

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 27
Tuesday 9th April 2013, Padbrook Park, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair), James MacPherson, Lynn Craddock, Roy Gould, Mary Christie (minutes)

Apologies: Lynne Read, Sharon Vaughan, Chris Mussen, Helen Giles

1. Acceptance of previous minutes

Unanimous.

2. Updates and matters arising from previous minutes

Dave is compiling a list of local traders and needs help with this task. He said the list should be expanded to include all businesses, schools, nurseries and pre-schools, surgeries – and anyone else we can think of who might support the campaign, have lots of ink cartridges to recycle, take part in the Mile of 20ps, etc.

Dave will write a standard letter suitable for all types of organisation, telling them about the fundraising activities they can take part in and asking for their support.

Action Point – volunteers needed to help Dave compile the list of businesses/organisations, etc.

Action Point – Dave to write the letter asking for their support.

The architect has quoted £1 million to build the pool and said we must raise 15% of this (£150,000) locally. We already have approximately £30,000, so we need another £120,000 – and the sooner the better if we want to be taken seriously by funding organisations.

James mentioned the Seed Funding project, but it is only worth £5,000. Dave said we are currently raising around £6,000 per year when we really need to be raising ten times that amount: £60,000. We will not get anywhere near this figure by running our own events once every month or so. We need to request support from businesses and other organisations, both locally and further afield.

Roy and James said the Community Council of Devon would be able to advise us about this, and we could also look at social enterprise money.

Dave suggested offering the public annual memberships in advance, refundable in 10 years if the pool isn't built. We could also ask businesses (or the public) to donate money, but we need to think about what we could offer them in return.

Action Point – James to contact Nemo Shaw (Communities Council of Devon) regarding the legal situation of advance payment of annual memberships.

James suggested taking out a large newspaper advertisement requesting the public's support. The newspaper could demonstrate its support by increasing the size of the advertisement – for example we might only pay for half a page but get a full page.

Action Point – everyone to decide exactly what sort of support we need to ask for (to be discussed further at the next meeting).

James has put a business proposition to Nikki Woollatt, Mid Devon District Councillor, which involves Culm Valley Sports Centre combining with the swimming pool to become a joint community asset.

Action Point – James will meet Nikki again next month to discuss this further.

James said that under the Localities Planning Act we should survey local assets and list them as community assets, to be added to an asset register. This allows the community a right to bid for the asset, and be given first refusal, should it come up for sale. He recommended that we do this for the Hangar building and adjoining facilities at Padbrook Park which would form part of the pool complex.

MDDC Presentation

We have been asked to give a 15-minute presentation to the MDDC Community Well-being Development Group on Tuesday 28th May 2013. Letters of support from local businesses, plus survey/petition results, will be needed to back up the presentation.

Action Point – James, Dave, Lynne Read to hold a separate meeting about this, plan what they will say, and prepare a PowerPoint presentation.

Heathfield Project (East Sussex)

According to their website, the Heathfield pProject has planning permission for a full sports centre including a pool, which will cost approximately £4.5 million. Their local newspaper is supporting the project. Their co-ordinator is willing to offer us any advice she can.

Action Point – James to ask the Heathfield Trust Partnership for a letter of support for our campaign. We will look at forging a link with them at our next meeting.

3. Feedback from meeting with Sue Scargill at Padbrook Park

Dave reported that Sue was not interested in getting the legalities of Padbrook Park and the Swimming Pool Campaign resolved until we are much further forward, have raised a significant amount of the 15% we need to raise locally, and have a fairly firm completion date in mind for the pool. She was not willing to commit to more than a verbal agreement at this stage, but would be happy to donate the site on a free long-term lease, for a minimum of 80 years, once we have satisfied these requirements.

She is not happy with the labels we supplied for her charity collecting tins and requested that we supply her with 6 of our own tins, already labelled, and with security tags.

Action Point – James to order 6 additional collecting tins. Lynne to attach our labels and take them to Padbrook.

4. Fundraising Team Update

Charity Golf Day

The Charity Golf Day at Padbrook Park has been postponed until Weds 5th June due to the bad weather. We already have enough draw prizes.

Family Fun Day

Action Point – Dave and Mary to write a standard letter that can be used to invite all types of organisation to get involved in the event.

Action Point – Mary to contact all the organisations to be invited.

Action Point – Lynne Read to contact St. John's Ambulance to ask for their presence.

Action Point – Lynne Read to locate the electronic wire and loop game.

The charging policy for organisations supporting the event will be decided at the next meeting. We agreed that organisations will be able to promote themselves as well as helping to promote/raise funds for the swimming pool campaign.

Some committee members felt that the event should primarily be a promotional exercise rather than focusing on fundraising.

The Police Community Support Officer (Adrian Legg) will be leaving in June. His replacement (Katie Butt) has been sent an invitation to attend in his place.

Action Point – Lynne Read to print posters and provide signs and arrows for directions.

Mary and Chris have been to Padbrook and viewed the areas we have been allocated for the event. They will return at a later date to measure the site, and Chris will then produce a plan of where each activity/stall will go and assess each one for safety.

Action Point – Mary and Chris to revisit Padbrook to measure the site and create a detailed plan showing where each activity will be located

Anita North (Market House Inn) has offered the use of her PA system, but it is not very powerful. Mary will try to find a more powerful one.

Action Point – Mary to try to track down a more powerful PA system.

Roy agreed to transport the Town Council's awnings to Padbrook early on 7th July and take them back at the end of the day. Volunteers will be needed at approximately 7am and 4.30 pm to erect and dismantle them.

Action Point – Mary to ensure there are enough tables and to find tiles/wood to support the legs where they will be standing on soft soil.

Action Point – Mary to check the dimensions and height requirement of the bouncy castle and see if Padbrook will allow it to be located inside the hanger (subject to space) if it is raining on the day.

Action Point – Lynne Read to check that we comply with all insurance requirements for the event.

St Andrews School Fete

The Swimming Pool Campaign and the CCA have been allocated tables at St Andrews School Fete on Saturday 18th May. Volunteers are needed to run our stall.

Action Point – volunteers to be appointed at the next meeting

Willand Sunday Market

We only made £9 at our stall on 24th March. We therefore agreed that our next stall on 28th April (which we have been given free of charge) will be mostly for promotional purposes and to collect the names of supporters on our petition.

Cullompton Motorway Services Easter Collection

We collected £348.41 over the four days. This is significantly less than we expected. We agreed that any future collections there would be only at the busiest times:

Thursday 3pm – 9pm
Good Friday 10am – 6pm
Easter Monday 10am – 6pm

Dave suggested having another collection there over the August Bank Holiday. He also recommended holding monthly collections at Tesco (and also at Aldi when they open), where we are likely to get more support because the shoppers will be people who will use our pool. He recommended that we obtain a suitable mascot costume which one of us could wear during these collections. He has asked Sharon to bring a costume catalogue to one of our meetings.

Easter Egg Hunt

The Easter Egg Hunt raised £88. Almost no adults took part this time, they only paid for their children. Numbers were slightly down on last year.

Most people taking part were happy with the event, though they would like us to make it more interesting next year. Perhaps it could take place in a park or a field and be renamed the Easter Treasure Hunt.

Comedy Club Prize Draw

Sharon's raffle at the Tiverton comedy club raised £93.

5. Shop Update

Lynn Craddock reported that the shop was not doing too badly and made a profit of £181.65 in March. She agreed to manage the shop during May.

Dave said we might have to pay 20% business rates on the shop now that we are a charity – this would be around £200 per year. He has written to MDDC to inform them of our change of status and to ask for a discretionary rebate for the full amount.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30th April, 6.30pm at Padbrook Park.