

GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK

Registered Charity no. 1116940

**Minutes of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held at the Guildhall at
7.00 pm on Thursday, 8th December 2022**

PRESENT:

Daniel Thomas – in the chair, Duncan White, Marcus Themans, Linda West, Susan Crooke-Williams (representing Much Wenlock Town Council)
Chris Bowden (representing Wenlock Estates)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lorna Dexter – Secretary and Treasurer

1) Chairman's report

I've been chairman of this Charity for two years and have seen much achieved by the Management Board in this time. We will all agree that the open space afforded by the Gaskell Recreation Ground has never been so necessary as in these past two years.

The Gaskell Recreation Ground has, without a doubt, been a saviour for so many in our community before and after Covid-19. We must thank the vision and generosity of the donor, Mrs Mary Ward of the Wenlock Estate, for entrusting this recreation ground to the people of Much Wenlock and to all those since 1936 who have cared for and managed this essential community asset.

All those are too numerous to mention individually. Still, in the past few years, we really should be grateful to the Town Staff, which includes our Town Clerk, Trudi Barrett and more recently, Lorna Dexter, our Gaskell Secretary and, of course, to all members of the Management Committee who has made all this happened.

Like many of you on this Charity, being born and bred in Much Wenlock, I grew up using the swings and park on the ground, playing football and other games. Now, as a father, I take my son Eric down to the swings, and he plays in the park just as I did. It's a brilliant community asset, enjoyed by all and well looked after by the management committee.

I want to thank the members of the Management Committee of both Cllrs and Wenlock Estates members for their hard work over the past six months, and I look forward to hearing their chair's report.

2) Election of Chairman

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

It was PROPOSED by Marcus Themans and SECONDED by Linda West that Duncan White be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

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

Duncan White 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 Marcus Themans and SECONDED by Daniel Thomas that David Fenwick be elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

It was unanimously AGREED that David Fenwick 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 PROPOSED by Duncan White and SECONDED by Linda West that Lorna Dexter be elected as 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 PROPOSED by Duncan White and SECONDED by Linda West that Lorna Dexter be elected as 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 the following:

Trustee	REASON FOR ABSENCE
Chris Tyler	Family commitments
Wilf Grainger	Work commitments
David Fenwick	Family commitments
William Benbow	Non submitted

These apologies were **ACCEPTED**

Not Present:

Trustee
Tim Motley
John O'Dowd
Sam Moore
Christian Toon

7) Minutes

- a. **it was PROPOSED by Dan Thomas, SECONDED by Duncan White and unanimously AGREED that the minutes of a meeting held on 16th June 2022 be APPROVED and ADOPTED as a true record.**

8) Financial Matters

- a. Trustees reviewed the accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2022. **It was AGREED to APPROVE the accounts for 2021/22:**

	£
Balance b/f at 1 st April 2021	19,259.86
Income to 31 st March 2022	25,171.21
Expenditure to 31 st March 2022	13,314.95
Balance as at 31 st March 2022	31,314.95

b. Financial Report

Income and expenditure to the end of October 2022 was presented:

	£
Balance b/f at 1 st April 2021	19,259.86
Income to 31 st October 2022	638.00
Expenditure to 31 st October 2022	9,145.01
Balance as at 31 st October 2022	22,609.11

It was discussed to itemise reserves to highlight a sinking fund within the monthly figures after the question was raised by the Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer as to whether the Charity still required the current rate of donation from the Town Council. It was agreed that with a lower amount the Charity would not be able to retain reserves for unexpected expenses.

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

- c. It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED to APPROVE** budget for 2022/23 with a review to take place during the June meeting

9) Minutes of the Management Committee

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

- 7th March 2022
- 16th May 2022
- 12th July 2022

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

10) Management Committee - Duncan White reported

Maintenance has been continuing with the regular Verti- draining and a course of sand application on the field which continues to improve the quality of the surface.

The first year of the Wild flower meadow flowering has finished and we look forward to next year being even better. Replacement of two benches, one of which was set on fire plus an extra one moved to the tarmac area overlooking the play park

Cut back all the hedges - around the play park, Linden Walk and around the bowling green

Maintenance of the Linden pathway with brushing to take it back to gravel surface and remove a few years of leaf layers.

Working party to maintain the area around the rhododendron bushes.

The bowling club have installed two new flood lights on the bowling green

Plans are in hand to plant the last tree in the diamond shape at the top of the field in a joint celebration with the Wenlock Olympians and GB Olympians and to register the Oak tree under the Queens Green Canopy. It will be planted soon and an official ceremony will be in the new year.

An order has recently been placed to replace the main gates for the Linden Walk and they should be in place in the new year. We are very excited about this as they are in galvanised steel and will look very impressive as an entrance to the park.

11) 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
- Linda West) representing Much Wenlock Town Council
- Marcus Themans)
- Wilf Grainger)
- David Fenwick)

Thanks were expressed to the Management Committee for their work.

12) 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**

14) Date of next meeting

It was **AGREED** that future meetings would take place on Thursday 15th June 2023 and on Thursday, 14th December 2023 (AGM)

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Trustees

Date.....