

11/09

Minutes of the meeting of the Gaskell Recreation Ground Board of Management held at 7.00pm on Thursday 24 September 2009 in the Guildhall, Much Wenlock.

Present: in the Chair, Cllr Mrs L Durbin

Councillors: Mrs P Daffurn, Mrs A Dugdale, Mr M Grace, Mr E W Humphries, Mr T Pinches, Mr R Stuart and Mr D Turner

Messrs Mr C Bowden and Mr G D A Bowden (representing Wenlock Estates).

In attendance: Mr R D May - Clerk to the Board of Management, Mr M Harvey, Leisure Centre Manager.

31. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mr T Lathe, Cllr Mr M Whiteman, Mr T Childs and Mr D Davies.

32. Declarations of Interest:

Personal:

Cllr Turner declared a personal interest as a member of Much Wenlock Bowling Club.

Cllr Grace declared a personal interest as a member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club.

Cllr Pinches declared a personal interest as a member of Much Wenlock Cricket Club.

Prejudicial: None

33. Election of Chairman: It was

RESOLVED: Cllr Durbin be Chairman of this Board of Management for the remainder of the year.

34. Election of Vice Chairman: It was:

RESOLVED: Cllr Pinches be Vice Chairman of this Board of Management for the remainder of the year.

35. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of 25 June 2009, having been previously distributed, were taken as read and confirmed.

36. Matters arising from the minutes:

a. Sudden Oak Death (Min 29). The Chairman reported that she had contacted the Defra establishment at Alice Holt and been given a reference number for her report and also given instructions on how to take samples. She had been advised not to send samples unless phytophthora (a notifiable disease) was evident on the rhododendrons. The Chairman advised that the any diseased plants would be identified during the biennial inspections but that Board members should acquaint themselves with the signs and symptoms of the disease. (An illustrated leaflet was circulated for information). It was also suggested that Tree Forum members might also be able to report suspected cases to the Board.

Cllr Dugdale joined the meeting.

b. Management of the Gaskell field (Min 22). The Board was advised that a request for a meeting has been sent to Shropshire Council to discuss the negotiation of a new joint use agreement, which would include the use and management of the Gaskell Field. The Clerk was asked to forward the communication to Board members. Board members agreed to the need to include community access (between the new William Brookes School and the Gaskell Field) and parking provision in the negotiations.

Approved

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c. William Brookes School Project: It was reported that the temporary CCTV cameras had been installed on the site and that advisory signs were being erected.

37. Correspondence

a. Dog fouling on the Gaskell Field: Board members discussed a letter from a local resident and the clerk's reply concerning dog fouling on the Gaskell Field. The Board agreed that the problem of dog fouling should be pursued as part of the work that would flow from the current consultation exercise. It was agreed that the Board needed to consider good practice from elsewhere, that a public re-education programme was merited, that a more effective policing approach was needed and that the proposed new signage should cover the matter – to include the provision of the relevant Shropshire Council contact numbers.

b. Memorial tree on Gaskell Field: The Board discussed, and agreed in principle, to a request for a memorial tree to be planted on the Gaskell Field. It was also agreed that it was important to ensure that the type of tree was appropriate for the proposed location and that donors should be asked to provide monies to support future maintenance costs. The Board agreed to the need for a tree management programme to enable such requests to be better assessed. The Clerk was asked to consult the Much Wenlock Tree Forum and Much Wenlock Bowling Club about the request and suitable trees.

38. Gaskell Field Land Registration

The Clerk provided a report on the registration of the Gaskell Field advising that the Land Registry had assessed the conveyance documents and supporting papers submitted and had reported that “on the basis of the information (provided) there does not appear to be an overlap between the registered title SL 181252 (Shropshire Council school land) and the land in Conveyance A (Gaskell Field) ...” Similarly they had stated that there does not appear to be an overlap between the Gaskell Field and the Shropshire Council land (SL 169928) on the Linden Walk side of the field. In each case, the land parcels referred to in the deeds of conveyance map on to the boundaries on the Ordnance Survey maps – without overlap. After a discussion the Board agreed that the Clerk's should proceed with the registration of the Gaskell Field and Linden Lodge.

Cllr Grace joined the meeting.

39. Gaskell Field: Quarterly review of the Gaskell Field Management Plan – Health and Safety Section: Mr C Bowden reported that a revised version of the document has not been issued as there might be a need to change it to reflect the use of external resources to carry out eg risk assessments. It was reported that requests had been issued to the local football, cricket and bowling clubs for copies of their H&S documents.

Matthew Harvey, Leisure Centre Manager, joined the meeting.

40. Leisure Centre Manager's Report.

A copy of Mr Harvey's report had been issued to Board members before the meeting. Mr Harvey apologised for his later arrival at the meeting, due to taking a class at the Leisure Centre. He advised the Board that he had sought quotations for drainage works on the field. He recommended that the limited maintenance funds would be better spent on drainage works than football pitch re-sizing. He reported that “earthquake” work would be carried out on the football pitch, with similar work done on the cricket square and that works on the bowling green would be carried out in the winter. Mr Harvey said that the grass cuttings would be removed and placed elsewhere in future, and that the interpretation panels would be cleaned. He reported that an order had been placed to remove the damaged bench and its footings, the pallets and goal posts.

Approved

In response to a request from Mr Harvey, Board members stated that they had noticed that the litter problem had improved recently. Mr Harvey agreed to ask Shropshire Council to empty the four new litter bins. The Clerk was asked to do the same.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harvey for his report.

41. Gaskell Field Risk Assessment

The Clerk reported on the risk assessment carried out by Board members on 7 July, a copy of which had been distributed to Board members with a covering paper. The Clerk drew the Board's attention to a number of possible hazards and asked for their recommendations.

The Clerk recommended that the Board consider engaging a competent and qualified individual or organisation to carry out its formal risk assessments of the Gaskell Field. After a discussion the Board agreed that as it had responsibility for the Field it would continue to conduct its own risk assessments, that these would be conducted at six month intervals, in advance of meetings and that the next risk assessment would be carried out in early March. Cllr C Bowden volunteered to lead the next assessment – if he was in the country.

The Board discussed the risk assessment and made the following decisions.
(The numbers below refer to the references in the Risk Assessment table).

3. Trips and falls on uneven surface and potholes on Linden Walk

Decision/Agreed Action: Clerk to make request to the Leisure Centre Manager (LCM) to ask Shropshire Council's contractor for options to resolve the problems.

9. Ground roller unsecured near bowling green

Decision/Agreed Action: Cllr Pinches to make arrangements to secure the roller.

11. Trips and falls on three exposed tree stumps at rear of field and near school path by Sports Hall

Decision/Agreed Action: LCM to take up the matter with his team management and Shropshire Council's contractor

14. Trips and falls on sunken land near septic tank behind bowling green

Decision/Agreed Action: LCM to take up with matter with Much Wenlock Bowling Club

15. Trips and falls at seating areas around bowling green where bricks are missing

Decision/Agreed Action: MWTC be asked to get quotations for remedial work to the pavours at seating areas at the bowling green

16. Trips and falls at temporary footpath near cricket pavilion

Decision/Agreed Action: Clerk to write to Keir / WBS School Project Management seeking confirmation that the footpath has been constructed so as not to constitute trip hazards – seeking rectification work as necessary.

17. Trips and falls at French Drain inspection point near football pitch

Decision/Agreed Action: White paint to be applied to the inspection point cover.

20. Trips and falls at play area

Decision/Agreed Action: Matter deferred pending play area H&S inspection planned for November.

The Clerk was asked to update the Risk Assessment document with the above decisions and file in the Gaskell Field Health and Safety File.

42. Gaskell Field – other H&S Matters

Linden Walk access: The Board was advised that due to the closure of access to the Gaskell Field from the gate by the Youth Club, the contractor would like another means of access. After a discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should provide a key to the Linden Walk gates to the contractor to enable access to the Gaskell Field.

43. Date for next play area inspection

The Board was advised that the next inspection for the play area was scheduled for November

44. Gaskell Play Area

The Board gave its permission for a replacement for the big slide in the play area.

45. Matters discussed at the recent WBS meeting for Neighbours and Stakeholders Board members discussed the boundary treatments proposed for the new William Brookes School. Concerns were expressed at the effectiveness of the public and stakeholder consultations. Board members also expressed concerns about the access arrangements between the new school and Gaskell Field, particularly when the school and Leisure Centre were closed. Opinion was divided on the boundary treatment proposed – particularly the perimeter fencing between the school field and Gaskell Field. Some members thought it essential (due to the need to protect the new playing surfaces), whilst other found it unnecessary or excessive. After further discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees with the proposed boundary treatment for the new William Brookes School. However, the Board would like to ensure that suitable access arrangements between the new school and Gaskell Field are implemented. The Board also sought clarification on the arrangements for opening parts of the perimeter fence for special occasions eg the annual Olympian Games.

Cllr Grace did not vote on the proposal.

46. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next ordinary (quarterly) meeting of the Board would be on Thursday 21 January 2009.

Signed Chairman

21 January 2010