

Dartington Recreation Association
Thursday 10th February 2018, 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Meadowbrook Pool Pavilion
Minutes

1. Present

Trustees: Mandy Burton (Chair), Louise Morpeth (Secretary), Peggy Prout, Lynn Williams, Dave Coleman and Margaret Cushen

2. Apologies: Carole Tudor (Treasurer), Allan Tudor, David Prout, Alan Blake, Bex House, Laura Hayton

3. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising.

The minutes were accepted as an accurate record.

Matters arising

Re: user agreement

The swimming club user agreement had not been progressed.

The DRA liability regarding accidents in the pool had not been resolved

Action: LM to raise with CT

Re: DRA/DHT working group

Progress with the working group had been slowed pending the finalisation of the new lease.

Re: Meadowbrook extravaganza

The event was generally agreed to be a success but would benefit for more time for planning if a similar event was planned for 2018.

Re: Dartington Primary School representative

Sue Veale had agreed to make a request of the governors for a representative.

4. Chair's update – see pump track items

5. Club updates

Meadowbrook Social Club

- Takings continue to increase month-on-month thanks to bar manager, Richard
- The club are looking for someone new to run the kitchen and to develop the catering side of the club as the Beacon Bar and Restaurant
- The club is trying out some new events – wine tasting, live music
- Table tennis tables are being put in the upstairs room
- Working systematically through all the building issues and have done risk assessment
- Applying for a modern premises licence to allow the general public access to the bar
- Re-writing the club rule and byelaws to accommodate these changes
- AGM – 27th April

Action: DC to share the new byelaws and rules once approved

Sub-aqua

- The season is starting with a 'launch the season day' on 3rd March

- There will be presentations from Dan Bolt and the Marine Rescue Group at Meadowbrook – all welcome
MC reported that the club was up to date with its fire risk assessment.

Coppicing

- AT submitted an update on the coppicing project (attached).
- The DRA recorded its thanks to Allan for the way he had transformed the area by the brook making it much more accessible.

6. DRA lease

Further to the disappointing service from the charity's current solicitor, it was agreed that a new one be appointed.

Further to advice from solicitors who were approached to help the charity with the lease, it was agreed that a surveyor be engaged to provide a valuation of the land and to assist with development of heads of terms.

Decision: it was agreed that up to £450 + VAT could be spent on a valuation by the surveyor
Action: LM/MB to agree scope of work with new solicitor and receive quote for services
MB to engage survey

DC indicated that Meadowbrook Social Club were keen to secure a sub-lease from the DRA.

Action: LM/DC/MB to meet to begin agreeing heads of terms for a sub-lease

MC asked that the ownership of the sub-aqua building be clarified as part of the discussions with the solicitor.

7. Playpark

MB gave a presentation on a proposal for a bicycle pump track.

Decision: all present were supportive of progressing the proposal.

It was suggested that the planning group for the pump track consider: emergency access in the event of an accident, how to prevent access by motorbikes, insurance and toilet facilities.

With regard to the playpark, quotes and proposals had been received from three companies. The project group are reviewing them with a view to deciding on a supplier by Spring 2018.

8. AOB

It was noted that one of the dogs on leads signs had disappeared and another had been loosened.

DC asked if DRA would be willing to part fund the re-instatement of CCTV at the front of Meadowbrook as a measure to deter vandalism.

Action: DC to liaise with MB/LM regarding costs.

MB asked if her daughter could help the DRA with social media as part of the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Decision: it was agreed that she would liaise with LM

Coppicing review 2016-2017: Allan Tudor DRA community trustee.

Cutting recommenced on November 1st and will continue when time and weather allows, until February 28th. Logs are stored off-site to prevent pilfering.

In 2016-17 an estimated 14 cubic metres of logs were cut, as well as 100 plus bundles of kindling, with more than 110 kg of charcoal produced. This was in half a cutting season, as work did not start until the end of December.

The wildflower “rabbit” triangle was mowed in September, and some of the blackthorn was cut back to stem encroachment.

An estimated 170 hours of work was done by myself, plus 45 hours from Jay Newton, and my wife, Carole. Work was done on 78 days, most of it during the week to avoid disturbance to neighbours. Work may be done at weekends if that is the only time volunteers can assist. Offers of help were made but only one came to fruition: thank you, Jay.

Logs, poles and brash were donated to Dartington Primary school, thrice, and to Bidwell school once. An offer of the same was made to the Bridge Academy. Brash and poles were donated to the individual who allows logs to be stored, and logs were donated to Jay Newton.

Log sales raised £325, poles and peasticks £60, charcoal £35. Total £420. There is an estimated four cubic metres of logs to be sold, worth about £200. Charcoal in store for next summer is estimated to be worth £150.

Expenditure was £133.64; £45.18 with for warnings signs, £34.18 for paper sacks for charcoal, and £54.28 for fuel and oil. Signs will be a one-off unless replacements are necessary. Half of the sacks have been used.

A lot of wildlife: at least a dozen species of butterflies, stoat, squirrels, rabbit, frogs, and kingfisher and dipper on the Bidwell Brook. Flower species include bluebell, ransoms, wild daffs, primrose, celadine, wood anemones, snowdrop, lady's smock, meadowsweet, knapweed. The invasive weed Himalayan balsam was removed by hand-pulling,

There has been an issue with vandalism and den building, sometimes on a potentially dangerous scale, also causing damage by breaking branches.

Most people who stop to talk seem to be interested and supportive. An interesting year, with a great deal learnt.

Thanks to DHT and John Channon for supporting the project, and to Dave Prout for assistance in sorting out some problems.

Allan Tudor
January 2018