

ACCEPTED

Dartington Recreation Association Thursday 4th May 2017, 7.30pm – 9.00pm Minutes

1. Present

Trustees: Mandy Burton (Chair), Carole Tudor (Treasurer), Will Fitzgerald, Peggy Prout (Vice Chair), David Prout, Allan Tudor, Elaine Hopkins, David Coleman, Steve Mackay, Elaine Hopkins.

2. **Apologies:** Judy Findlay, Jane Bleach, Louise Morpeth, Alan Blake

NB Alan Blake to be on mailing list.

3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Update on actions & matters arising

- DHT Trustees have approved DRA lease for another 99 years.
- Alan Blake - is involved with the KEVICS football pitch, which is going ahead with S106 monies already granted to them by SHDC for Totnes.
- WF updated us on football pitch at Foxhole and a funding priority for floodlighting in the Joint Local Plan which is at odds with the Neighbourhood Plan. Kate Wilson has responded to challenge the point, and assurances have been received that this is not on anyone's wish list. MB to contact Rob Sekula at SHDC to confirm the priority for S106 funds are still as per the NP.
- Elaine Hopkins is to ask Parish Council Clerk to confirm that the S106 money is safe, and being applied to the OSSR plan for Dartington, this would include the DRA MUGA etc.
- The Chair extended grateful thanks to Carole in particular, and all who have helped to clean out, paint and refurbish the Pavilion ready for the new swimming season, and to provide a meeting space.

4. There is to be a meeting with DHT on May 9th re: Meadowbrook and the DRA land.

- CT to check with DHT about true content of meeting then update David Coleman so he can book time off to attend if needed.

5. Accounts

- CT updated meeting on finances.
- Old DRA now closed, and letter has been sent to the investment fund that holds the £30,515.00 to have this asset transferred to the CIO. MB and LM were accepted as signatories on the investment fund account.
- It was agreed that DRA needs to retain £20,000.00 of this account as a fall back amount in case of emergencies. The rest can be used as and when for matched funding in the area of greatest need. (MUGA, Play Park and Pool)
- Bank accounts today stand at: Current a/c £4179.20, Savings a/c £5324.23 and a new Business/Matched funding a/c £1,500.00.
- A mini budget was prepared showing Guaranteed income for 2017 £6,484.74

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Guaranteed expenditure for 2017 £4,800.00 leaving a surplus of £1,684.74.
MB and LM were accepted as signatories on the investment fund account.

But if DRA continue to pay for the Pool Chemicals we would spend another £1,000 Plus repairs to pavilions pipework, electrics could be £750.00 which would leave us in deficit for the year. This can be overcome with extra rents from outside clubs hiring the field and tennis court area, and the rents from the fast food van using the car park. Additional strain on our finances comes from paying the Pool Chemical bill, which used to be paid from the Parish Council Grant, at the moment this is not available due to funding constraints on the PC.

It was suggested that the Pool committee pay a rent for the 13 week season, at approx £25 per week, they pay the chemical bill and DRA pay electric and water bills and repairs. Grass cutting in pool area to be discussed.

This will be confirmed during a meeting with the pool committee at a near future date.

6. Lease update

- The Lease is ongoing but due to Solicitors questions it is slow progress. There are difficulties with Third Party Rights across DRA Leased land and potential costs that could arise. But it is being sorted and hopefully an end is in sight for the signing.

7. Swimming pool - agreeing terms of licence

- The pool will be up and running for the summer season, although a few issues have arisen that need to be sorted.
- **Action:** DP & EH to investigate problem and report back to DRA.
- A meeting is to be arranged between the pool committee and the DRA to discuss the Pavilions and Pool area, and to agree a way forward, with a new licence agreement.
- Football Club to also arrange meeting to sort a fresh agreement/licence for field and Pavilion use.

8. Coppicing

- Cutting finished. Processing underway. Some items sold. Brash cut to form mat over mud at Week entrance. Cutting along fence line – issues with Origins residents and after discussion with DP no more cutting to be done.
- 31 sessions = 68 hours work, plus 24 volunteer assistance. Very steep learning curve. Harder job and work than anticipated, so took felling qualifications. Volunteer help from Carole Tudor and Jay Newton, resident of Origins, much appreciated.
- Estimated 5 cubic metres of logs stored at Grain of Truth, plus bundles of sticks and kindling. In return hazel brash donated. Load of logs to self and to Jay.
- Hazel logs, poles, etc donated to Dartington primary (some pilfered) and Bidwell School. Five sales, total income £110. Outgoings: Signs and fuel = £67.78. Proceeds to DRA £42.22
- More than half of signs either torn down or defaced. Logs and poles pilfered, or moved for den building – some of it on a large scale. (Den pulled down as potentially

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unsafe and material removed.) Pallets, tyres, and sheet materials removed and dumped at tip. Brash and sticks moved on to grassed area by persons unknown.

- Brash still to be processed into kindling and firewood for next winter.
- Need to consider marketing. Tried items for sale Totnes on FB but no success. Village magazine resulted in one sale.

- Propagation attempted. Will not know if successful until later in year.
- Cutting to resume in November.

8. Dogs on field and play park

- A letter has been received from a villager complaining about dogs/faeces on DRA land.
- It was agreed that dog numbers have increased since Origins was built and due to lack of signage it is difficult to persuade dog owners not to let the dogs off lead in the field.
- Solution - to allow dogs a free run at the top of the main field, on the 'Rabbit Triangle' and in the copse area along the stream, but must be kept on a 2 metre lead at all times when around the field and in the play park, and also the hillock areas.
- Friendly letter to all at Origins to be drafted to introduce DRA, explain the uses of the area and show the off lead areas. PP kindly offered to deliver.
- Signs to be made, with map showing dog area, and poo pickup reminder.
- **Action:** AT & CT to investigate and sort. MB to draft letter.

9. AOB

- A volunteer has been invited to make a wild flower area along the grass bank beside the footpath by Origins. This was agreed in principle and she will be asked to come up with a plan and any help required.
- It was noticed that there is a path being worn down the bank in front of the steps from Origins, which then leads across the football pitch. MB suggested diagonal steps to be cut into the bank giving safe access to the field, and a natural route around the edge of the pitch to the school and play areas.
- The Chair thanked all those who stepped up in her absence, particularly Louise who all agreed had done a terrific job over the last few months.

Dates for future meetings

Thursday 8th June. Meadowbrook 7.30 p.m.