

**GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK**

Registered Charity no. 1116940

# **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock  
at 7 pm on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2022

**Present:**

Cllrs Duncan White (in the chair), David Fenwick, Wilf Grainger – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club  
Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors  
Alan Edwards – Wenlock Olympian Society

**In attendance:**

Lorna Dexter – Secretary and Treasurer

**1) Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

**2) Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Peter Gylard – Much Wenlock Bowling Club  
Marcus Themans – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Ian Dadswell – Wenlock Olympian Society  
Kirsty Pote – William Brookes School

**Not Attended:**

Chris Bowden, Samantha Moore – Wenlock Estates

**3) Declarations of interest**

None.

**4) Minutes**

The draft minutes of a meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were considered for approval pending the removal of Alan Edwards from the attendees. **It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.**

**Proposed: David Fenwick**

**Seconded: Wilf Grainger**

**5) Treasurer's Report**

a. Members received the following financial report as at the end of October 2021:

Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	31116.12
Expenditure to date	6298.42
Income to date	100.00
Balance as at 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	24917.70

Expenditure for July: Grass Cut June £529.20  
Joffrey Watson – Tree cutting £100.00

Balance b/f at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	31116.12
Expenditure to date	6490.42
Income to date	638.00
Balance as at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	25263.70

Expenditure for May: Wrekin Drains – CCTV drain investigation £192.00

a. It was **AGREED** to formally approve payments for the following invoices:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
5.05.22	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 366)	Grass Cutting – Aug 2022	441.00	88.20	529.20
11.08.22	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 362)	Linden Path Brush	450.00	90.00	540.00
30.07.22	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 356)	Grass Cutting - July	441.00	88.20	529.20
28.07.22	Wrekin Drain Services	CCTV Investigation	160.00	32.00	192.00

b. It was **AGREED** to formally approve payments for the following invoices incurred since late meeting:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
14.07.22	Joffrey Watson	Branch Removal	100.00		100.00
12.08.22	Cambers Country Stores Ltd	Replacement Gate Lock	6.16	1.23	7.39

## 6) Grounds Maintenance Requirements

- a. It was noted that the hedging to the play area, bowling green and Linden Walk had kindly been voluntarily cut by Dan and Dave Thomas, thanks was expressed by the committee.
- b. It was noted that work was completed to add some extra drainage to the wet area by playground hedging by Dan Shotton. It was discussed that hopefully this would help with the continual problem of retaining water to the ground. The upcoming Winter months would be the test as to whether the new drainage had remedied the problem.
- c. It was noted that the Linden path had been swept by Mike Humphries and had made a big difference to the tidiness. It was discussed that this should be a regular job to the maintenance schedule. It was agreed that during the Autumn leaf drop that a working group assemble to clear the path of the fallen leaves to help maintain a clear and clean path. Mike Humphries had put forward the suggestion that further hard core be added to the path, it was discussed and agreed that a longer period of brush maintenance may be sufficient to not require a layer of hard-core application for the time being. Therefore, to be assessed at a later date.
- d. The put forward quotes with plans for the replacement of the Linden walk gates were discussed and it was decided that a more ornate design should be considered in steel or iron. The Secretary to liaise with fabricators on design for further quotes which could maybe incorporate a design to celebrate Much Wenlock's history i.e. William Penny Brookes, or King Charles II
- e. It was noted that the detectorists had not returned so no further problem with hole digging on the grounds.

The secretary raised the proposed maintenance schedule for the football pitch from Mike Humphries with a suggestion that the whole ground be Verti-drained in October as previously agreed followed by the application of sand to the football pitch and reseeding to goal mouth if required. It was also suggested and agreed that the football pitch fertilizing and full reseed be delayed to the spring for application. The pitch to be assessed in spring as to whether scarification and multisport application also be applied prior to fertilization and reseed.

The secretary questioned where the 100 tonnes of sand were to be delivered to. It was agreed that best access and storage was to the Scout hut. Scout leader to be contacted out of courtesy.

## 7) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

- a. **Bowling Club**  
No representative present  
Written report submitted via email:  
The Tuesday Team have gained promotion to the first division  
Monday Team has finished third in their division:  
Now the season has ended we look to install the two extra lights around and close the green -  
Many thanks expressed to Dan and Dave Thomas for cutting the perimeter hedge
- b. **Cricket Club**  
It was reported to the committee that the Cricket club had a good season and finished fourth in the league  
Concern was expressed to grass growing in between the path and concrete edging, options to be looked at for removal.
- c. **Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS)**  
After an overview of this year's Wenlock Olympic Games, it was reported that observation of the games lacked buzz and engagement with the community. Alan reported that more avenues should be looked at to ascertain wider engagement. It was agreed that a Councillor be assigned to attend Olympic Society meetings as a representative of the Town Council and help be given in correspondence to back up the society in new projects.
- d. **Wenlock Olympian Athletic Society**  
Application had been submitted via email for a Junior cross country run to take place on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. The committee reviewed to submitted application and proposed run route. The event was approved.
- e. **Wenlock Warriors**  
It was reported that the Warriors were to field two teams this season with care as to not stress the ground. It was requested that the pitch grass be cut a little shorter.
- f. **William Brookes School**  
No representative present

## 8) New Pavilion

It was discussed that previous plans produced some years were yet to be seen, so quotes for new plans to be sourced. Pavilion requirements and funding options to be further discussed.  
Suggestion was made that Dan Thomas; Shropshire Councillor chase up the committee's request made to Shropshire Council to purchase odd bits of Shropshire Council land on the grounds site.

## 9) User Agreements

Cricket Club – The agreement has been finalised between the committee and Cricket Club pending the finished drafts approval  
William Brookes School – Awaiting contact for discussion. Duncan to contact to gain meeting for discussion of user agreements.

## 10) Play Area

- a. It was noted that Zurich insurance had paid out for the vandalised bench which had now been ordered awaiting delivery pending payment to the sum of £519.60
- b. Local steel fabricators D Evans had stated it was unlikely to be able to repair the spring but would pay a visit to look – awaiting visit

## 11) Trees

- a. Alan Edwards to liaise with the WOS to arrange planting of agreed Oak sapling supplied by WOS

## 12) Benches

It was discussed that the broken wooden bench adjacent to the cricket pavilion be quoted for repair. I was suggested that current Town Council bench policy be adopted to the Gaskell general user agreement documents as responsibility for maintenance and repairs of benches be clearly set. It was suggested that the Charity only

assume maintenance responsibility for set number of years of each bench gifted or not of ownership by the Charity. To be discussed at a future date.

**13) Rubbish Bins**

a. It was noted that Shropshire Council had still not supplied new bins, a chaser email had been sent recently.

**14) Next Meeting**

It was noted that the next committee meeting would take place on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7pm in the Corn Exchange

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....