

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, 12th November 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
Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors
Colin Wildblood – Much Wenlock Bowling Club

In attendance:

Trudi Barrett – Secretary and Treasurer, Lorna Dexter - Town Council Admin Assistant

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Bainbridge (William Brookes School) and Ian Dadswell (Wenlock Olympian Athletics Club).

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Minutes

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

5) Treasurer's Report

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

Balance b/f at 1 st April 2020	12,748.70
Expenditure to 31 st October 2020	4,528.44
Income to 31 st October 2020	12,000
Balance as at 31 st October 2020	20,220.26

It was noted that the only income received to date was from the Town Council grant. The committee agreed that invoices for other organisations should be issued.

Cllr Themans requested that a figure be included in the financial report so that account is taken of the Town Council staff time spent on the Gaskell Recreation Ground. This might be incorporated in the form of an hourly administration charge, possibly in both Town Council and Gaskell accounts. The Treasurer would take advice on how this might be done.

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
30.09.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Football pitch marking	155.00	31.00	186.00
30.09.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance September 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46
31.10.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance October 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46

Committee members discussed the materials used for marking out football pitches and how long the markings would last. The Secretary was asked to check current regulations on permitted materials.

6) Insurance

Councillors noted that the insurance renewal was due on 16th November and that the quoted price was £1,464.10, a significant increase on the previous year's premium of £1,236.46. The Secretary had queried the increase with Zurich and a response was awaited. However, in case it were not possible to reduce the quoted price, **it was agreed to renew the insurance policy with Zurich at a cost of £1,464.10**. It was noted that this was above the budgeted cost of £1,400.

7) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

a. Bowling Club

There had been very little bowling this season due to the restrictions. There had been some management changes at the Club, which now had a new Treasurer, Mr Bob Mumford. The Club was actively seeking grant support. Maintenance on the green was continuing and the hedges would be trimmed soon. It had been expected that the invoice for use of the Gaskell Ground would reflect the maintenance contribution from the club. All hoped that regular play would be possible next season.

It was suggested that the various Gaskell user groups share their experience of applying for recovery funding.

b. Cricket Club

The cricket season had finished at the end of September after nine games on the field. The Club had tidied up the ground, seeded the square, spread loam and fenced it off. The Cricket Club had obtained some funding from Sport England to cover insurances.

c. Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS)

No representative present.

d. Wenlock Olympian Athletic Society

No representative present.

e. Wenlock Warriors

Spacecare had initially marked out the pitch and the Warriors had marked it once since. The team had played three games from the start of September to the end of October. The pitch seemed to be holding up well. Some of the rootzone had been used to fill drainage channels but the bag was no longer outside the shed and might have been put inside. Bill James agreed to check.

f. William Brookes School

No representative present.

8) Drainage

- a. The drainage channels seemed to be filling and settling and no animal digging had been observed.
- b. It was noted that Dan Shotton had provided a quotation for the installation of additional drainage outside the cricket pavilion to deal with flooding in that area and that the Town Council had agreed to fund this work. The order would be placed imminently.
- c. There were no other drainage matters arising.

9) Water Meters

Members considered a quotation for the installation of water meters at the Bowling Club and Cricket Club. **It was agreed to accept the quotation from Turners Electrical in the amount of £456.**

10) Grounds Maintenance

- a. It was noted that the Town Council had agreed to fund the necessary verti-draining and that the work had been carried out recently by Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services.
- b. The committee noted advice received from Mike Humphries of Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services that it would be sufficient to carry out slit aeration three times this year. This would aerate the root system of the grass, reduce compaction and assist with drainage. **It was agreed to contract Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services to carry out slitting in January, February and March 2021 at a cost of £750 + VAT.**
- c. It was noted that the hedge alongside the play area had grown up again. A working group would be arranged to cut back the hedge before the end of February. A tractor might be used if the hedge could be accessed without damaging the ground. The idea of moving the benches to allow access was unlikely to be popular.

11) Signage for Cricket Matches

With the exception of the Cricket Club, Committee members agreed that temporary warning signs for cricket matches would be more suitable than permanent signs. This would reduce maintenance and ensure that the signs were noticed when needed. It was suggested that three signs would be needed for approach routes to the cricket field: one near the start of the footpath near the children’s play area to indicate the pathway was closed off, a diversion sign at the start of the cricket pavilion path and one on the boundary line near the Wellingtonia tree. The signs would need to be put out for games by the Cricket Club and could also be used by the school when required. Some signage options had already been identified and these would be considered at the next meeting.

12) Play Area RoSPA Report

- a. The committee noted that the annual RoSPA inspection of the play equipment had been carried out on 21st August and the report received on 14th October 2020.
- b. It was noted that the overall assessment of the equipment was low risk.
- c. **It was agreed to arrange for the Town Council’s handyman to undertake basic tasks required and to obtain quotations for other remedial work and replacement parts.**

13) User Agreements

It was noted that the current situation with regard to Covid-19 had held up progress with the user agreements. **It was agreed to arrange a meeting of voting committee members to consider the draft user agreement and then to send the approved draft out to user groups.**

14) Path and Access Project (LEADER)

- a. Committee members were very pleased to note that an inspection had been undertaken by Shropshire Council and the second and final LEADER funding payment had been received by the Town Council.
- b. It was noted that a grant award from the Much Wenlock Forester Charitable Trust had been received by the Town Council, which was very much appreciated.
- c. It was noted that drafting of an access agreement for the gate was in progress. A query was raised about whether arrangements for use of the gate would be included in the user agreements. The gate would be available for all users during open access times.
- d. There were no other relevant matters for consideration.

15) Tree and Hedge Management

It had been planned to meet on site to consider tree and hedge placement and management but this had not been possible due to the latest lockdown restrictions. **It was agreed to defer consideration of this matter until the new year, when it was hoped it would be possible to meet on site.**

16) Next Meeting

- a. **It was AGREED to hold the next meeting on 21st January 2021 at 7.00pm.**
- b. It was noted that the charity AGM would take place on 10th December 2020.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....