

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
13.07.20	TGO (Reimbursement to Town Council)	Additional work to path	300.00	60.00	360.00
31.07.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance July 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46
11.08.20	Shropshire Council (Reimbursement to Town Council)	RoSPA inspection of play equipment 2019	80.00	16.00	96.00

25.08.20	Joffrey Watson	Removal of loose branch from Wellingtonia tree	50.00		50.00
31.08.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance August 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46

## 6) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

### a. **Bowling Club**

Colin Wildblood reported some recent difficulties within the club. The club was continuing with maintenance of the green and Colin would continue to represent the Bowling Club on the Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee. The club had formed a sub-committee to discuss the new user agreement when it was ready for consideration.

The green had opened again for play following the introduction of a booking system to gather contact details for the test and trace system. It was noted that the volunteer running the booking system had resigned from the club and the committee. The club itself was not operating a test and trace system.

Colin Wildblood left the meeting.

### b. **Cricket Club**

Bill James reported that recreational cricket had recommenced and there had already been several games on the Gaskell Ground. There were four more fixtures in Much Wenlock over the coming weeks with the last game scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> September. The club was continuing to maintain the ground and comply with the Covid-19 requirements detailed by the ECB.

The club was concerned about the new footpath, which had brought the public closer to the cricket ground during games. Warning signs were required, or the closure of the path when games were in progress. The club had made some temporary signs they could use until the end of the season but they would prefer permanent signs. Options for temporary and permanent signage for next season would be considered at the next meeting.

### c. **Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS)**

No representative present.

### d. **Wenlock Olympian Athletic Society**

Ian Dadswell reported that use of the Ground had been invaluable for training and keeping athletics going. The club would be going back to the school track and field facilities from Saturday but would continue to use the field for Thursday training. Policies and risk assessments had been reviewed following the latest announcement by government but, as an organised sporting activity, the sessions were unaffected by the latest 'rule of six'. Discussions were being held about whether the Gaskell Ground would be Covid-secure and thus allow for one coach with up to 12 athletes. There were currently no plans for a cross country event as no guidance had been provided. The Athletic Society had received no income at all since March but would be renewing memberships this month.

### e. **Wenlock Warriors**

The new goals had been constructed and had been stored between the hedge and Linden Lodge, locked together. There had been no problems with this location. The season had started the previous week but the club had only played on the primary school ground so far. A risk assessment had been prepared for play on the Gaskell Ground.

### f. **William Brookes School**

Pupils had started school again during the current week. The PE department had expressed concern about the channels left on the football pitch after the drainage work, which were considered to be deep enough to cause trips and to affect the movement of the ball. Some non-contact training would be undertaken but it was unlikely that there would be any matches until after half term. The school would not be playing any games until the depressions were remedied.

Wenlock Warriors were used to uneven pitches and were not so concerned about the depressions.

## 7) Drainage

- a. Committee members considered the need for additional topping up of the drainage channels. Alan Lewis had visited site two days earlier, was satisfied with the site and reported that the trenches were recovering. However, he had noted that the recent grass cut was slightly too short and that leaving the grass to grow longer would help with root growth. The existing grass was in good condition but verti-draining and the

application of fertiliser in October would help to maintain condition. It was noted that the grass seed had not taken as well as hoped due to the very dry weather during the Spring.

The Cricket Club had topped up some trenches on the cricket pitch but felt that the ground could settle again.

There was about 1/3 of the rootzone supply remaining. It was agreed that the footballers could use this to top up the drainage channels if necessary and should let the secretary know if additional rootzone was required. It was noted that Wenlock Warriors would play at the weekend unless the referee decided the pitch was not playable.

**It was agreed to ask the grounds maintenance contractor to lift the grass cut.**

- b. It was noted that there had been problems with water pooling outside the cricket pavilion following recent heavy rain. Discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting.
- c. There were no other drainage matters arising.

### 8) Water Meters

Several contractors had been approached but had declined to quote; one response was still awaited.

### 9) Grounds Maintenance

- a. It was noted that a grass cutting schedule had been provided by the contractor.
- b. One price for verti-draining had been obtained so far. Mike Bainbridge would check whether the school had any verti-draining scheduled and whether this could be combined with work on the Gaskell Ground. It was noted that a decision might need to be made between meetings. Given the high cost of the work, the Town Council would be approached about financial support.

A quotation had also been obtained for slit aeration. It was noted that this was not such a technical job as verti-draining and might be addressed another way.

- c. There were no other grounds maintenance matters.

### 10) User Agreements

It was noted that the current situation with regard to Covid-19 had held up progress with the user agreements.

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

- a. Arrangements for access through the gate from William Brookes School were considered. The school had proposed that during term time the gate would open at 6am Monday to Friday, and close at 7.45am, before school started. The gate would be opened again at 5pm and close at 11pm. At weekends, on bank holidays and in school holidays, the gate would be open all day between 6am and 11pm.

**It was agreed to approve and proceed with the above opening hours.**

It was noted that access to the car park would only be possible when either the school or the leisure centre was open. The leisure centre opened at 6am but closed at 10pm. If the leisure centre changed its opening hours, the gate to the Gaskell Ground would be open, but the car park would be closed. However, it was possible to exit the car park even when the entrance to the car park was closed.

Mike Bainbridge advised that the school lease with Shropshire Council would need to be amended to reflect the altered access route so that this was shown correctly shown on the plans. An agreement regarding the access was required between the school and the Town Council/Gaskell charity.

**It was agreed that the Secretary should draft an agreement regarding the gate access arrangements for signature by both parties.**

- b. There were no other relevant matters for consideration.

### 12) Tree and Hedge Management

- a. It was noted that a loose branch had been removed from the central Wellingtonia tree. As a result of the recent high winds work was also required to two other trees: an oak and a tulip tree. **It was agreed to approve the quotation of £300 from Joffrey Watson for work to both trees.** It was noted that all arisings, including fallen branches, would need to be removed.

- b. The Olympian Athletics Society expressed concern that some of the proposed tree placements would affect the cross country run route. It was agreed to arrange a meeting on site to review the locations and to discuss the placements further at the next meeting.

**13) Linden Gate**

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

**14) Next Meeting**

**It was AGREED to hold the next meeting on Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 7.00pm via zoom.**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....