

# GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK

Registered Charity no. 1116940

Minutes of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
held at  
The Guildhall, Much Wenlock  
7 pm on Thursday 14 December 2017

## **PRESENT:**

Graham Edgcumbe Venning (Chairman), Chris Bowden, Trevor Childs, Don Davies, David Gibbon, Mary Hill and Milner Whiteman OBE.

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Sharon Clayton – Secretary  
1 member of the public

### **1) Chairman's report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave the following report:

The Management Committee had developed a structured long-term plan for the Gaskell Recreation Ground in order to secure access between the William Brookes Academy and the field. Short-term plans were introduced in 2017 to initiate drainage and perimeter tracking, disabled parking access, and exercise/training apparatus. Efforts were ongoing.

### **2) Election of Chairman**

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

It was PROPOSED by David Gibbon and SECONDED by Milner Whiteman that Graham Edgcumbe Venning be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**It was unanimously AGREED that Graham Edgcumbe Venning be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.**

### **3) Election of Deputy Chairman**

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

It was PROPOSED by Trevor Childs and SECONDED by Mary Hill that David Gibbon be elected as Deputy Chairman for the ensuing year.

**It was unanimously AGREED that David Gibbon 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 and SECONDED that Sharon Clayton should be elected as Secretary.

**It was unanimously AGREED that Sharon Clayton be elected as Secretary.**

### **5) Election of Treasurer**

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

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that Sharon Clayton be elected as Treasurer.

**It was unanimously AGREED that Sharon Clayton be elected as Treasurer.**

### **6) Apologies**

Apologies were received from the following:

TRUSTEE	REASON FOR ABSENCE
Herbert Harper	Recovering from a fall
Yvonne Holyoak	Personal commitment

**These apologies were ACCEPTED.**

Absent:

Adam Davy

Dafydd Jenkins

Marcus Themans

Allan Walter

### 7) Minutes

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that the minutes of a meeting held on 15 June 2017 be CONFIRMED.

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

### 8) Minutes of the Management Committee

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

- o 2 June 2017
- o 25 July 2017
- o 28 September 2017

### 9) Appointment of Committee

Nominations were received for appointment of members to the Management Committee.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the following members be appointed to the Management Committee:**

- o **Chris Bowden (representing Wenlock Estates)**
- o **Trevor Childs (representing Wenlock Estates)**
- o **Adam Davy (representing the Town Council)**
- o **Graham Edgcumbe Venning (representing the Town Council)**
- o **David Gibbon (representing Wenlock Estates)**
- o **Mary Hill (representing the Town Council)**

### 10) Officer reports

- a) Members received a written report from the Secretary as follows:

The Management Committee had held meetings with the main users of the ground, namely the William Brookes Academy (the school), Much Wenlock Bowling Club, Much Wenlock Cricket Club and the Wenlock Olympian Society. Some repairs were necessary to the bowling clubhouse roof and quotes were being sought to enable the repairs to be carried out. Shropshire Council had granted permission for trimming of the lower branches of the trees although this work was yet to be arranged. Some of the play equipment needs to be replaced, particularly the swings, and the swing basket had been damaged through vandalism and had been decommissioned due to health and safety reasons. Loose dogs on the ground continued to be cause for concern and the Committee was seeking quotes for new signage to try to encourage dog owners to keep their dogs under control. Alan Lewis had been appointed to prepare a feasibility study for drainage and maintenance of the ground as part of the Management Plan. Professional copies of the Management Plan were currently being printed and were expected to be available soon. There had been some issues with the school over use of the ground and, having met with the school, it had been agreed that a new Usage Agreement would be drawn up to prevent further misunderstandings. The Committee had applied for funding to enable works to be carried out that would provide access between the school site and the ground.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Secretary's report be NOTED.**

- b) Members received a written report from the Treasurer as follows:

The balance brought forward as at 1 April 2017 was £10,474.12. The balance in the bank as at 30 November 2017 was £19,593.19.

Income received since 1 April 2017 was £10,450, and expenditure from 1 April to 30 November 2017 was £10,330.93. The balance in the bank account as at 30 November 2017 was £19,593.19.

The financial accounts for 2016/2017 had been submitted to the Charity Commission although the Charity Commission no longer required returns if income was less than £25,000.

The Town Council had earmarked reserves of £61,418 for drainage works to be carried out on the Gaskell Recreation Ground.

**It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and AGREED that the Treasurer's report be NOTED.**

Chris Bowden and Don Davies arrived at this point in the meeting.

#### **11) 2018/2019 budget**

Members considered for approval the draft budget for 2018/2019 as prepared by the Treasurer.

Members were informed that the children's play equipment was getting old and some of it needed to be replaced. Some equipment needed to be repaired although it might be more economical to replace. With this in mind the draft budget included £2,000 for play equipment.

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

- i. An overall budget of £20,050, with an anticipated income of £9,800 and expenditure of £10,250 be APPROVED.**
- ii. The town council should be asked for grant aid of £10,250 to make up the shortfall.**
- iii. The £3,000 assigned in the 2017/2018 budget for a disability carriage would no longer be needed and should be transferred to the play equipment budget.**

#### **12) School use of the ground**

Members received an update from David Gibbon concerning school use of the ground. He explained that a very simple usage agreement had been agreed but, unfortunately, it had not worked out quite as planned. It failed because the managers at the school had held events when the ground was unfit for use. Following a constructive meeting with the school it had been agreed that a more robust agreement needed to be developed so there would be no further misunderstanding. To avoid misuse the school would not be allowed to use the ground without first consulting with the Management Committee. Diary dates for meetings were to be established so that regular meetings would take place between the school and the management.

**It was AGREED to NOTE.**

#### **13) Access between sites**

Members received an update on plans for access between William Brookes Academy site and the Gaskell Recreation Ground. Several meetings had been held with the Academy and it was hoped that a new access would be installed between the school and the ground. To facilitate this venture a LEADER funding bid, facilitated by Shropshire Council, had been submitted and the Academy was also writing a funding bid so that combined funding would pay for the work to be carried out. A disability access linkage path was also planned. The Management Committee was working extremely hard to put things in place to make the ground more user friendly.

**It was AGREED to NOTE.**

#### **14) Date of next meeting**

It was **AGREED** that the next meeting would take place on Thursday 14 June 2018 and the Annual General Meeting would take place on 13 December 2018.

Don Davies informed Members that he wanted to resign as a representative of Wenlock Estates and he had informed Mr Motley. Don had represented Wenlock Estates for many, many years and he wished everyone well with their future endeavours. The Chairman thanked Don for his past service and all Members agreed that Don would be missed.

04/17

The meeting closed at 19:36.

Signed.....  
Chairman of the Trustees

Date.....