

04/23

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

## **CHARITY COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held at the Guildhall  
at 7.00 pm on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Present:**

Cllrs Duncan White (in the chair), Daniel Thomas , Marcus Themans, Linda West, Wilf Grainger, William Benbow, Susan Crooke – Williams, John O’Dowd  
Tim Motley, Samantha Moore – Wenlock Estates

**In attendance:**

Lorna Dexter – Secretary and Treasurer

**1) Chairman’s Welcome**

The Chairman Duncan White welcomed everyone and thanked the management committee for their continued hard work.

Since the last meeting of the charity we have seen the winter off and moved from Spring to Summer.

The grounds continue to be well maintained and the joint working of the Wenlock Estates with the management committee from the Town Council with the support of the user groups from the Bowls Club, Cricket Club and the Football Club continue to do a sterling job to a high standard.

I have been pleased to see that the drainage work done in recent years is now proving it’s worth and the surfaces with sanding and seeding being carried out is now starting to look very healthy.

In the spring, jointly with the Wenlock Olympians and Olympic Society an oak tree was planted by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant. Whilst at the top of the park and registered for the Queens Green Canopy. Whilst there she also officially open the wonderful looking new gates at the entrance to the grounds.

Other recent upgrades include new litter bins and a noticeboard.

Moving forwards the wish list would include an extension to the tarmacadam footpath as the recently added path has been a huge success and greatly improved the user experience for all ages. Also a review of the 10 year plan will be commenced including a discussion around the possibility of building a pavilion.

I would also like to thank the members of the bowls club who recently repainted their buildings a beautiful green colour and they now look great and they blend in with the well maintained area of the green.

The cricket club have also given their pavilion a spruce up and it looks very smart and the field and square are very well looked after and ready for action.

Finally this time of year we can start to enjoy the wildflower meadow now in it’s second year and looking wonderful. Of course as each year passes this will get better and better.

**2) Apologies**

Apologies were received from:

Cllrs David Fenwick,  
Chris Tyler,  
Christian Toon,  
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates

**These apologies were ACCEPTED.**

**3) MINUTES**

The minutes from the Annual General Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 were considered for approval.

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that the minutes be approved.

**It was unanimously AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

**4) Financial Matters**

- a. Members received an overview report for the Treasurer and the following financial figures.

**2022/2023 Financial Year – Year End, Income and Expenditure**

Balance brought forward at 1st April 2022 was £31,116.12

Income received from 1st April to 31st March 2023 £22,338.00

Expenditure from 1st April to 31st March 2023 £25,600.11

The Year end balance in the bank as at 31st March 2023 £27854.01

**Expenditure**

The year end saw an overspend of budget of £2350.11

The unexpected replacement of the Liden walk gates and sand application attributed to going over budget

- b. Members considered for approval the year-end accounts for 2022/2023

**It was PROPOSED and SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the year-end accounts for 2021/2022 be APPROVED**

- c. Members considered income and expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 for approval.

**2022/2023 Financial Year – May 2023 Income and Expenditure**

The balance brought forward at 1 April 2023 was £27,854.01

Income received from 1 April to 31 May 2023 is £5247.20

Expenditure from 1 April to 31 May 2022 is £4281.99

The balance in the bank as at 31 May 2022 is £28819.22

**It was PROPOSED and SECONDED and unanimously AGREED that the income and expenditure to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2022 be APPROVED**

- d. Members to note the bank statement to the end of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023

**The bank statement to the end of 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 was NOTED as £28819.22**

**5) Minutes of the Management Committee**

The minutes from Management Committee meetings held on the following dates were received:

- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022
- 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023

**it was AGREED that these minutes be NOTED and ADOPTED.**

**6) Report from Management Committee**

**Members received a report from Marcus Themans - Chair of the Management Committee**

What makes The Gaskell field special is that people love it, value it and so many of them come to enjoy it. It is also spectacularly beautiful.

Central to its increased popularity has to be down to the perimeter path; and to enhance this, we have had clarification of Section 106 money held by MWTC for Gaskell Field development, and will start planning and seeking external help to extend the path up to the Windmill Hill gateway.

The new gates on the Linden Walk are stunning! Everyone comments on how good they look...they're very practical as well.

I cannot overstate our gratitude to the groups, particularly The Bowls Club, The Cricket Club and Wenlock Warriors, who put so much effort to making it into such a beautiful and important community space.

It's also gratifying to see the WBS, Wenlock Olympians and a new keep fit club utilising and enjoying the field

We're pleased to add a new group; a number of parents of small children, under the leadership of Wilf Grainger are

looking at improving the play area, and we're expecting recommendations from the group later in the year. The ongoing programme of pitch improvements are continuing. We are getting many positive comments about the health of the ground. After sand dressing and applying fertiliser to the football pitch last autumn we have followed up with over-seeding the playing area with robust mixed grasses. We have vertidraind the whole field and plan to carry out shockwave subsoiling again this autumn. There are still questions about the natural fertility of part of the football field and will be addressed with additional fertiliser top dressing this autumn. If finances allow we will be looking at another sand dressing in 2024...this would be considerably lighter than the first one but the Cricket Club have expressed that it could be beneficial to their outfield as well. I would also like to thank and congratulate Mike Humphries and the team at Shropshire Vertidraind for their thoughtful and cooperative ground care work. The wild flower area, which failed to impress in 2022 has come to life in a most spectacular way this summer, we're getting a lot of compliments about it and will enhance it with more native wild species this autumn. A tree safety survey has been carried out and we are awaiting the report. A new bench has been installed and two others repositioned there are offers of another two extra ones. We are in the process of, and have implemented, much of the development plan but some aspects need land ownership confusions sorted out. We're waiting on The Land Registry and Shropshire Councils on this. I would like to thank Management Committee and, in particular, Lorna Dexter for their hard work and enthusiasm and look forward to another productive year at The Gaskell Field.

**7) Date of Next Meeting**

It was **NOTED** that the Annual General Meeting would take place on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....