

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

## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting held at  
The Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock  
at 6 pm on Tuesday 11 September 2018

**Present:**

Kate Southan (Chairman) – Much Wenlock Town Council  
Adam Davy - Much Wenlock Town Council  
Graham Edgcumbe Venning - Much Wenlock Town Council  
Mike Bainbridge – William Brookes School  
Bill James - Much Wenlock Cricket Club  
Colin Wildblood - Much Wenlock Bowling Club

**In attendance:**

Sharon Clayton – Secretary and Treasurer

**1) Chairman's Welcome**

**2) Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates and Mike Mowling, Wenlock Olympian Society  
**These apologies were ACCEPTED.**

**3) Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4) Minutes**

The minutes of an Extraordinary meeting held on 10 July 2018 were considered for approval.

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

**5) Secretary's Report**

Members received a written report from the Secretary on action taken since the last meeting.

**It was AGREED that the Secretary's report be NOTED.**

**6) Treasurer's Report**

Members received the following financial report from the Treasurer:

- The balance brought forward at 1 April 2018 was £15,100.54.
- Income received from 1 April 2017 to 31 July 2018 was £10,250 (a grant from the Town Council) and expenditure from 1 April to 31 July 2018 was £5,772.22.

There had been unexpected expenditure not included in this year's budget as follows:

- Tree works at a cost of £1,760.
- Printing of further copies of the Management Plan at a cost of £269.

The annual grant of £5,000 from Wenlock Estates was received in August 2018 and the balance in the bank as at 31 July 2018 was £19,578.32.

**It was AGREED that the Treasurer's report be NOTED. It was also NOTED that William Brookes School would not agree to pay the £5,000 included in the budget, but would pay £3,000 for use of the ground as in previous years.**

## 7) Informal Meeting

Members considered matters discussed at an informal meeting held on 1 September 2018. It was unfortunate that Chris Bowden was unable to attend because it was hoped to receive an update about the schedule of works to commence with drainage plans. The re-growth of grass needed to be factored into planned works and the month of May had been suggested as a window when this could take place. However, the Cricket Club was concerned about the impact this would have on the cricket ground and the outfield. September would have been a more suitable time but it was now a missed opportunity for this year. However, it was acknowledged that whatever time the works took place it would be a disruption to all users of the ground e.g. the cricket season is in the summer and the football season is in the winter, so there is no time when some users would not be affected. It was discussed that if all parties could not agree a compromise for the dates when the groundwork would take place then closure of the ground may have to be implemented in order to carry out the work.

The Chairman had attempted to contact Alan Lewis who had been appointed to advise on drainage and future maintenance of the ground, but he had not responded.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that Alan Lewis should be invited to meet with the committee to advise Members of the full details of the required specification so that drainage works could be progressed and to also provide a scope of works and timescales etc. and advise whether the work can be staged.**

## 8) RoSPA

Members considered the recent RoSPA inspection report carried out on the children's play equipment. Generally, the report identified required action as low risk but the equipment was deteriorating with some items missing. Members were informed that at least one piece of equipment should be DDA compliant and the only piece of equipment that was DDA compliant was the swing basket which had recently been decommissioned.

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

- a) **Future budgets should be increased to provide new play equipment.**
- b) **Since new equipment may be purchased and the risks identified in the RoSPA report were all low risk, no action was necessary at this time.**
- c) **The Chairman would investigate the requirements for DDA compliance and, if required to meet compliance, the swing basket should be replaced.**

## 9) Signage

Members discussed how dogs could be controlled on the ground and how dog fouling could be reduced or prevented especially since it is an offence for a dog to foul on marked pitches. It was suggested that the dog grooming parlour could be asked if it could help to set up a responsible dog owner scheme where people in the scheme would look out for offenders. There could be a charter that dog owners would sign up to which would commit them to report irresponsible dog owners. It was felt that this type of scheme would offer safety in numbers so that no single person would feel vulnerable if confronting someone whose dog had fouled or was running loose.

**It was AGREED that:**

- a) **Prominent local dog owners should be asked to speak to offenders and persuade them to be responsible dog owners.**
- b) **Small dog fouling warning signs should be placed around the ground and purchased within a budget of £200. One of these signs should be placed in the vets.**

## 10) Demolition of Toilet Block

Members were informed that a planning application for the demolition of the toilet block had previously been submitted to Shropshire Council but had been withdrawn because of lack of information pertaining to removal of the debris and how the ground would be used afterwards. It was suggested that having toilets on site would be a good idea and, once the toilet block had been removed, the site could be used for temporary toilets.

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

- a) **Graham Edgcumbe Venning would make enquiries with the planning officer and find out what information was required for the demolition to proceed.**

- b) **A full specification should be sought for the removal of the toilet block including the disposal of the debris.**

**11) Leader Application**

The Chairman reported that all the necessary quotes to apply for Leader funding had been received and were ready to be submitted.

**NOTED.**

**12) Drainage**

Members discussed the status of proposals for drainage works to be carried out on the ground. The delayed works were attributable to there being insufficient information to develop a specification and the available maps of the ground were not sufficiently informative.

**It was AGREED that Alan Lewis should be contacted and given an ultimatum to provide the required information and that, if the information was not forthcoming within two weeks, another advisor would be appointed.**

**13) Marking of Football Pitch**

It was **NOTED** that the football pitch had been marked out.

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on 9 October 2018.

The meeting closed at 19:15.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date.....