

DRA trustees meeting notes 23rd May 2023

Present : Joel Riley(acting chair) Margaret Cushen(secretary) Louise Morpeth (treasurer) Jan Maddick, Ashish Ghadiali. Jim Brittain, Mark Burton, Mandy Burton, Mark Alford, Bex House, Martin Edmunson (Ed)

Apologies: Uma Oliver, Michela Delamere, Charlotte Huish

In the absence of a permanent Chair, Joel Riley took the chair for this meeting

Notes of the last meeting accepted. These will be published on the website

Matters arising not on the agenda. Jim will write up the energy strategy session held on 18th May and the notes will be circulated.

Joel took the opportunity to inform everyone of Will Fitzgerald's resignation as a community trustee. Joel said how much he valued Will's leadership in stepping up to be chair and taking the DRA through some challenging times as well as his discernment of the right time to step down, as chair and now, as a trustee. We will all miss his wisdom.

Ash volunteered to explore with Will the roles he vacates- maintaining our relationship with Dartington Trust and leading for the DRA on the development of the Air Ambulance landing site on the field.

Joel welcomed Mark Burton, who has agreed to stand as a community trustee, proposed by Joel and seconded by Jan. Mark will continue to be the DRA link with the commercial users of the community centre and a core member of the building group.

Margaret will send Mark the details of the information the Charity Commission require for him to be accepted as a trustee.

Financial report

The draft annual accounts 22-23 were received today at 4pm

- . Key points: (1) Income: £105,580 - £72,208 payments from users; £13,705 insurance; £16,000 grants plus some sundry donations; (2) £83,937 in expenditure (3) excess: £21,643. To note that the insurance payment is to be carried forward to the next financial year when the costs will be incurred.
2. Cash at bank at 23.5.23 - £71,434.
3. For the current financial year starting April '23, the charity faced a major risk to revenue when the New Lion Brewery encountered difficulties and made the decision to surrender its user agreement with immediate effect. The risk has been mitigated by the rapid and smooth transition to the new tenants – Things Happen Here. A short rent-free period has been given to the new business and the charity will be contributing towards the costs of repairing the floor as a legacy issue. The net effect will be c. £4500 unplanned cost/lost income.
4. Income and expenditure for April was broadly on track.

5. The finances of the charity are running well. There is currently only one outstanding invoice - £1692 owed by Dartington Hall Trust.
6. The charity's finances are now run through xero accounting software and there is now the capability to run automated monthly reports.

Joel asked if there was any spending of reserves possible now the financial risks allowed for in the budget, had passed. Louise responded that a spend from reserves had been included in the budget, including monies for the two development projects to get professional reports done. The DRA has not had a process for agreeing how to spend reserves, as this is a new experience for the organisation. Joel commented that problems, such as the mud in the playpark, could perhaps be solved by spending some money on matting.

Bex commented that if we waited till the next round of S106 money was available there would be £20,000 for repairs and maintenance which could match fund DRA investment.

Louise proposed preparing a paper for the next trustees meeting looking at options for spending or saving unrestricted reserves. This proposal was welcomed.

Air Ambulance Ash will discuss with Will and move this forward for the DRA.

Green Vision Bex informed us of EarthJump funding from Thrive and SW Water to develop this project. The schools and youth group have been involved in mapping the biodiversity of the site- Meadowbrook Park and wish to continue their involvement. If the latest bids are successful then a management plan will hopefully be put together by December '23. Bex is hoping the Bidwell Brook Partnership may help this.

Ash commented that he has been working with the National Trust and the Eden Project on how people establish sustainability and environmental justice. The process Bex described, of including the neighbouring school communities with a wide range of abilities and needs is a great example of good practice.

Bex added that there is an EU project "future parks" which focuses on how play parks can be diversified to meet the needs of other generations and the environmental need for biodiversity too.

Jim pointed out that we need to be alive to the risk of the pool and community centre developments having impact on biodiversity.

Community Centre report

here C:\Users\Margaret\OneDrive\Documents\DRA\Trustees+AGM\Building Group Report 09_05_23.pdf

Ed added that the floor has been fixed. Café speakers have been installed, replacing the PA which will reduce noise. A diverse crowd are using the tap room, a portrait painting session will start next month and music events are back in the calendar.

Louise pointed out that the last two months have been very hard, with difficult meetings, difficult letters to write and difficult letters to receive. The trustees acknowledged that

a small group had shouldered the work, and thanked Louise, Joel, Will, Jan and Margaret for acting in the best interests of the DRA.

Mark reported on the development of the market feasibility brief for the new building. He has worked with Professor Chris Balch to identify the groups we next need to engage- those who are not current users of the building. The invitation

“We are holding focus groups to discuss how the building meets community needs and what else it could do in future.

These are part of a bigger piece of feasibility work given the age and condition of the current building, including the possibility of replacing it with a new building. This provides a great opportunity to imagine what the community centre could be in future.

There will be wider community consultation as part of the process but at this feasibility stage we have identified some gaps in existing provision which these initial focus groups aim to inform.

We are holding 4 discussions, each for a different segment of the community, as follows:

1. Parents of 6-12 year olds - 9am, Friday 16th June
2. Over 55s - 12pm, Saturday 17th June
3. Teenagers - 5pm, Tuesday 20th June
4. Parents of 0-5 year olds - 9am, Tuesday 27th June

If you would like to take part in one of these discussions, please give your contact details [here](#) and we will get in touch to confirm the details.”

Mark asked that trustees, schools and all our networks spread the invitation and encourage people to come forward to take part. (invitation attached to notes distribution email)

Bex pointed out that most schools have a school council- we have successfully engaged with them before and could get feedback from the children directly.

The building group hope to use the next Extravaganza for public consultation too. Bex said this would be 24th September. Jan pointed out that is the weekend when Devon Transformed are hoping to use the whole site for their event. Jan will discuss with Jasmine and keep Bex in the loop as this could all work well, reducing the workload for Bex.

Bike track [report here](#)

Mandy added that the surface is looking great thanks to the Smaldens. The group are looking for a coach who can help the children ready for the next level- one wheel and jumps, but coaches are hard to find. However, from age 14 young people can train to become bike track training assistants, this may help if the bike track group pursue this route.

Mandy mentioned the incident reported on Facebook where a child was hurt by a bike, we need to ask people to give us feedback of incidents, near misses, so we

can review our management and risk assessment. Mandy will draft something for the bike track page on Facebook and link it to the DRA page

Bex suggested that the regular training sessions for the schools need to be made widely known, as sometimes they have to ask people to leave the track for the sessions to start. The bike club also needs embedding.

Mandy would like to review the bike track risk assessments and Mark also needs access to the google drive documents.

Mugga The goals have been ordered and 5-a-side markings will be done soon- The Wave Academy students are really looking forward to this.

Playpark a donation of some new play park equipment is underway, Bex will give us details when it is finalised.

Pool report

here [https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/DRA/Trustees%5eMAGM/15.5.23%20Pool%20Update%20\(1\).docx](https://d.docs.live.net/d40a4eb4677bb861/Documents/DRA/Trustees%5eMAGM/15.5.23%20Pool%20Update%20(1).docx)

Bex will attend the next management group meeting to discuss the commissioning of reports needed to continue the project.

Football the season has finished now, other than the charity festival events. The TD+M first team have been promoted to Division 1. The second team won the cup. Under 13's won their league and were promoted. The various age youth teams have had a series for festival days fundraising for various charities including £400 raised for the pool. Two of the girl's teams are going into leagues, kit sponsored by Beacon Electric. The club will have its' big charity day on 4th June from 1pm at Foxhole. The girls will be playing Plymouth Argyle Ladies and the men's team will be playing Plymouth Argyle Legends.

Some women are using the field on Thursday evenings, they are not part of TD+M club!

Any other business

Jan will discuss the proposed Devon Transformed festival with Jasmine who has been talking to them about their plans. They will link with Bex to knit the Extravaganza to this event if possible

Date of next meeting Tuesday 26th September by zoom