

08/16

GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK
Registered Charity no. 1116940

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at
The Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock
3 p.m. on Monday 21 March 2016

PRESENT:

Mary Hill (Chairman), Trevor Childs, Graham Edgcumbe Venning, and Paul Laming.

SECRETARY:

Sharon Clayton

1) CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

In the absence of David Gibbon the Deputy Chairman, Mary Hill, chaired the meeting.

2) APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from David Gibbon who was ill and Chris Bowden who had a work commitment. **These apologies were NOTED.**

3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4) MINUTES

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2016 be CONFIRMED. **It was unanimously AGREED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

5) REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY

Members received a written report on action taken since the last meeting. The Secretary also gave a verbal update as follows:

- Shropshire Council had been asked to deploy the Dog Warden once appropriate signage had been installed on the ground.
- An email from the chairman of the Tree Forum had been received in which she expressed concern about the Committee's intention to remove the entire hedgerow adjacent to the children's play area. The hedgerow had been planted by the Tree Forum and acted as a boundary marker for the play area.
- There had been no feedback from Wenlock Warriors concerning their use of the ground.

It was **AGREED** that:

- i. **The report be NOTED.**
- ii. **The Town Council should be informed about the Committee's policy on dog walkers on the ground.**
- iii. **The Shropshire Star should be asked to report on the duties of dog owners.**
- iv. **Graham Edgcumbe Venning would try to arrange a meeting with Wenlock Warriors to discuss their use of the ground.**

6) FINANCE

Members received a financial report to the end of February 2016 from the Treasurer as follows:

EXPENDITURE	£	INCOME	£
Insurance	1409	Cricket Club	597
Water charges	609	Clubs 2014/2015	1891
NDR	370	Bowling Club	0
Repairs and maintenance	422	School	3000
Gaskell field enhancements	1257	Misc users	100
RoSPA inspections	749	Grants	2500
Tree inspection	750		
Grounds maintenance	5514		
Contingency	0		
Children's play equipment	0		
TOTAL	11080	TOTAL	8088

The Treasurer reported that:

- As at 29 February 2016 there was £7,491.32 in the bank account.
- The Secretary had invoiced Wenlock Estates for the half yearly grant although it had not yet been received.

It was **AGREED** that:

- i. **The Treasurer's report be NOTED.**
- ii. **A breakdown of playground inspections should be given to Trevor Childs in order to answer queries from members of the public.**

7) DRAINAGE

Members received an update on recent drainage issues on the ground. Trevor Childs had been in discussions with Severn Trent concerning the deep tank in the children's play area and he was awaiting further information. The water in the tank seemed to be running through unhindered but information on responsibility for the tank was still awaited from Severn Trent.

It was **AGREED** that:

- i. **The information be NOTED.**
- ii. **No further drainage works should be considered until the outcome of ownership of the underground tank was determined.**

8) HEDGE REMOVAL

Members considered the removal of the hedgerow adjacent to the children's play area. Members had previously considered this issue in response to roots from the hedgerow having grown into the drainage channels causing a blockage. The Secretary had sought advice from the Tree Officer who said that the hedgerow was not in a Conservation Area and there were no TPOs on any of the trees within it so it could be removed provided there was no evidence of birds nesting.

It was AGREED that, with reluctance and in the best interest of grounds maintenance, and the impact on the drainage issues, the hedgerow should be removed and the work carried out as soon as possible.

9) MEETINGS WITH THE CRICKET CLUB AND BOWLING CLUB

Members considered feedback received following discussions between committee members and members of the Cricket Club and the Bowling Club. Both clubs had volunteered to carry out some grounds maintenance works themselves in order to reduce their usage costs.

It was **PROPOSED, SECONDED, and AGREED** that:

- i. **For the next 12 months the fees for the Cricket Club would remain unchanged and the club would be charged per match.**
- ii. **The fees for the Bowling Club could not be determined until further discussions had taken place with the Bowling Club and the grounds maintenance contractor after the number of grass cuts per week had been agreed.**

10) QUOTES FOR MAINTANCE

Members considered quotes for maintenance of the ground.

It was **AGREED** that, although the quotation from Spacecare was the most informative and specific, Spacecare should be asked to give a better quotation.

11) TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Members considered draft Terms and Conditions for school use of the ground.

It was **AGREED** that this be deferred and considered at the next meeting.

12) HEALTH AND SAFETY

Members considered any health and safety issues that needed to be addressed. Members agreed that the only issue presently was the tank in the children's playground which was under discussion with Severn Trent Water.

It was **AGREED** that, following guidance from the Secretary, Trevor Childs and Graham Edgcumbe Venning would carry out weekly inspections of the children's play area with immediate effect.

13) CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Members received information from the Tree Forum with reference to the Sweet Chestnut tree near to the bowling club whose branches had been removed leaving only the trunk standing. The Tree Forum understood the reasons for this drastic action but felt that the perceived danger has been eliminated and hoped that the tree would remain standing for some time in order to give it an opportunity to regenerate from below. This can happen with this species and Sweet Chestnuts can live for a very long time.

It was **AGREED** to **NOTE** the Tree Forum's comments.

- b) Members received a copy email from the Cricket Club stating that some repair work was to be carried out on the storage shed following the break-in, the cricket pavilion and the ground. The club also wanted to purchase a mobile practice cage but wanted permission from the Committee to make it secure, possibly by chaining it to a concrete post installed in the ground.

It was **AGREED** that the Cricket Club should be asked for more details concerning the size of the practice cage.

14) DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place at 3 pm on Monday 18 April 2016.

The meeting closed at 17:01.

Signed.....
Chairman

Date.....