

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 29
Tuesday 28th May 2013, Padbrook Park, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair), James MacPherson, Lynne Read, Roy Gould, Mary Christie (minutes)

Guest: Cat Margrie (Rubber Ducks Swim School, Wellington)

Apologies: Lynn Craddock, Sharon Vaughan

Absent: Chris Mussen, Helen Giles

1. Acceptance of previous minutes

Unanimous.

2. Updates and matters arising from previous minutes

Sharron Davies MBE has agreed to become our Patron.

Nikki Woollatt has a list of businesses in the area, which she has agreed to pass on to James.

We have not yet received a response/letter of support from Dr. Dixon.

3. Feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting

We agreed that this was a very positive meeting.

Following the meeting, the Town Council sent us an email confirming their support for the campaign. Councillor Leigh Brooks will attend our committee meetings as their official representative.

The Council would appreciate a private viewing of the site of the pool at Padbrook Park, including the architects plans and model. They would also like us to give a presentation to them.

Action Point – Lynne to arrange a date for our presentation.
[Update: this took place on Thursday 13th June.]

The plans for the site will not be available until 30th June, and the model won't be available until the 7th July. We will arrange a private viewing of the site once we have these.

Councillors Chaim Ebanks and Michael Spiers said they would be happy to advise the Feasibility Team on grant applications and business planning. Mayor Gordon Guest agreed to write a letter of support for the campaign.

Gary Clarke, chairman of Willowbank Primary School's PTFA also volunteered to help with grant applications. Lynne said she would also like advice from him on how to approach schools in order to get them involved in our campaign.

Action Point – Dave to invite Chaim Ebanks and Michael Speirs to a feasibility team meeting, and inform Leigh Brooks of the date of our next committee meeting.

Action Point James to contact Gary Clarke about grant applications.

4. Feedback from visit to South Molton Swimming Pool

Dave, James and Mary visited the pool before attending a public fundraising meeting with their committee members.

The pool opened in 1996. It is an indoor pool built on the site of an old outdoor pool that dates back to the 1960s. It is run as a charitable trust by a committee of volunteers. The pool is 20m by 10m, the shallow end is 0.9m and the deep end is 1.5m. (Some residents have reported that it is not deep enough for serious swimmers and they prefer to travel to Barnstaple.) It is heated by gas boilers.

They struggle with a lack of storage space and recommended that when planning our pool's facilities we should think 20 years ahead and build in expansion points that could be utilised as needed.

The manager said that many schools used the pool, including some from Barnstaple, as they can have the whole building to themselves. They find this a good security feature.

They have run successfully since 1996 without any additional fundraising, but they now feel the need to start fundraising again. They had a lot of support when fundraising to build to pool, but there seems to be little support for it now, and we were the only ones who attended their public meeting.

Their chairman reported that they had needed ASA support in order to qualify for grants to build the pool, but at that time the ASA would only support a 20m pool as it was within travelling distance of Barnstaple's 33m pool (12 miles away).

Cat suggested that we should approach the Swimming Teaching Association instead. Dave thought we might not qualify for the necessary grants if we did not go through the ASA. James felt that the rules would probably have changed since 1996. We will need to look into this further. Cat offered to contact the ASA about this as she has connections with them.

The South Molton team's main suggestion for fundraising activities was to hold a Pub-a-thon, where teams go from pub to pub competing at darts, pool, skittles, etc. We agreed that we would consider running this sort of event ourselves, although we understand something similar is planned for the Cullompton Festival.

5. Feedback from meeting with the Architect

Steve Eastland (architect) has agreed to attend the Family Fun Day and will display a set of plans for the pool together with a 3D computer model that will be on a laptop.

He will also present further plans for the whole site, which involve building a road bridge from Swallow Way, turning the current entrance road into an exit road, and turning the sports bar around so it faces the town. He felt this would integrate Padbrook Park into the town much better and present a more pleasing entrance which would encourage more people to use it.

He remains enthusiastic about the project and will try to help us come up with more fundraising ideas.

6. Fundraising Team update

Mary and Chris have visited Padbrook Park to inspect the site for the Family Fun Day.

Action Point – Chris to do a site assessment and plan the position of the stalls and activities.

Town Councillor Chris Snow has agreed to attend the event and will set up his PA system, which the choir will also be able to use. He will also bring CDs for background music.

Padbrook Park have temporary fencing we can use to keep people away from hazardous areas, and they have also agreed to let us use the driving range for the bouncy castle and welly wanging.

We still need a few more volunteers to help with running stalls and covering for people needing to take breaks.

Lynne said she would be unable to run her craft stall as she has no one to run it.

Lynne has purchased some blank banners for £7 and is able to get more if we want them. She will have a go at doing permanent and temporary lettering herself, so they can be reused.

Lynne's husband Pat is making two sets of roadside "paddles" to advertise the Family Fun Day.

Action Point – Lynne to provide the Town Council with details of our public liability insurance.

Cat offered the use of Wellington School's pool for a sponsored swim and proposed holding it on 9th or 10th November.

Mary proposed a sponsored cycle ride, perhaps to be run jointly with the CCA. The committee agreed that the canal tow path from Tiverton to Burlescombe (approximately 10 miles) was an appropriate route as it is a National Cycle Route.

We need to space out sponsored events throughout the year to avoid putting too much pressure on sponsors, so it was agreed that the cycle ride should be held in May 2014.

We did not have any volunteers available to run a stall at St. Andrews School Fair on 18th May. Lynn Craddock said she would attend and hand out leaflets, but we do not know whether she actually did this.

Jackie Henratty (Cullompton Community Centre) has invited us to have a stall at a fashion parade at the Community Centre in November (exact date not known). Mary has agreed to this in principle, but is awaiting further details.

Garage Sale: Lynne offered to hold a garage sale in her driveway and neighbour's driveway. This will take place after the Family Fun Day when we know what stock we have left to sell. Mary offered to sell refreshments on the day.

Recycling printer cartridges and mobile phones: Lynne said the recycling company would not accept most of the ones we have been given. She felt it was not worth continuing with this.

Cat offered to organise a barn dance at the pub where she works at Wellington. The committee were happy for her to go ahead as events held there in the past have been well supported. Although we would be happy to advertise the event, we warned her that she should not expect many Cullompton residents to attend.

Sue Scargill has agreed to donate a golf prize for the raffle at the Family Fun Day. She requested that we start selling raffle tickets ahead of the event.

7. Feasibility Team Update

Dave and James will organise a meeting of the Feasibility Team to discuss the questionnaire. [Update: this was held on Friday 14th June.]

Distributing the questionnaire. We debated whether to use William Gillings' leaflet distribution service but decided against it as he delivers several leaflets at the same time and we want ours to stand out. We therefore agreed to deliver them ourselves using volunteers.

Dave suggested numbering them so we could tell which ones had been returned and which would require a follow-up visit. He also suggested giving people a range of options when returning their forms, including dropping them off at the shop, putting them in collecting boxes in Tescos, village stores, etc, or answering the questions online.

James said we should not expect a very high response rate. Most people will ignore the questionnaire even if they want a pool.

8. Accounts Update

Signatories for the NS&I accounts have been updated, although not exactly as Lynne requested. She will leave things as they are for six months before closing the accounts and moving the money into a bank account. She still needs to sort out the Lloyds Bank account.

9. Shop Update

Dave will manage the shop during June.

The draw prize for June is a Canon printer/scanner/copier, which will be displayed in the shop window. Tickets will also be sold at the Street Fair and Town Fair on 29th/30th June, and at the Family Fun Day on 7th July where the winning ticket will be drawn at the end of the day.

Dave asked if the model number, specifications and recommended retail price could be displayed with the printer. Lynne agreed to do this.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 18th June, 6.30.pm at Padbrook Park