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Dartington Recreation Association
Thursday 24th November, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Minutes

1. Present: Trustees: Mandy Burton (Chair), Carole Tudor (Treasurer), Louise Morpeth (Secretary), Will Fitzgerald, David Coleman, Allan Tudor, David Prout, Peggy Prout, Judy Findlay Others: Jacqui Hodgson (District Councillor), Karen Williams (Dartington Hall Trust)

2. Apologies: Ken Phillips, Elaine Hopkins, Steve Mackay

3. Minutes: accepted. JH should have been noted as apologies.

Matters arising:

- EH is checking with Clare to understand whether the wood frame of the swimming pool has ever been repaired before commissioning the pool survey.
- Update from WF. The all weather pitch at KEVICCs is scheduled for completion by end March. Meetings about the pitch suggest that there needs to be more cooperation between Totnes, Dartington and surrounding areas around developments related to football. Any developments undertaken by the DRA should take into account views of local clubs.

DECISION: to invite a representative from Totnes and Dartington FC to join the DRA
ACTION: LM to contact WF to make an approach to T&D FC. JH to share report about proposed sports developments.

4. Treasurers report

There is £2228 in current account. Income is now also coming from the fish and chip van. Some necessary improvements have been made to the pavilion. There is a potential health and safety issue concerning the hot tap.

The assets from the old charity have not yet been transferred to the new charity due to a technical issue with closing down the old charity with charity commission.

ACTION: KW offered to advise on the transfer of the money from the old charity to the new charity. CT establishing how to transfer the assets.

5. Club reports

JF - Bidwell Brook

The school is full with more on the waiting list. New students mainly entering in the early years. The school is looking at possibility of expansion. A full time rural skills teaching assistant has been employed to develop the outdoor area. A work experience facilitator is looking at how Key stage 4 students can have work experience in local organisation. The students are interested in taking on responsibility for green spaces at Meadowbrook. Any of the students doing anything as part of work experience will have a risk assessment and are covered by insurance. All members of the committee were invited to visit the school. KW asked if DRA should have a safeguarding policy.

WF - Meadowbrook FC

DRAFT

The club will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2017. The club is doing well this season – near the top of 3rd division. WF looking to encourage better links between Meadowbrook and T&D FC.

CT asked if Meadowbrook FC would consider starting a walking football team as an opportunity for older residents.

WF asked about the relationship between the Dartington Sport club (cricket club & T&D FC) and DHT. KW explained that some of the land used by Dartington Sport Club may be included in plans for housing development. If this goes ahead, it will have ramifications for both clubs. No decisions have yet been made.

WF is still monitoring the drainage issues on the football pitch. There is a serious concern that the new housing development has increased water run off onto the pitch. WF asked whose responsibility it is to monitor and address this problem.

ACTION: JH will raise this issue with the council.

DP - Pool

Awaiting results of the survey to inform options for the future of the pool. CT has approached EH about the governance and management of the pool. There is a need for a longer term vision for the pool and the pavilion. JF reported that Bidwell would be keen to be involved in shaping the vision for the pool.

DECISION: to hold a special meeting about the pool – Tuesday 6th December at 7pm at Meadowbrook- with a view to setting up a dedicated committee.

DC – Meadowbrook Social Club

The club has moved over to Greenking brewery and received a £4000 donation. Wifi being fitted. The club will open on Christmas Day this year but not New Years Day.

No report from Sub aqua

6. Chairs report

MB attended meeting of the Open Spaces Strategy Group. The strategy is almost complete however it appears that issues relating to sport haven't been fully addressed. It is hoped that the open spaces part of the plan can be accepted while more work goes into the sport strategy.

The DRA has been offered support from the village SOS group. They can help with developing the plans for MUGA etc. MB meeting them on Thursday 1st.

MB has met with Sarah Jane Lawson from Lifeworks. The school is looking for a site for a specialist play facility for children and young people with disabilities. MB believed it could fit well with DRA plans for inclusive play for all. MB will continue the conversation and involve Bidwell if there is agreement to develop a proposal.

MB has prepared an article for the next edition of Our Dartington.

7. Nomination of vice chair

Peggy Prout was nominated and seconded to become vice-chair.

8. Update on coppicing

Alan has had verbal agreement from DHT that things can go ahead. Alan will have done all the risk assessment and training by end of December.

ACTION: Alan to inform Bidwell when he is working so the students are not frightened by the noise.

9. Update on 'The big tidy up'

Eleven volunteers joined the first big tidy up on 6th November. The play area was weeded. AT and CT have kindly since sourced free replacement swings and installed them

Next big tidy up will be on Sunday 11th December 11am – 1pm. The nature trail will be cleared and the fence taken down.

ACTION: LM to publicise including getting notes in local school newsletters.

10. Update on the lease

CT, WF and MB have worked through the draft lease. DRA Solicitor working through the detail with DHT. Looking to address the issue of the land on which Meadowbrook Community Centre sits to added as a side letter

DRA solicitor will charge for this work, and DHT have given an undertaking to pay costs to complete new lease. KW was under the impression that the solicitors had been instructed to replicate the old lease principles. Concern was expressed about several issues. AT asked if DRA will look out for the interests of the sub aqua club.

DECISION: DHT reps and DRA reps to meet to thrash out the current concerns without the lawyers present. KW to offer some dates.

11. Next steps for developing play area and MUGA

LM circulated a note (attached) which was discussed. The imminent deadline for applying for funding was noted.

DECISION: to ensure DRA applies for maximum possible amounts to enable development of play area and MUGA.

ACTION: LM to convene meeting with WF John Calloway and Alan Blake to discuss plans for MUGA. LM to contact officer at SHDC responsible for S106 funds to clarify deadline. LM to lead on developing proposal for funding.

12. AOB

MB is going to be away Jan – Mar 2017.

Next meeting: Monday 19th December 7.30 – 9.00 at Meadowbrook

**Dartington Recreation Association Meeting
Thursday 23rd November**

Considerations for taking forward an application for Section 106 funds

A summary of points from South Hams District Council about Dartington Section 106 money

- council confirm that they are supportive of DRA applying for S106 funds because of the potential to stretch the benefit (ie to apply for other funds) and to manage the sustainability of the facilities
- total amount available £67k for 'play and open space' and £136k for sports/pitches – BUT distinction between play and sports is loose.
- the Open Spaces Strategy Review (OSSR) is the main guidance for the spending of these funds
- SHDC hold the S106 money
- they expect (a) any proposal must match priorities in the OSSR plan (b) preferably, but not essential, a proposal should draw in match funds (c) things to consider: project design, tendering, match funding, ability of DRA to sustain the facility
- Requirement: project proposal, tendering exercise and then an offer letter would follow.
- Cllrs would be consulted for their approval
- the cricket club have been identified by SHDC as potential beneficiaries although they are not mentioned in the OSSR
- we should maintain good links with Kate Wilson, neighbourhood plan coordinator
- must start by July 2017 at latest

Potential match funding source: community reinvestment fund

Key findings from the OSSR

- Meadowbrook is seen as the natural place for a hub of play and recreation activity
- current play facilities are thought to be outdated and unstimulating
- the tennis courts are in poor condition and in need of improvement
- there are no facilities for teens or children and young people with disabilities
- the pool is a great asset but unheated and unsuitable for people with disabilities

Recommendations from the OSSR

- more varied & challenging play equipment accessible to a wider age/ability range
- access to toilets/changing facilities.
- access to refreshments
- covered area
- improved/smoke free seating areas
- re-imagining or removal of the defunct splash pool

DRAFT

- reinstating of the play house/den
- improved maintenance provision & signposting
- off-road bike tracks and skate park facilities
- harness the potential of the grassy banks, stream, wooded area
- enable free exploratory and adventurous play

Proposal

We should see developments in the village in three stages

1. Short term (Dec 16 – April 17) – the big tidy up – clearing the woodland area, low cost improvements to existing facilities such as new swing seats, and consultation about next steps
2. Medium term (May 17 – Dec 17) – the play area and the muga
3. Long term (Jan 18 – Dec 18) – the swimming pool and community centre

If we don't move quickly we will miss the opportunity to access the funding and the community have been clear about their priorities.

Multi-use games area (MUGA)

This should be revamped to be suitable for tennis, basketball, netball, football, hockey etc. We envisage this to require new surface, new fencing, flood lighting and equipment e.g nets, hoops etc.

Income generation may be possible e.g. setting up arrangements with Totnes Tennis club. We have not yet sought any quotes but propose allowing around £50k. This could legitimately be sought from the sports and pitches S106 pot with a match from the community regeneration fund e.g. 40:10.

Recommendation: we request quotes and make an application immediately for funds

Play area

We should be ambitious for the play area. If we get it right it will draw in children and families not only from Dartington but the surrounding areas. This could then supply enough people to justify things like a café, which could be a useful fund raising opportunity.

We also need to be realistic about maintaining and managing the facilities including on-going costs, liabilities and insurance. The play area in Paignton is a great example –it attracts large numbers of families and has become a lively hub for activity. We believe it cost in the region of £500k but have not yet established the maintenance costs.

Recommendation: we follow the Play Council Design for Play process for designing the play area