

**Dartington Recreation Association**  
**AGM**  
**7.00 – 9.00pm 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017**  
**Minutes**

**1. Attendance**

**Trustees**

Mandy Burton (Chair), Carole Tudor (Treasurer), Louise Morpeth (Secretary), Allan Tudor, David Coleman, Elaine Hopkins, Alan Blake, Dave Prout, Peggy Prout

**Members**

Anne Jonhson, Martyn Johnson, Jenny Payne, Alida Whitaker, Margaret Cushen, D Hannford, Sue Veale, Lynne Williams, Erica Aslett, Bex House

**2. Apologies**

Dartington Hall Trust

**3. Election of trustees**

Mandy Burton, Carole Tudor, Louise Morpeth, Allan Tudor and Peggy Prout were proposed and seconded to continue in office.

David Coleman is to continue as representative of the Meadowbrook Social Club. David Prout has replaced Will Fitzgerald as representative for Meadowbrook Athletic Football Club. Alan Blake has become representative for Totnes & Dartington Football Club. Elaine Hopkins has become representative for Dartington Swimming Club. Margaret Cushen has replaced Steven Mackay as representative for Totnes Sub-aqua club. Lynne Williams has become representative for Bidwell Brook School.

**4. DRA achievements of the year**

This report concerns the first year end of activity of the DRA as a CIO. It was launched on 17.8.16. Prior to this it was a registered charity operating under a deed of trust. Much of this first year has been concerned with establishing the governance for the charity, agreeing a vision and objectives and raising awareness.

The charity trustees meet regularly and have established a website ([www.dartingtonra.com](http://www.dartingtonra.com)) and contribute articles to the Parish magazine to communicate their work. They agreed a vision for the charity which has guided work through the year. The year has had two main foci: re-negotiating a lease with Dartington Hall Trust for the land and facilities of the DRA; and fundraising for new play facilities.

Dartington Hall Trust made an offer of a new 99-year lease to coincide with the launch of the DRA as a CIO. Work to finalise the lease is ongoing.

The Dartington Neighbourhood Plan identified the Meadowbrook area as a priority for improved facilities for sport and recreation for the village. This decision resulted in the allocation of around £200,000 of Section 106 funds for new sport and recreation facilities. These funds can only be accessed once match funding has been identified. The DRA has

convened a working group of volunteers to attract match funding and hopes to have secured the necessary funds by the summer of 2018.

As part of the charity's efforts to improve the facilities, it has removing barbed wire fencing around a small wooded copse to allow access to all; installed new seating around the main field; undertaken a coppicing project; upgraded facilities in the Pavilion for football and swimming pool clubs and held a summer fayre to raise awareness of the facilities.

The DRA has had a positive and productive year and has a clear vision and plan for improving the facilities for the village.

## 5. Club reports

### **Totnes & Dartington Football Club**

The club now has teams for Under 8s, 9s, 10s,12s,13s and 16s plus a disability section. The club is really growing. There are new junior teams coming on board. The club is leading an initiative on the all-weather pitch and launching a girl's team. All clubs train and play weekly. The club has solid funding and a clear vision.

Decision: It was agreed that the junior pitch on the Dorothy Elmhirst field would be reinstated for the club's junior teams.
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### **Totnes Sub aqua Club**

The club meets weekly for dry meets. It offers 'try dives' for £15 and is actively encouraging more people to get involved. Every weekend there is a dive locally. There is a growing female membership with nearly 50/50 men/women. The club is also trying to encourage local people to join.

### **Dartington Pool**

The season had mixed weather but sunny days helped to attract new people to the committee. There were new users from the new estates. It was a struggle to find qualified lifeguards initially but managed to get a settled life guard rota. The end of term BBQ was hugely over subscribed and very successful for fund raising, as was the bingo night. The club accounts were in surplus by the end of the season. The club also received a parish grant.

### **Meadowbrook Athletic**

The Club finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the South Devon football league Division 3 last season and are currently top of Divison 3. The new user agreement is working well and has made things, in particular the costs, much clearer. The cutting schedule for the pitch is problematic.

### **Dartington Primary School**

The school is grateful for the opportunity to use the nature trail and see it as important for their Forest School activities. The school also value the pool in the summer term.

Action: SV to request a rep from school governors to join the DRA
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### **Bidwell Brook School**

The Guardians of Meadowbrook have enjoyed helping to keep Meadowbrook looking tidy. The school also appreciates being able to use the pool. The students are keen to be able to use the new play park when it is opened.

### **Meadowbrook Social Club**

Membership has increased from 130 – 222. New facilities have been added including free wifi, new pool and football tables, membership parking, outside seating and increased opening hours. The club is on a better footing financially and is working hard to make the facilities safe. The club has lots of plans to move things forward. The priority is to secure a sub-lease and to continue work with the DRA.

Action: LM to approach Robbins to ask if a representative could join DRA.

### 6. Accounts

Due to the changed status of the charity. There are accounts for the period Apr 2016 – August 2016 (the last period of the old charity) and accounts for the period August 2016 – Mar 2017 (the first period of the new charity).

See attached.

For the year 2017/18, the budget is expected to break even or end in modest surplus. DHT were thanked for their investment in the pavilion.

### 7. Play park plans and progress

As a CIO the DRA is allowed us to access funds, such as grants from trusts and foundations to fulfil its charitable objects. The neighbourhood plan, which had an open space strategy, involved a lot of consultation with residents and they expressed a clear wish to see facilities developed at Meadowbrook. These recommendations included improvements to the pool, tennis court and play park.

The DRA had hoped to take forward plans for a MUGA and play park but it is clear that there weren't enough volunteers to do both projects and so the initial focus has been on a play park. This is an opportunity afforded by the council's Section 106 funds. Following visits to a lot of play parks and consultation with local schools, a design brief and project plan have been developed. The proposal is for an inclusive and environmentally friendly space that enables children to take more risks as they get older. Three quotes have been received (Timberplay, Earthwrights, Kompan). The number 1 priority for children is a bike track. The BMX group in Newton Abbot have been approached for advice. The next steps is to select a supplier for the play park and raise funds. It is hoped that the play park will open in 2018.

Decision: to establish a work group with co-opted members with delegated responsibilities and a budget of £300 for miscellaneous expenditure

## 8. Long term opportunities for the Meadowbrook Area.

Dartington Hall Trust has offered the DRA a new 99 year lease the details of which are still being agreed, particularly the arrangements for sub-letting and for the Meadowbrook building.

Trustees received and responded to questions from members about the lease. A request was made for the light on Colin's Bridge to be fixed.

## 9. AOB

Decision: it was agreed the payment for bin collection would be increase

A request was made for the minutes from the last AGM of the old charity to be made public.