

GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK
Registered Charity no. 1116940

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at
The Guildhall, Much Wenlock
at 7 pm on Tuesday 19 March 2019

Present:

Cllr Kate Southan (Chairman) – Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr Graham Edgcumbe Venning – Much Wenlock Town Council
Cllr Adam Davy – Much Wenlock Town Council
Colin Wildblood – Bowling Club
Cllr Daniel Thomas – Much Wenlock Town Council
Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates (from minute 14)
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club (from minute 14)

In attendance:

Trudi Barrett – Secretary

1) Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from Mike Mowling – Wenlock Olympians.
These apologies were ACCEPTED.

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Minutes

The minutes of a meeting held on 19 February 2019 were considered for approval. **It was RESOLVED that the minutes be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.**

5) Treasurer's Report

Committee members received the following financial report:

- The balance brought forward at 1 April 2018 was £15,100.54.
- Income received from 1 April to 28 February 2019 was £19,550 and expenditure from 1 April to 28 February 2019 was £17,942.52.
- The balance in the bank as at 28 February 2019 was £16,708.02.

It was AGREED that the Treasurer's report be NOTED.

6) Drainage

It was noted that Shropshire Council had given permission in principle for the use of their land adjacent to the Gaskell Recreation Ground as a storage compound. A meeting had been arranged between Keith Parry of SC Estate Management, Alan Lewis, Chris Bowden and Kate Southan for the following day to discuss details. It was hoped to commence work mid- August.

7) Contract Specifications

Due to the absence of Chris Bowden, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

8) Water Charges

It was noted that the water charges for the Gaskell Recreation Ground to date this financial year were £1,390.82 and that an invoice had been issued by the Town Council for this amount.

It was RESOLVED to approve payment of the invoice for the water charges.

A breakdown of the charges would be prepared to separate out supply, usage and disposal. Clarification of the bills should be requested from Water Plus. It was noted that the Bowling Club were agreeable to paying for the installation of a water meter to monitor their usage.

9) Demolition of Toilet Block

- a. It was noted that the Council's Finance & Asset Management Committee had resolved to award the contract for the demolition of the toilet block to CVS, who had submitted the most competitive quotation.
- b. It was noted that a justification for the demolition had been submitted to Shropshire Council who had confirmed that the demolition would be permitted under a Section 81 notice. The formal application would be submitted later in the week.
- c. It was noted that the contractor hoped to commence the demolition on 8th April and that the work was expected to take three days.

10) Sale of Shadwell Quarry land

- a. Committee members noted that 29 acres of Shadwell Quarry had been placed on the market for sale.
- b. It was noted there was planning consent for 53 lodges on the site and that condition 15 required the developer to provide a public toilet block to a specification and in a location to be agreed with the local planning authority.
- c. **It was RESOLVED to refer the matter to the Town Council's Planning Committee to pursue with Shropshire Council's planning department with regard to the above.**

11) Leader Application

It was noted that a revised application had been submitted, excluding the outdoor gym equipment, for £55,000. The application was being reviewed by Shropshire Council and would go before the decision making board on 29th April. If the application were approved the work could go ahead without delay.

12) Grounds Maintenance and Pitch Care

- a. It was noted that Spacecare had agreed to roll on the current maintenance agreement until the end of August 2019.
- b. Members noted the comments made by the contractor with regard to maintenance.

13) Tag Rugby Games – William Brookes School

- a. Members noted a request from William Brookes School for permission to play tag rugby on the Gaskell Ground, which had been allowed as a one-off.
- b. Members noted the difference between tag rugby and rugby and its impact on the ground. Consideration would be given to the type of sports permitted and frequency of games when the user agreement for the School was reviewed. It was noted that the pitches would be improved by the drainage work. The secretary would ask Alan Lewis/Dan Shotten for a 12 month maintenance programme for the Ground, including costs, to inform consideration of the user agreements following the drainage work. Consideration of user agreements would be kept on the agenda.

14) Goal Posts

The provision of goal posts could be considered as part of the new user agreement. Further discussion was deferred in the absence of Mike Bainbridge from William Brookes School.

Bill James and Chris Bowden arrived, having mistaken the start time for the meeting.

15) Portable Batting Cages for the Cricket Club

Members noted the intention of the Cricket Club to purchase portable batting cages. The selected design was demountable so could be stored away in winter. The Club was proposing to store the cage next to the shed, on ground under the trees where the screens were kept. They wished to install a post to which the batting cages could be chained to prevent movement around the field. An alternative might be to fix a bracket to the shed. The cages would be faced towards Linden Walk to reduce the risk of them being used as a football goal.

It was RESOLVED to agree to the arrangements proposed.

16) Play Area and Equipment

- a. It was noted that the new basket swing was due to be installed mid-April.
- b. Members considered quotations to hand for replacement flat and baby swings. **It was RESOLVED to refer the matter to the Town Council Finance Committee.**

17) Tree Planting – Samaranch Tree

The location of the replacement tree had been discussed with the Tree Forum and agreement had been reached on a location in line with the lime trees at the end of the avenue. The Tree Forum also intended to install a post so that children could measure their height against the tree. The Forum would pay for the tree and the post, which would be installed at an appropriate distance from the tree.

The Tree Forum wished to re-install the original plaque and had asked the Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee to fund an additional plaque, to include more information. The secretary would request the wording and specification for the new plaque and ask whether the name of a sponsor could be added to the bottom. If so, it might be possible to find a sponsor to cover the cost.

It was noted that the trees in cages towards the gate to Windmill Hill needed pruning and that members of the Tree Forum were willing to undertake the work. The Committee was agreeable to this providing the work was carried out in liaison with Joffrey Watson, the tree surgeon.

18) Next Meeting

Members noted the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, 16th April 2019 at 6.00pm at the Guildhall.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date.....