

# GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK

Registered Charity no. 1116940

## Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held remotely by video-conference at 7.00 pm on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **PRESENT:**

Herbert Harper, Mary Hill, Yvonne Holyoak, Daniel Thomas, Duncan White, Milner Whiteman (representing Much Wenlock Town Council)

Chris Bowden (representing Wenlock Estates)

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Trudi Barrett – Secretary and Treasurer

### **1) Chairman's report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following address:

Welcome everyone and I am sure we will all agree that the open space afforded by the Gaskell Recreation Ground has never been so necessary as in this past year. The Gaskell Recreation Ground has, without doubt, been a saviour for so many in our community.

We must thank the vision and generosity of the donor, Mrs Mary Ward of the Wenlock Estate, in entrusting this recreation ground to the people of Much Wenlock and for all those since 1936 who have cared for and managed this essential community asset. All those are too numerous to mention individually but in the past few years we really should be grateful to the Town Clerk and to all members of the Management Committee.

Leading from the Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Plan 2017-25, very much driven by past Mayor, Graham Edgumbe Venning, a lot has been achieved. Whilst there is more to do in the next few years, we have already seen how necessary these plans have been to opening up access for all. The surfaced pathways have 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.

Projects such as these require time, commitment, patience and determination. We have seen all those virtues and, in particular, from Trudi, our Town Clerk and also Secretary to the Charity, and I witnessed myself, on numerous occasions, the exceptional work of Councillor, as she was then, Kate Southan, who worked tirelessly and methodically to obtain the funding that made all this work possible. There were many obstacles to overcome but, as we now see, it was all done just in time for the essential benefit to our whole community. The Charity also wish to acknowledge the financial contributions received from the Much Wenlock Forester Charitable Trust, the Lady Forester Trust and William Brookes Academy, which made these schemes possible. We must also thank all the contractors involved in the work undertaken in the process of drainage and the surfaced pathways for the standard of work undertaken in often very difficult weather conditions.

Milner Whiteman echoed the views of the Chairman and praised the new path, which he considered a marvellous improvement. However, he noted that the Linden Walk was muddy and covered in leaves and would benefit from upgrading. The Chairman also suggested a link to the Windmill Hill path and recommended that the Management Committee consider this. It was noted that improvement to the Linden Walk was included in the Management Plan for when funds were available.

### **2) Election of Chairman**

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

It was PROPOSED by Herbert Harper and SECONDED by Milner Whiteman 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.**

Daniel Thomas took the chair

### 3) Election of Deputy Chairman

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

It was PROPOSED by Mary Hill and SECONDED by Milner Whiteman 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.**

### 4) Election of Secretary

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

**It was unanimously AGREED that Lorna Dexter, Administrative Assistant to the Town Council, be elected as Secretary.**

### 5) Election of Treasurer

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

**It was unanimously AGREED that Lorna Dexter, Administrative Assistant to the Town Council, be elected as Treasurer.**

### 6) Apologies

Apologies were received from Marcus Themans (Much Wenlock Town Council) and Tim Motley (Wenlock Estates).

### 7) Minutes

a. **it was PROPOSED, SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the minutes of a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019 be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

b. It was noted that it had not been possible to hold the meeting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time.

### 8) Financial Matters

a. Trustees reviewed the accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. **It was AGREED to APPROVE the accounts for 2019/20:**

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

### b. Financial Report

Income and expenditure to the end of October 2020 was presented:

	£
Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	12,748.70
Income to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	12,000.00
Expenditure to 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	4,528.44
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2020	20,220.26

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to NOTE the financial report.**

c. It was NOTED that there had been a delay with preparation of the budget for 2021/22. **It was AGREED to hold a special general meeting on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021 at 6.30pm to approve the budget for 2021/22.**

### 9) Minutes of the Management Committee

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following minutes of the Management Committee be NOTED and ADOPTED:

- 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019
- 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019
- 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019
- 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

- 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020
- 28<sup>th</sup> April 2020
- 11<sup>th</sup> June 2020
- 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020
- 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Trustees acknowledged the work of the Management Committee and expressed their thanks.

#### **10) Report from Management Committee**

Members received a report from Daniel Thomas, Chairman of the Management Committee. He noted 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 new path had benefited all ages, people in wheelchairs and those with pushchairs, children learning to ride bikes and runners/joggers using the path, as well as those walking. 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. 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.

Thanks were expressed to the volunteers who had come forward to cut the hedge alongside the play area, which had provided a cost saving.

It was noted that Cllr Thomas had become Chairman of the Management Committee following the departure of other Councillors from the committee within a short space of time. He thanked those Councillors who had left for their hard work and dedication in getting these projects moving. He thanked the staff for their support and Chris Bowden for his ongoing involvement and knowledge of the Gaskell Ground. This year's achievements represented a great community effort and he was proud to be part of such a community.

#### **11) Terms of Reference of Management Committee**

Trustees reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Management Committee.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to approve the Terms of Reference for the Management Committee, with the addition of a representative of the Wenlock Olympians Athletics Club as a non-voting member.**

#### **12) Appointment of Management Committee**

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following members be appointed to the Management Committee:**

- Chris Bowden representing Wenlock Estates
- Daniel Thomas )
- Duncan White ) representing Much Wenlock Town Council
- Marcus Themans )
- Mary Hill )

Thanks were expressed to the Management Committee for their work.

#### **13) Date of next meeting**

It was **AGREED** that future meetings would take place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021, in addition to the special meeting agreed above for Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Signed.....  
Chairman of the Trustees

Date.....