

Dartington Recreation Association

Trustees meeting notes

Tuesday 11th June 2024

Present: Joel Riley (Chair), Charlotte Huish, Jan Maddick, Jac Ziegler, Gina Lane, Adrian Porter, John Alton, Glenn Lob, Ashish Ghadiali, Mandy Burton, Louise Morpeth, Bex House, Sasha Edmunds, Miles Davies, Margaret Cushen

Apologies: Karen Dorow, Jim Brittain, Mark Burton, Michael Campbell.

1. Joel welcomed those present and asked everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new people in attendance. He went on to congratulate Bex and all volunteers on the Extravaganza which was a great day. Bex told us took £3,400 but the costs have not been worked out completely yet.

2. The notes of the last meeting were accepted

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

The Foundation footballers have now worked up a **pitch improvement plan** and are getting costings. Once we receive this plan and agree it, we will be able to apply for the grant which has been agreed for six years.

Bidwell Brook School have agreed in principle to an approach to Dartington Trust to get a **quote to redo the road** between the crossing from DPS and the Bidwell Brook car park. Glenn Lob apologised for missing the email and gave his agreement for this on behalf of DCC who now own as well as run, Robins. Margaret will email Dartington Trust to get quotes for the work.

Charlotte raised the confusion that had resulted from Dartington Trust's decision to restrict waiting times in their car parks resulting in parents having to pay to park to pick up and drop off their children. This decision was reversed following approaches to the press. Charlotte found many parents who thought it was the DRA who had made this change and corrected the parents understanding of who managed the car park. Charlotte suggested that the DRA needs to raise the charity's profile with parents. Mandy proposed drafting a flyer for residents explaining the DRA. Ash could take this to Dartington Trust to keep them informed- which they failed to do with us, in introducing the parking charges change. Joel has designed some signs for the entry points to Meadowbrook which are yet to be put in place, but he will share the copy with Mandy and organise to have the signs put in place.

As John Alton had to leave the meeting Mandy raised **agenda item 10, Restore** for discussion at this point. John explained that their relationship with Refurbish is coming to an end and they would like to explore developing a closer relationship with the DRA. John suggested they could move the monthly repair café to Meadowbrook, which Things Happen Here and Pizzalogica are in agreement with, this proposal was accepted by trustees. Mandy will continue to explore a closer

relationship with Restore and asked anyone interested in participating in these discussions to email her: mandyburton11@msn.com.

Mandy said she had been approached by Eco Cars who want to get parking in Dartington. This proposal met with enthusiasm but would need discussion with Dartington Trust -Ashish will add this to the discussion with them if possible.

Joel asked for those present to indicate if we should continue with Trustee meetings by zoom- a number of those present needed it to be on zoom and the decision to continue was taken.

5. Conflict of interest Bex declared a conflict of interest in the discussion of the budget and withdrew from the meeting for that item.

6. Finance report and budget the accounts for the year have not yet been finalised and Louise apologised for the delay in tabling a budget for the year. Her report, and accounts and budget proposals are [here](#)

In broad terms the money in = the money we spend, we have £70,000 in reserve. Louise recommended that we hold six months running costs as a reserve £25,000-£30,000 which leaves us with £30,000-£40,000 which could be designated for projects, this year or in future years. These reserves were accepted.

Louise recommended that we hold the agreement with Earthjump at the same level to enable Bex commit time to the pool project as well as her volunteering role. This was accepted.

Louise proposed a contingency fund of £2,000- £3,000 . Ash queried whether this would be enough, suggesting a 20% contingency (£14,000).

Margaret proposed that given officers needing to step back as trustees, using some of these funds to employ a bookkeeper/ administrator part time, might make it easier to recruit to the treasurer and secretary roles. This proposal was accepted.

Louise will take the decisions made this evening and produce a detailed budget. All grant funding awarded will be accounted for in separate lines to make the base income and spend of the DRA more evident.

Ash thanked Louise for her clarity and the work she has done on the accounts.

Bex rejoined the meeting

7. Energy strategy grant Jim Brittain has succeeded in his bid for strategy development funding, aided by Mark Burton. The proposal is that Jim lead on this work for the DRA and part of the grant would pay for some of his time to do this. After discussion of the constitution, the Charity Commission guidance and the funders views the trustees voted unanimously that Jim should lead this project as a trustee. Louise will ensure that the management of the grant will be transparent and the DRA's governance will not be compromised.

8. Website Michael had sent his apologies today along with a video presentation of the new website, unfortunately Margaret did not see it till just before the meeting.

We agreed to defer this item till the next meeting and the video is in Michaels email distributed seperately.

9 Constitution Mandy had previously circulated the list of trustees and highlighted those who had served three years+. She, Louise and Margaret need to step down. Mandy and Ash will produce a flyer to encourage new people to step forward as trustees.

Margaret pointed out that this rule does not apply to the parish council representative and proposed that nominated trustees should also be excluded, giving the schools the opportunity for senior management to remain involved. Charlotte added that for her school, and probably the others too, it is only senior management who could represent the school and commit their resources.

These issues will be addressed in the next meeting which is the AGM.

11. Reports [here](#)

Bex informed the trustees that Dartington Primary have found the funding to continue bike training for pupils into next year. Adrian updated us on the line marking in the MUGA which he and another volunteer have taken on, as the contractor was not available. With volunteer labour, the funding offered by the Cott Inn and the Village shop will not all be spent, Adrian will discuss with the funders if they would be happy to a) sponsor the foundation football shirts or b) donate to the pool fund. Adrian was thanked for his work on the MUGA.

Next meeting 17th September AGM