

Dartington Recreation Association
Tuesday 4th June 2019, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Meadowbrook
Minutes

1. Present

Trustees: James Howrihane, Mandy Burton (Chair), Louise Morpeth (Secretary), Jan Maddick, Lynne Williams, Kelly Westbury, Carole Tudor, Allan Tudor, Bex House

2. Apologies: Margaret Cushen

3. Minutes

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

4. Matter arising

- DCC path designation – no progress
- Pizza van follow up – licence signed. Two Birds Kitchen started selling pizzas at the beginning of April. They are very happy with the number of customers.
- LM to get 3-way meeting sorted between T&DFC and Meadowbrook Athletic FC – meeting held.
- LM to update user agreements and have clubs sign them for 2019/20 – completed for football clubs, sub aqua and swimming pool. Not completed for Meadowbrook social club.
- LM to contact SHDC to see if they have received the funds – complete. Funds received.
- MB to prepare a summary of risks and mitigations and then to submit full application – complete. Summary kindly written by Tony Prior and application submitted.
- LM to send letter to known members of pool committee inviting them to enter into a user agreement. Complete – user agreement signed.
- CT to purchase combination locks to secure gates into pool compound – complete. Locks in use.

5. Chair's update

MB celebrated the achievements of recent months: the work starting on Phase 1 of the Play Park, the submission of the planning application for Phase 2 of the Play Park and the newly established pool committee.

6. Club updates

Totnes & Dartington Football Club

The club has been promoted to the Premier Division and accepted in the County League. They are working hard to start Second XI. Also Working hard to get a women and girls team set up although this needs more women to come forward to volunteer. The Under 18s is one of the best teams in Devon. Under 12s and Under 11s had a good season too. The Additional Needs team has decided not to use Meadowbrook pitch because no catering will be available. They will hold their matches at Foxhole pitch. The club held a very successful charity day very successful and have another planned for 29th September where Plymouth Argyle will be present.

The club will coordinate several contributions to Meadowbrook Extravaganza including the Youth team to offer junior football and Kevin Todmorton to offer junior cricket.

The Club is going for charter standard and if successful, the club can access funds from the FA and match other funds to do improvements. This is a long term plan and should be re-visited in 12 months time to look at opportunities to improve the facilities for football at Meadowbrook.

Meadowbrook Athletic

The club had a good season and finished 3rd in the league. Will Fitzgerald has stepped down as Chair.

Action: JH to request that Meadowbrook Athletic have an away match on 14th September so that the field will be available for sports activities.

Bidwell School

No major developments. The school are looking for work experience opportunities for students.

Action: Any trustees who know of possible opportunity for work experience should contact LW

Meadowbrook Social Club

Things at the club are quite tight. They are few events planned and several private bookings in the pipeline. The club is registering as a Community interest Company. This means that the club has revised its purpose to be: providing a safe and family friendly environment for clubs and local activities in the community.

MB asked if the club would be open to discussing ways of increasing revenue from its facilities.

Action: MB and LM to meet with Meadowbrook Social Club representatives to discuss opportunities to increase revenue.

Totnes Sub-aqua

The dive club is busy! Over 100 members now, about 60 diving members. Six new ocean diver trainees have finished their theory and pool training and are now shore diving with their instructors and will soon be doing their first boat dives. The dive plan for June, July and August is looking busy with a trip to Cornwall and lots of interesting local diving planned. The club will help with the Longbow Canoe festival, as they do every year and will be running children's snorkelling sessions for Tadpool every Wednesday morning in the summer holidays. There are regular "Come and Try it sessions" (see website for dates) in Tadpool. It's a good way to try scuba in a safe environment with a small group with 1:1 support. They charge £15 for a CATI.

The club has "run -in" the engine on the new rib and it is having its 20 hour service and some adjustments made to improve its layout for divers.

Action: MB to suggest pool club contacts Sub Aqua to invite them to run snorkelling session at Dartington Pool

Parish Council

There was no representative from the parish council as PP has stepped down and is now a community trustee.

Action: LM to approach the Parish Council to invite a representative.

Coppicing

AT has finished coppicing for this year. AT reported that logs are currently stored off site but will be brought back on site and stored securely with fencing kindly provided by DHT.

Robbins

Kelly was welcomed to the meeting as the representative from Robbins. She gave a summary of the facilities provided. Kelly is keen for Robbins to be more part of the community especially since it is the permanent home for four young people.

6. Play park update

Work on Phase 1 has started and should be complete before the end of June.

There will be a pub quiz at Meadowbrook on 28th June to raise funds for equipment for the play park. Petanque England have offered to run taster sessions at the new play park.

Action: MB to liaise with groups to find a time and date that would best suit people.
Action: MB to submit press release written by BH about the new play and sport equipment

The planning application for Phase 2 was submitted in May. The closing date for public comments is 7th June. So far 18 comments have been made which have all been positive. Decision expected 29th July.

7. Dartington Swimming Pool update

A new committee has been appointed. The user agreement has been signed.

The new committee aims to open the pool on Friday 14th June.

8. Events update: extravaganza

Plans for the extravaganza are on track. Jinty Baulch of the parish council had suggested that the parish council combine their 'welcome to the village' event with the extravaganza.

Other ideas for stall/displays: approach local complimentary therapists to see if we could have a 'wellbeing corner'; asking the swimming club to stay open until the event; contact the ballet class and Taikwondo group who use Meadowbrook; invite local choirs to contribute.

Action: LM to follow up. LW to invite the Taiko drummers to perform.

9. Recruiting a new chair of trustees

MB opened a discussion on recruiting a new chair when she stands down at the AGM.

Action: MB to write a description of the core element of the Chair's role.

10. Proposal to take action to address the climate emergency

The idea of the DRA taking positive action was discussed. It was agreed that we should do something but we are not sure of the best way to make a contribution. We want to learn more about what we could do.

Action: LM to approach parish council and district council to ask for advice on how the DRA could do things in response to the climate change emergency. JM to look at options for Meadowbrook to transfer to a fossil free energy tariff.

11. Date of future meetings

12th September 2019, 21st November 2019 (AGM)

12. AOB

AT suggested the tree planting ceremony takes place in September at the Extravaganza. CT informed trustees that the gate to Dorothy Elmhirst field had been damaged. It is not covered by insurance. It is to be fixed on 5.6.19. There will be a cost of around £400. MB suggested that a standing item was added to future agendas concerning ways that the DRA could increase revenue from the land and buildings.