

Dartington Recreation Association Annual General Meeting 26.9.2023

Present: Greg Wotton, Will Fitzgerald, Helen Tune*, Jan Maddick*, Louise Morpeth*, Margaret Cushen*, Joel Riley *, Jinty Balch, Jon Cheetham, Mandy Burton*, Mark Burton*, Adrian Porter, Bex House, Andrew Kirby, Urszula Kossakowska

On zoom: Charlotte Huish*, Peter Grimsey, Rosemarie Longfield, Brenda Mossman, Ashish Ghadiali*, Sion Kemp, Alexis Huggins

Apologies : Uma Oliver*, Chris Balch, Jim Brittain*, Karen Dorow*, Mark Allford.

*trustee.

Welcome Jan Maddick chaired the meeting and started by welcoming everyone and asking people to introduce themselves

Notes of the previous AGM: these were sent out to trustees with the notice of the meeting, Jan asked if there were any issues with the notes and for a vote of acceptance of the notes as a true record of the meeting. There were no issues and the notes were accepted.

Matters arising: The only issue not covered by the agenda or reports, is the **energy strategy**.

Jim Brittain leads on this work for the DRA and was unable to attend the meeting but he sent a short video to explain the workshop he led in May and the strategy which is beginning to take shape as a result. Links to the tool kit can be found here

<https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/DRA/Trustees%5eMAGM/AGM%20papers/DRA%20Trustees'%20Energy%20Sustainability%20Outline%20Plan%20Sept23.pdf.....>

Treasurer's report: The accounts for the year had been sent out to all with the zoom link. Louise Morpeth, treasurer updated us on the current position. We continue to have roughly the same amount in income and expenditure. In the budget for 22-23 we had £33,000 income, in fact we had £44,000. In the budget we expected £44,000 spend when we in fact spent £47,000 some of which was recouped through the insurance claim for the flood in the pavilion.

Louise asked that the accounts be approved: unanimous acceptance

Nomination of accountant: Louise suggested we continue with our current accountant- approved unanimously.

Trustees for 2023-2024 all trustees in attendance are willing to continue in the role. Uma Oliver has informed us she will not be continuing as the TSAC trustee. The dive club are looking for a willing volunteer to take her place.

Reports received any questions on the reports were welcomed.

Reports can be

found. https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/DRA/Trustees%5eMAGM/AGM%20papers/Building%20Group%20Report%2025_9_23.pdf

<https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/DRA/Trustees%5eMAGM/AGM%20papers/EJ%20Update%2015.5.23-26.9.23.pdf>

<https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/DRA/Trustees%5eMAGM/AGM%20papers/Report%20on%20the%20Dartington%20Bike%20Track%20AGM%202023.pdf>

Rosemarie asked of Joel (the building group) when the small kitchen will be available for general use. Michela is away currently, Jan will check with her, but Jan suggested it might be the end of October/early November. Rosemarie explained that the dive club are starting training and hope to run lectures from 7pm, the studio is normally not clear of ballet pupils till 7.30 so it would be helpful to have the kitchen available as an alternative space.

Will asked whether the DRA are keeping abreast of the changes at Dartington Trust, his feeling is that it is very important that we encourage communication in this time of change. Ashish assured Will that he has taken on the brief of liaising with the Trust, though the people we were dealing with have resigned, so new relationships need to be developed.

Will also asked for an update on the Air Ambulance proposal. Ashish is also leading on this for the DRA. He has let the parish council know he is acting for the DRA but no further action has been taken. Will suggested giving the PC a gentle nudge to get this proposal moving.

Pool update and decisions to be made.

Louise delivered the presentation on behalf of the pool redevelopment group. She was keen to do this, but was clear that none of the work is hers! The presentation can be found

here.. <https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/Dartington%20Swimming%20Pool.pptx>

Urszula described the budget proposed as the “gold plated” version, with every foreseeable spend possible added, including £158,710 VAT and a contingency of 5%.

Joel pointed out that the pool is now directly the responsibility of the DRA and with ticket income we would need to register for VAT so might be able to recover some of that tax. Urszula agreed saying we would need the advice of an accountant for this.

Peter G said from his experience, projects of this nature need a much bigger contingency 30-50%

Mandy said we would need a lawyer to examine our lease to ensure we act in accordance with it. It's a matter of when we discuss with the Trust and whom we talk to, not if we discuss this with them.

Ashish said the budget has doubled since he last was part of a discussion! Might it not be better to deal with the pool refurbishment and the community centre replacement as one project, given the amounts that need to be raised. He also felt conversations with potential funders needed to be had prior to going for planning. He suggested that trustees need to discuss further the risks of losing use of the building during the pool project lifetime and ensuring we have a contingency plan.

Many of the pool group pointed out that the time lines for the two projects were so different, we would run the risk of losing the current momentum for the pool.

Louise asked Alexis if she could say anything about S106 funding. She said £75,000 has been agreed in principle for the pool. There is potentially another £115,000 in capital and £20,000 in a maintenance fund available, but it is not clear when this new S106 money will be released as it is dependent on the developments being completed.

Charlotte said that one of the bench marks for the primary school is how many children can swim. In previous years the school has used the pool for every class, this year with the pool closed they tried to use the indoor pool in Totnes, but couldn't get a swimming coach, transport has also been problematic. So this year only 40% of year 6 pupils are leaving the school as swimmers. Given we live on the river and near the sea this is not good enough. Although the South Hams may be an “affluent” area

50% of pupils in the school fit into a vulnerable category. She is clear that with a longer season the school would use the pool to ensure all pupils learn to swim by year 6.

Will pointed out it is really important how DRA defines and presents itself. The resources developed are to meet the needs of a wider catchment area Dartington, Totnes and the villages; in fact, the pool draws people from much further afield, who don't have access to pool swimming at a reasonable cost.

Jan asked if there were any other comments, there being none, she called for a show of hands on the proposition that the DRA should fund the reports needed (£20,000) to progress the project to a state of readiness for applying for planning permission. The vote was unanimously in favour.

Any other Business

Adrian proposed that there be further development to the MUGA. The goal posts and markings cover half the tarmac he proposes that we mark up the other half with cycle and scooter "roads" to enable children not confident enough to use the bike track, learn to cycle and as a space where scooters can be used, as they cannot be used on the cycle track. He has got an informal quote circa £800 and believes a local business might be prepared to part fund this development. This proposal was welcomed and Adrian was asked to continue to lead on this for DRA.

Future meeting dates

5th December 2023 by zoom?

12th March -budget +extravaganza

11th June pool update

17th September DRA AGM