

GASKELL RECREATION GROUND MUCH WENLOCK
Registered Charity no. 1116940

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Corn Exchange, Much Wenlock
at 7 pm on Thursday, 18th January 2024

Present:

Cllrs Marcus Themans (in the chair), Susan Crooke-Williams, David Fenwick– Much Wenlock Town Council
Andrew Scott – Wenlock Warriors
Peter Gylward – Much Wenlock Bowling Club
Bill James – Much Wenlock Cricket Club

In attendance:

Lorna Dexter – Secretary and Treasurer

1) Election of Chairman

Nominations were sought for the election of Chairman, it was **PROPOSED** by David Fenwick, **SECONDED** by Susan Crooke-Williams and **AGREED** that **Marcus Themans be elected as Chairman**

Nominations were sought for the election of Deputy Chairman, it was **PROPOSED** by Marcus Themans, **SECONDED** by Susan Crooke-Williams and **AGREED** that **David Fenwick be elected as Deputy Chairman**

2) Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Ian Dadswell – Wenlock Athletics Society, Wenlock Olympian Society
Tim Motley, Chris Bowden – Wenlock Estates
Peter Neale – William Brookes School
Duncan White – Much Wenlock Town Council
Gavin Heath – Wenlock OSA
Apologies **ACCEPTED**

3) Declarations of interest

None.

4) Minutes

The draft minutes of a meeting held on 19th September 2023 were considered for approval **It was AGREED that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2023 be APPROVED and signed as a true record.**

5) Secretary's Report

- The Secretary reported that a fallen tree had been removed by Joffrey
- Verti draining had been delayed and it was questioned whether the Cricket outfield should be Verti drained as well. Cricket club to consult other members and return a decision.
- The Linden path had been swept again and the committee expressed how pleased they are with the result. The red crushed brick is starting to show through, and it was suggested that some more be put down in the areas that had dipped. Secretary to quote for more red brick.
- The Town Council had granted the Bowling club £2,000 towards to costs of repairing the old station ticket office building flooring located on tebowing club site. It was felt important to preserve this piece of Much Wenlock history.

6) Treasurer's Report

- a. Members received the following financial report as at the end of December 2023:

Balance b/f at 1 st April 2023	27,854.01
Expenditure to date	14,144.80
Income to date	22,137.20

Balance as at 31st December 2023 35,846.41

Expenditure for October: Shropshire Verti Drain – Sept Cut £555.60
Shropshire Verti Drain – Shockwave £1,200.00
Shropshire Verti Drain – Cricket outfield cut £144.00
Income for October: Wenlock OSA – User Fee £200.00

Expenditure for November: Zurich Insurance – £2,044.77
Income for November: Wenlock Warriors – User Fee £500.00
Bowling Club – User Fee £500.00
Wenlock Olympian Society – User Fee £100.00
Town Council Grant – User Fee £12,000.00
Wenlock OSA – User Fee £200.00

Expenditure for December: Joffrey Watson – Tree removal £200.00
Ashley Savage – £1,380.00
Income for December: William Brookes School– User Fee £3,000.00

a. It was **AGREED** to formally approve payments for the following invoices:

Date	Supplier	Item	Net £	VAT £	Total £
12.10.23	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 531)	Grass Cutting – Sept 2023	463.00	92.60	555.60
13.10.23	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 512)	Shock Wave and Fertilise Football Pitch			1200
13.10.23	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 422)	Grass Cutting – Cricket Outfield Cut			144.00
9.11.23	Zurich Insurance	Insurance Premium			2044.77
15.12.23	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 544)	Grass Cutting – Sept 2023	463.00	92.60	555.60
15.12.23	J Watson	Fallen Tree Removal			200.00
02.01.24	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 458)	Path clean	600.00	120.00	720.00
02.01.24	Shropshire Verti-Drain and Turf Services (Invoice: 547)	Grass Cutting – Nov & Dec 2023	926.00	185.20	1111.20

7) Grounds Maintenance Requirements

It was reported that there were a few wet spots on the field by the pavilion and the corner of the football pitch by the Linden Walk so was discussed whether further drainage should be considered. Further discussions to be had.

Town Council contribution has been increased by 12% so the chair stated that with the predicted increase on Mike Humphries fees that it was only fair that the fees from user be increased also.

It was discussed that more crushed red brick be sourced for the Linden walk as there was areas of potholes.

8) Reports from User Groups

Members noted reports from the following user groups:

a. Bowling Club

It was reported that the bowling club had a good season despite no promotions or relegations. They thanked the Town Council for the £2000 funding towards the flooring. Permission was requested to erect another storage shed, permission was granted provided it was in keeping and maybe a timber structure. Design to be presented to the committee before approval before putting up the shed.

The access gate from the school had been found to be locked meaning bowling club members were unable to gain access to the field at the weekend. School to be contact to discuss, as no representative from the school present.

b. Cricket Club

The start of the season this year will be 27th April. The club are still without a mower and seeking to source a replacement.

c. Wenlock Olympian Society (WOS)

No representative

d. Wenlock Olympian Athletic Society

No representative

e. Wenlock Warriors

It was reported that the pitch was holding up well through the Winter months and both teams were managing to cooperate well arrange play between them. The warriors will have two teams next season with U11's now being home to the Gaskell.

f. William Brookes School

No representative

g. Wenlock OSA

No representative

The chair **PROPOSED** that a representative from Wenlock OSA be appointed as a non-voting member of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Management Committee it was **AGREED** unanimously.

9) New Pavilion

Discussion ensued regarding as to the best way forward with regards to plans for a pavilion. It was deliberated that since the management plan was put together that the needs for type of facility may have changed and so it would be best to assess what requirements were needed and was a pavilion even needed. Public cries are for toilet and changing facilities but not something necessarily as grand as a pavilion.

10) Path Extension

A specification for tender needed to be drawn up based off the original path spec. The path extension area needed to be measured. It was suggested that the management plan may need a refresh.

11) Play Area

a. No working committee present

b. Quotes have been sought to replace the broken wooden seat on one of the rockers in the baby area.

12) Trees

a. Non

13) Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at 7pm at the Corn Exchange

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed
Chairman

Date.....