

01/21

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

# **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held remotely  
Via Zoom  
at 7.00 pm on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Present:**

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

**In attendance:**

Lorna Dexter – Secretary and Treasurer, Trudi Barrett – Town Clerk

**1) Election of Chairman**

Nominations were sought for the election of Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was PROPOSED by Mary Hill and SECONDED by Duncan White that Daniel Thomas be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**It was unanimously AGREED that Daniel Thomas be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.**

**2) Election of Deputy Chairman**

Nominations were sought for the election of Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was PROPOSED by Daniel Thomas and SECONDED by Mary Hill that Duncan White be elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

**It was unanimously AGREED that Duncan White be elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.**

**3) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a report. He reported the comments made by the outgoing Chair of the Charity, Cllr Bert Harper who at the recent Charity AGM who thanked the vision and generosity of the donor and all those who have cared for and managed this essential community asset, especially we really should be grateful to the Town Council staff and to all members of the Management Committee. The Chairman sounded Cllr Bert Harper's words that the surfaced pathway has made a major difference, in particular to disabled members of our community, allowing them to find freedom in the open air, and have received much praise from residents. The chairman echoed Cllr Harper's words thanking the financial contributions received from the Much Wenlock Forester Charitable Trust, the Lady Forester Trust and William Brookes Academy, which made these schemes possible.

The Chairman then reiterated parts of his own report at the Charity meeting noting that it had been a massive year for the Gaskell Ground, with the drainage project and then installation of the path and new access through to William Brookes School. The path had been welcomed by the community and was being very well used. The LEADER grant funding had only covered 50% of the cost of the project but a brave decision had been taken by the Council to go ahead and seek additional funds. He repeated that the shortfall in funding had been a great concern and the contributions to the project from the Much Wenlock Forester Charitable Trust and the Lady Forester Trust had been very gratefully received and had made a big difference to the project's success. He thanked those Councillors who had left for their hard work and dedication in getting these projects.

**4) Apologies**

Apologies were received from Marcus Themans

**Apology ACCEPTED**

**5) Declarations of interest**

None.

**6) Minutes**

The minutes of a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020 were considered for approval. With the addition of the phrase "with the exception of the Cricket Club" at the beginning of minute 11, **it was AGREED that the minutes be APPROVED, signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

**7) Charity AGM and Budget**

- a. It was noted that the Trustees had agreed to add a representative of the Wenlock Olympians Athletics Society to the Management Committee as a non-voting member. Ian Dadswell currently represented this group at meetings.
- b. It was noted that Lorna Dexter was appointed as Secretary and Treasurer to the Charity at the AGM.
- c. It was noted that the budget had been agreed pending further discussion with regard to the user group fees.

**8) Treasurer's Report**

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

	£
Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	12,748.70
Expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	7,383.46
Income to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	12,000.00
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2020	17,365.24

It was noted that the only income to date was from the Town Council contribution. The user groups had been invoiced but payments had not yet been received.

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

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
12.11.20	Joffrey Watson	Removal of hanging branches	300.00		300.00
30.11.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance November 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46
31.12.20	Spacecare-Shropshire	Grounds maintenance December 2020	454.55	90.91	545.46

- c. It was AGREED to formally APPROVE the following service previously agreed by committee members prior to the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services	Fertiliser Application to GRG	664.17	128.84	773.00

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Treasurer's report be NOTED.**

**9) Reports from User Groups****a. Bowling Club – Colin Wildblood**

The club had received an invoice for user fees, but it would not be possible to pay just yet due to lack of funds under the current restrictions. Once the club was allowed to be up and running again, they would be able to generate the income to pay the contribution. It was suggested that there be a meeting of the user groups to discuss the user agreements and proposed fees with the committee members.

**b. Cricket Club – Bill James**

Shropshire league were making enquiries as to the possibility of playing this year under current restrictions. There had been no coaching recently. The club planned to play one team this year instead of the two teams previously fielded, with the addition of some Sunday friendlies.

**c. Wenlock Olympian Society – Ian Dadswell**

Permission and restrictions permitting, the society planned to hold the games this year.

**d. Wenlock Olympian Athletics Club – Ian Dadswell**

There had been no training under current restrictions on the Gaskell Ground, school or leisure centre but the club intended to start training in March, if permitted, with membership renewals from April.

**e. Wenlock Warriors Football Club – Andrew Scott**

There had been no training or matches since November under current restrictions on the field. It was reported that the football pitch was holding water so concerns stressed that the drainage should be better. It was also reported that there was increase in dog foul on the field. A discussion ensued about how to combat the problem with a suggestion of increased signage to further educate dog walkers. It was agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting.

**f. William Brookes School – Mike Bainbridge**

There are currently 7-8% of students attending school so there had been no use of the field for sporting activities. The committee members were informed of the school's intention to become part of a Multi Academy Trust following a recent application, with a joining target date of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**10) Drainage**

- a. It was noted that Dan Shotton had been issued with a works order for the installation of additional drainage outside the cricket pavilion and was awaiting suitable grounds conditions to carry out the work.
- b. It was suggested a link path be considered connecting the Shropshire Council path alongside the school site and the new path. It was agreed to obtain quotations for this work.

**11) Water Meters**

It was noted that the plumber had been contacted and a date for installation was awaited, pending better weather conditions.

**12) Grounds Maintenance**

- a. The committee noted information provided by Alan Lewis on line marking paint regulations. Andrew Scott provided information on a weed killer option to mix with the paint which was classed as not dangerous. It was agreed that this would potentially be a suitable solution for use within the regulations on the condition that the school were happy with the use. Documentation was requested by the school to present to the grounds team for consultation before consent was to be given. It was also stated that the substance was to only be applied by personnel with an appropriate certificate in chemical use.
- b. It was noted that fertilisation of the pitches had be completed and slit aeration would be carried out in February.
- c. It was noted that quotes for this year's grass cutting needed to be obtained before March and a meeting held in February to agree the contract.

It was discussed that the Linden walk had suffered coverage of fallen leaves and an increase in mud due to the surge in walkers during the current Covid-19 exercise restrictions. It was considered a unusual problem that would not normally occur and the Town Council did not have the work force available to clear the paths. It was suggested that the outfield still holds water, the cricket club commented that despite the issue, the field drains quicker since drainage works had been completed.

**13) Equipment for Cricket Club**

- a. The cricket club expressed a wish for permanent match warning signage and a reminder was issued that it had already been discussed and decided that temporary signage would be more suitable and that a further discussion would need be held to agree a school access solution to the signage. A quote from Horizon Media was presented and it was agreed to issue the order pending signage wording approval by the committee. Further discussion would also be needed to discuss the liability of users not putting out the signs during matches.
- b. It was brought to the attention of the committee that the cricket club bowling machine was battery operated and therefore no cables were present in its use and no matting required. It was stated that any future loose cables used by the club from the clubhouse to the pitch must be covered.

**14) Play Area**

- a. It was noted that current Covid-19 government guidelines permit play areas to remain open and that the Town Councils handyman was regularly checking and cleaning the equipment.
  
- b. It was noted that the Town Council's handyman had completed basic repairs needed to the play equipment, which had been identified in the RoSPA report, and quotes were awaited for the other repairs required.

**15) User Agreements**

It was noted that a meeting had been held by management committee members to agree the user agreements and documents were now in the process of being finalised. It was suggested that a meeting be held between the committee and user groups to agree the final documents. A meeting date was scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 with the main policy and individual user agreements to be sent to the user groups, week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> February for perusal.

**16) Path and Access Project (LEADER)**

- a. It was noted that the lease agreement between Shropshire Council and William Brookes School was being amended with regard to the access route from the school site to the Gaskell Ground. It was currently not known what level of detail would be included in the lease and whether this would cover the times and arrangements for access or just the route through the school grounds. The Town Clerk would liaise with Mike Bainbridge regarding this and the terms of an additional access agreement between the school and the Gaskell Ground.
  
- b. Members considered the need to grit the new path during icy weather. This was not considered viable due to the lack of funds and manpower to carry out the work.

**17) Tree and Hedge Management**

- a. Members considered options for cutting back the hedge alongside the play area. Last year this work had been carried out by a group of volunteers but that would be difficult under current restrictions. **It was AGREED to obtain a quote from Joffrey Watson for the work and to look into the option of hedge laying with a view to offering the community the opportunity to learn the craft.**
  
- b. Due to the current restrictions, it was decided to defer a meeting on site to consider tree placements until restrictions had been relaxed.

**18) Next Meeting**

**It was AGREED to hold a forthcoming meeting of the Management Committee on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm, remotely via Zoom.**

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....