

Dartington Recreation Association
Thursday 20th October, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Minutes

1. Present

Trustees: Mandy Burton (Chair), Carole Tudor (Treasurer), Louise Morpeth (Secretary), Elaine Hopkins, Steve Mackay, Will Fitzgerald, David Coleman, Alan Tudor, David Prout
Members: Mike Otto, Bex House, Martin Edmunds, Jill Alker, Neil Sleeper

Everyone was invited to say why they wanted to get involved with the DRA and how they might contribute.

2. Apologies: Ken Phillips, Judy Finlay, Peggy Prout, Jacqui Hodgson

3. Declaration of Interest: None

4. Vision

MB proposed that the Meadowbrook area could be quite a hub for recreation in the village, well used by all residents throughout the year and the envy of Totnes. She also stressed the need to support the clubs that are affiliated to the DRA – the sub aqua club, the swimming pool and the football clubs. Extensive consultations for the neighbourhood plan have shown that people prioritise the MUGA, swimming pool and play area as in need of improvement. She suggested that we have short, medium and long term priorities.

WF reminded the meeting of the need to be aware of what is going on in Totnes, for example the Totnes Development Plan and at Dartington Hall Trust (DHT), since decisions there, particularly about funding, will affect the DRA's ability to attract funding.

Action: MB/CT/LM to nurture links with DHT, South Hams District Council and Kate Wilson (neighbourhood plan co-ordinator) to ensure DRA is fully informed of plans that might affect Dartington and our ability to attract funds, including decisions about the all weather pitch at KEVICCs and possible development at Foxhole.

5. General updates

(i) The lease

This is with the solicitor (who works for the DRA for free) for review. DHT expect a response within 28 days.

Action: MB and CT to liaise with the solicitor. WF offered to provide comments. CT to forward lease to him. MB to ask DHT to meet costs of lodging the new lease with charity commission.

(ii) Funding

There are two known sources of funding for which the DRA is eligible: Section 106 money and Community Reinvestment Funds. One can be used as match funding for the other. The process and amounts of money for allocation from the Section 106 funds are not clear.

Action: LM to approach SHDC to understand process of allocation. MB to attend meeting of Dartington Neighbourhood Planning group on 7th November.

(iii) Meadowbrook Community Centre

The community centre is built on DRA land. A survey has shown that the building is in need of serious repairs some of which are urgent. There may be an economic case for demolishing and rebuilding rather than repair. The building is currently not part of the DRA lease.

(iv) Recent meeting – MB met with Devon Communities Together (Village SOS), which has offered three days of support.

(v) Communications – DRA has an embryonic website www.dartingtonra.com and a facebook page

A page has been booked in the next edition of Our Dartington

Action: BH volunteered to help with admin; MB to ensure someone drafts copy for Our Dartington

6. DRA rules

Decision: the rules were adopted

7. Job descriptions and vacant positions

There are two vacancies as well as plenty of opportunities for people to become involved without becoming trustees.

Decision: defer appointing new trustees, for MB, CT and LM to agree job descriptions for the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

8. Engaging the community - the great big tidy up

Decision: anyone interested is invited to walk the boundary to agree what needs to be done to tidy up and improve the look of the DRA land. Meet at Dorothy Elmhirst Field, 2pm Sunday 23rd October.

Decision: to spend some money on the play park – new swing seats and paint

Action: to follow up on the Interest on the part of the Cavanna homes residents to put in some steps onto the playing field

Action: MB/LM/CT to start inviting quotes for scopes of work, check with open spaces group and to plan engagement of the wider community

9. Banking procedures

Decision: CT, MB and LM to become signatories for the bank account and that a payment can be authorised with two signatures.

10. AOB

A question was asked about the situation with the swimming pool. EH reported that a formal survey of the pool is required.

Action: EH to request a survey and to fund with swimming pool funds

DC explained that Meadowbrook Community Centre wants to apply for Community Reinvestment Funds and is looking to request £12,000 for essential repairs to the building.

Action: LM to follow up with Dave Coleman about his interest in putting in a joint bid.

Next meeting

24th November 7.30 at Meadowbrook.