

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign 2011  
Committee Meeting 1  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011, The Kings Head, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair), Anita North, Carol Pickering, James McPherson, Pete Woodley, Sarah Cagney, Sharon Vaughan, Carla Wetherell, Caroline Pring

Guests: Claire, Julie Pring

Apologies: Lynne Read, Sean Burrett

Anna Curtis did not leave any contact details at the public meeting – Caroline will try to obtain her phone number.

### **1. Who Are We, What Are Our Backgrounds**

**Dave Haslett** has lived in Cullompton for 18 years and is originally from Barnstaple. After working as a civil servant, cost accountant and project manager he spent many years in the computer industry. He has run his own publishing business since 2002.

**Pete Woodley** moved back to Devon from the Midlands and has been living here for 5 years since his retirement from British Gas. Although he has no previous experience of fundraising, he has lots of time to give.

**Sharon Vaughan** has lived in Cullompton for 14 years and served on a previous swimming pool committee for a short time around 12 years ago. She is currently the proprietor of Mr Ben's Emporium in Cullompton.

**Carla Wetherell** has lived in Cullompton for 14 years and is currently a student at Petroc College.

**Sarah Cagney** has lived in Cullompton for 4 years. She has previously run a slimming group and has experience of fundraising. Although she doesn't have much time during the week due to her work commitments in Exeter, she has time at the weekend.

**Caroline Pring** has lived in Cullompton for 36 years and has worked in the hotel industry and at McDonald's. She currently works at Mr Ben's Emporium and has 3 children.

**Anita North** has lived in Cullompton for 7 years and is the licensee of The King's Head and The Market House. She has spent 5 years working with charities, looking after their accounts.

**Carol Pickering** lived in Cullompton for 12 years but recently moved to Willand. She previously worked in credit control for ABN and has 5 children.

**James McPherson** has lived in Cullompton for 23 years and is a retired General Manager for the NHS. He has had a lot of experience with fundraising for Seaton Hospital.

## **2. Allocation of Roles**

### **Chairman:**

Dave Haslett - dahaslett@gmail.com

### **Treasurer:**

Anita North - anita@anitanorth.orangehome.co.uk

### **Secretary:**

Carol Pickering - carolpickering71@btinternet.com

### **Location and Planning:**

James MacPherson - jaymacpee@gmail.com

### **Design, Materials, Construction and Costing:**

James MacPherson - jaymacpee@gmail.com

### **Fundraising Co-ordinator:**

Sarah Cagney - sarahcagney\_12@yahoo.co.uk

### **Event Co-ordinators and Contact Points:**

Anita North - anita@anitanorth.orangehome.co.uk

Sharon Vaughan - svaughan40@gmail.com

### **Grants and Donations:**

Pete Woodley - pjwoodley@hotmail.com

Anita North - anita@anitanorth.orangehome.co.uk

### **Publicity:**

Carol Pickering - carolpickering71@btinternet.com

### **Helpers and Supporters Co-ordinator:**

Carol Pickering - carolpickering71@btinternet.com

### **Website:**

James MacPherson - jaymacpee@gmail.com

Dave Haslett - dahaslett@gmail.com

### **Jacks of all trades (will assist those with specific roles):**

Caroline Pring, Lynne Read, Carla Wetherell

### **Not yet allocated roles:**

Sean Burrett, Anna Curtis

## **3. Constitution**

At the public meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011, Dave Haslett was told privately that the previous committee had invoked their exit strategy, which means they effectively disbanded the group. They didn't appear to have any paperwork at all (i.e. constitution, minutes, correspondence, or any other historical documents). It was agreed that although the history of what happened previously is important, we would start with a clean slate as a new group.

**Action point:** Anita will draw up a new constitution, based on examples from other groups, and we will approve it at the next meeting.

#### **4. What is the Group Called?**

We agreed that the name should be Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign 2011.

#### **5. Accounts**

Anita has not yet received the accounts from the previous committee, but hopes to receive them on Saturday (3<sup>rd</sup> September).

#### **6. Plans/Date for Public Meeting/AGM**

We agreed that we would hold a public meeting in mid-October. This meeting will be to inform the public of our new constitution; report on the accounts we inherited from the previous committee; report on our aims, plans and progress so far; give details of planned fundraising events; collect ideas from the public and listen to their views; and collect the details of anyone who wants to help. This meeting will need to be publicised properly.

**Action point:** Carol will find out when the Town Hall is available in mid-October – ideally on a Thursday. The new library and community hub might also make suitable venues.

#### **7. Town Council support**

Anita is attending the Town Council meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September and hopes to get official backing for the pool campaign.

#### **8. Public ballot**

Anita suggested that a poll be held to see if people actually want a pool. We could do this through schools, press, leaflet campaign, etc. The poll could also ask if the extra money the Town Council put on council tax to purchase the Magistrates' Court could be used to help fund the pool.

James suggested that at the next annual town meeting, if 10 people asked for a referendum then the council would be obliged to hold a ballot, which the council would have to pay for.

#### **9. Setting Our First Target**

Dave said he thought that looking at how much it would cost to reopen the CCC pool (in a different location, with added cover and heating) would be a good way of calculating our first target amount. We could then look at how long it took to reach this target and either revise our aims (if it took ages) or set another, higher target (if it was reached quickly).

Sarah suggested looking at the overall cost and breaking it down into bite-sized portions.

Topsham Pool's running costs are £30,000 per year, so we need to take that into account as well as the building costs. Topsham also have a £40,000 contingency fund.

The target we set should be split into achievable chunks – i.e. acquiring the land, getting planning permission, building the pool, running costs, etc. This should be displayed on

boards around the district. It might be a good idea to do this as a jigsaw design. It would also be a good idea if the displays showed a target date for achieving each step, as well as the amount of money needed and raised.

**Action point:** James to contact Way Mill Pools, who are based in Cullompton, to see if they can work out some costings for us.

### **10. Information displays**

Targets and other information should be displayed in as many locations as possible – i.e. town hall, library, shops, etc. Anita will talk to Mark Morgan about the possibility of displaying targets/information in his unused shop window. Anita also said she had available space at the Market House, and Sharon said she was happy to put up a small poster in her shop window.

### **11. Location**

We need to look at buying/acquiring land for the pool, and perhaps look at any redundant sites we could take over.

Anita suggested the old Magistrates' Court site might be suitable, and she will contact the owner.

Sarah said we should approach Padbrook Park. Anita explained that there was a fine line between commercial use and community use, and Padbrook must not be seen to be benefiting from the deal. It would therefore be best if they would agree to donate the land.

We agreed that the CCA fields would be the most logical place to put the pool, but getting planning permission would be difficult because it is on a flood plain. However, there are already several sports-related buildings there. It would also be possible to build the pool on a floating raft, which would be an added expense but should remain an option. There are also regulations regarding temporary structures that we could look into.

Dave said he had identified approximately 20 possible sites around the town. He will circulate the details before the next meeting.

Anita will bring the town development plan to the next meeting so we can see which sites are owned by MDCC or are earmarked for housing.

As well as the pool itself, there needs to be enough space for parking, changing rooms, plant room, storage, seating, etc.

Discuss further at the next meeting.

### **12. Visit to Topsham Pool**

Dave and James will visit Topsham Pool this week for a guided tour and meeting with a member of their committee. They will report back at the next meeting.

### **13. Charitable Trust versus Registered Charity**

We agreed that becoming a Charitable Trust was not appropriate for us at the moment, and we should look at becoming a Registered Charity instead. Anita will start progressing this. We need to be registered as a charity before we can apply for many of the grants available.

The following committee members were appointed as trustees: Dave Haslett, Anita North, Carol Pickering, Sarah Cagney and Sharon Vaughan.

### **14. Grants**

The deadline for Gannet funding is 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011, so we will need to apply for this quite quickly. Grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 are available.

James said that if we also use the pool for hydrotherapy then we can apply for an NHS grant. At present you have to travel to Exeter for this treatment, but it only involves raising the pool temperature to at least 30 degrees for one day a week.

### **15. Discussion: Do we have to hold all the fundraising events in Cullompton**

We agreed that we could possibly hold some events elsewhere, such as Exeter, as we might then get a larger number of participants. But it would depend on what the event is and how many local people were expected to attend.

### **16. Fundraising Ideas**

Dave said he had a good list of fundraising ideas that he would circulate before the next meeting.

We can also approach shops, businesses, etc, and get some collecting tins for the Christmas lights parade.

Any other ideas should be emailed to Sarah.

The first event could be held just after the October public meeting or in November, but it was important that it didn't clash with any Christmas events.

Discuss further at the next meeting.

### **17. What Did the Previous Committee Do?**

The previous committee raised money by asking for £1 per person for membership of the pool. We felt that this was a one-off event and should not be repeated.

They also organised a sponsored walk around the town (about 2 miles) in 2004. Two of our members took part in this, but most hadn't heard about it, and it was poorly attended. We felt that it would have been much more successful if it had been given more publicity.

### **Consider Car Sharing Scheme to Tiverton Pool**

We agreed not to proceed with this for now.

### **Pre-selling Memberships**

We felt that this wasn't really a possibility at the moment because we can't sell something we don't yet have. Dave said he was willing to buy membership himself, on the basis that the money would be returned to him after 5 years if the pool wasn't built. But we agreed that it would be better if he gave the money as an official loan, or when the pool was much closer to being built.

### **Possible Pool Designs and Wishlist**

If any of us sees a pool, pool building, or pool equipment that we particularly like, we should take a photo of it. We will look at these at a later meeting.

### **Facebook Page**

We decided not to have a private Facebook page just for committee use, and would use email as the primary means of communication between members.

We agreed that our telephone numbers would not be published on our public Facebook page and website, but we were happy to give our names, roles and email addresses.

### **Any Other Business**

Dave and James will design a website for us.

We discussed visiting the Childrens' Centre, Youth Clubs, Schools, Clubs and Church groups to ask young people for their views and ideas, and to possibly have a Junior Committee.

It is important that we also involve the surrounding towns and villages in events and publicity.

James is compiling a list of pools that have been built/operated by charitable groups and volunteers, and we will put this on our Facebook page and website.

We are still getting a lot of negative feedback from people who don't think Cullompton will ever get a pool. In most cases it's because they don't understand that we are doing something different this time, rather than repeating something that's been done before. If we can make this clearer, have examples of places where it has worked elsewhere (and in smaller places than Cullompton) and get the word out to everyone, then this should help to combat the problem. We will discuss this further at the next meeting.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011, 7.00pm at The King's Head, Cullompton.

Please email Dave with anything that you feel should be included on the agenda. Committee meetings will be held every two weeks for the time being.