

## **DRA trustees meeting 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by zoom**

**Present** Will Fitzgerald (chair), Margaret Cushen(secretary), Mark Alford, Bex House, Jim Brittain, Joel Riley, Michela Delamere, Jan Maddick, Uma Oliver, Sarah Bedford, Ashish Ghadiali

**Apologies:** Louise Morpeth (treasurer), Helen Tune, Charlotte Huish, Sarah Guest, Mandy Burton, Karen Dorow.

Will welcomed Sarah Bedford for Bidwell Brook senior management group and Uma Oliver for Totnes Sub Aqua Club.

**Notes** of the previous meeting were accepted.

### **Matters arising**

Will had announced he would stand down as chair, this will be his last meeting in that role. Chairing the meeting will rotate as indicated in the constitution. Will hopes to continue working with the DRA in some capacity.

The Saturday morning session for trustees was cancelled as the management group considered the issues not to be clear for Trustees. Jim will present his paper on sustainability at this meeting.

### **Finance**

Louise had submitted her report which was distributed with the agenda. We are operating within the budget set at the beginning of the year.

Louise and Bex attended a meeting with Alexis last week to discuss S106 funds. Bex explained that a deed of variation can be made to avoid us having to rush using the unspent first phase money by May 2023, the date initially set. We can submit the updated quote for the disabled toilet in Meadowbrook and proceed with this work without needing to ask the parish council to fill the gap. The goal mouths for the mugga and two moveable goals for the field are being explored by Adrian and Bex. *Jim pointed out that the light weight junior goals, currently stored in the pool compound will need to be removed when the fencing is changed. A secure storage will need to be considered.*

*Bex asked whether the pool group operating directly to the DRA would influence the use of DRA reserves- the management group to bring a proposal to trustees.*

### **Report from the chair**

Will began with congratulations for the many volunteers who have brought the DRA this far, whether we can expect to rely on a solely volunteer workforce in the future is another issue. The DRA currently pays for litter-picking and cleaning in the building as well as contracting out grass cutting and bike track maintenance. He praised the work Jinty Balch did as a trustee and continues to do as a volunteer, without which many of our financial management systems would be less robust. Will also praised the partnerships Bex House is developing with the schools and the wider community both as a volunteer and as Earthjump. Will thanked Ed at New Lion for the excellent

contribution he is making to establishing the building as a centre for such a diverse range of community activities. Will also paid tribute to Michela at Pizzalogica for all her patience, commitment, flexibility and endeavours to make such a success of the business and contributing so much to the rapid expansion of the activities of the DRA. Will emphasised that the future will have its challenges, the DRA has recruited new trustees, whom he thanked for their input, however we need more! He pointed out the focus of the DRA is now on re-opening the pool in 2024, which has brought energy sustainability to the top of the agenda. We also need a robust business plan to assure funders that the organisation as a whole and a new pool, are financially viable. In all of this the DRA needs to consider the internal working of the organisation. So quite a lot of business to be done!

Jim Brittain offered a vote of thanks for Will's contribution to the DRA.

### **Energy sustainability**

Jim's introductory paper had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. He used 3 slides to take us through his proposal (attached). Energy sustainability is complex, however solutions need to be a balance of operations led, technical led and management led ones to enable "a win for all"- a win for the community, a win for our volunteers, a win for our organisations and a win for the planet. We need to consider a "triple bottom line" – economic, social and environmental benefits.

Jim suggested we nail down our sustainability goals and key strategic aims. The next step he proposed was that *the DRA nominate a small group, a person from each area of activity, to be a core group to look at energy sustainability (3 or 4 max)*. Joel Riley said he would like to be involved.

*Jim would then like the trustees' group (of ideally 8-12) to take a Saturday morning late Feb/early March to:*

- *Input and discuss the opportunities, challenges and priorities around longer-term sustainability for Meadowbrook (at high level);*
- *Consider the key success factors and priority activities which set up an energy & sustainability framework to support our projects and working groups.*

Sarah Bedford said she hoped one of the estate managers would get involved.

Expressions of interest to Jim [jamesbrittain@thediscoverymill.co.uk](mailto:jamesbrittain@thediscoverymill.co.uk).

### **Bike track**

The recent rain seems to have compacted the surface, which is a bonus. Bex reported that both Dartington Primary and Bidwell Brook schools are using the track on Wednesdays with a coach supporting the sessions.

Will emphasised we need to strengthen external communication of the large and small successes of the bike track, and the organisation as a whole.

### **Pool**

Bex's report was attached to the papers circulated before this meeting. She reported that the fundraising group are beginning to work up a business plan. The work for pre-planning is now nearly complete and the hope is to get it submitted next month. Ashish announced a Family Christmas Party he is organising on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2pm-6pm as a fundraiser for the pool.

### **Building group**

Joel reported that the building group continue to manage the building as it stands, while also working on the Feasibility Study questions prepared for us by Professor Chris Balch. The group now need trustees and the organisations they represent to tell us what the building does, and what it should do in the future.

The questions are in the document attached for ease of responding and he would like responses by December 16<sup>th</sup> to meadowbrook1969@gmail.com

The questions to be addressed

What works well/doesn't work well with the current Meadowbrook building and site?

What is your current use of the building and site/

What facilities would you like to see added to a new community building/

If you represent a business, enterprise or organisation

What facilities would you like to see added for your business- think outside the box

What would you pay to use those facilities?

What would your predicted use per week be?

If you are a current user, would you pay more for improved facilities?

### **Football**

The weekend sessions are now attended by over 100 children and the club has now got a waiting list for places. They need more volunteers to help with these sessions on Saturday at KEVICCS and Sunday at the field.

### **Field use and maintenance**

Will noted that Bidwell Brook used the field for their sports day this summer. Getting a regular calendar for use would be helpful. Jim noted that mobile goals would increase the casual use of the field.

### **Dive club**

Uma reported that dive training continues with the club using the kitchen as a training room as well as a bar upstairs for the weekly club meeting. The club was one of only 2 clubs mentioned in the Heinke award announcement, the competition was won by one of BSAC's international clubs.

### **Grant funded projects**

Bex reported that the bike and splash project is now complete.

**Any other business**

Family Christmas Party in the taproom 18<sup>th</sup> December 2pm-6pm – a fundraiser for the pool

**Date of next meeting CHANGED** from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 6.30 as proposed at the meeting to **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March** 6.30 by zoom, to allow our treasurer present a budget for the year.