

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign

Committee meeting 31

Tuesday 9th July 2013, Padbrook Park

Present: Dave Haslett (Chairman), James MacPherson, Lynne Read, Mary Christie (minutes)

Apologies: Sharon Vaughan, Lynn Craddock, Cat Margrie, Roy Gould

Absent: Chris Mussen, Helen Giles, Leigh Brooks

1. Acceptance of previous minutes

An adjustment was requested by Lynne and the minutes were then accepted by the committee.

2. Updates and matters arising

James has begun compiling a list of businesses.

MDDC's letter of support mentions land available for the pool. James has found out that this is at the front of the Culm Valley Sports Centre, between the sports hall and the road. We previously considered this site ourselves when looking for sites for the pool, but ruled it out as it is on a flood plain. James said the Environment Agency could only advise MDDC that the area is on a flood plain, but it was up to MDDC to decide whether or not it could be built on.

Lynne and James attended an open Health Summit meeting, chaired by Dr Jenner from College Surgery. Dr Jenner is keen for Cullompton to have a swimming pool and offered his support. If we send him a letter asking for his support he will make sure the response from College Surgery is a positive one.

Action Point – Dave to write to Dr Jenner requesting a letter of support.

We are not allowed to give away prizes in order to encourage people to Like our Facebook page. This is against their terms of conditions, as MDDC found out recently when they tried to do this.

3. Review of the Family Fun Day

On the whole the Family Fun Day was successful. The total amount raised was £901.30.

The feedback from the people who came suggested that they had enjoyed having lots of activities to do, especially the range of games on offer. Nearly all the stalls and games were extremely successful. The outside agencies who supported us were excellent and 'thank you' cards will be sent to everyone who supported the event.

Issues to be aware of next time:

Hooking rings over bottles: the young lady running this stall was accosted by a large family group who pretended not to understand English, cheated on the game, and helped themselves to several bottles. We will need to set up a barrier to prevent people from getting too close to the bottles.

Coconut shy: the posts holding the coconuts were higher than anticipated as we couldn't hammer them far enough into the hard ground. This proved difficult for small children, who were upset that they couldn't throw the ball high enough to hit a coconut (hitting the post didn't count). In future a shorter target should be provided just for them.

We will need an event co-ordinator next time, who will be a single point of contact. This person will be in contact with all participants up to the minute the event opens, will carry a mobile phone during the event, and will make sure everyone knows the number to call if they need help or can't attend. The co-ordinator will also be responsible for trying to fill any gaps if someone lets us down at the last minute.

Positives:

Debbie (St John's Ambulance) will include us in the charities benefiting from the five half marathons she is aiming to complete next year. At least one of the runs will be specifically for us.

4. Review of architect's plans

The committee studied the plans which currently show a design for a 20m pool within the footprint of the existing building. This could easily be extended to a 25m pool by adding two more pillars to the end of the hangar and extending it out onto the gravelled area at the back. This would also allow the disabled changing area to be enlarged.

5. Fundraising Team update

Devonshire Homes has applied to build houses on the site of the derelict greenhouses behind Culm Lea. They have offered to make a contribution towards a swimming pool if the houses are built. Lynne said an objection had been raised due to traffic issues on the motorway junction. James said we should go ahead and write to Devonshire Homes anyway, to make sure they are aware of our campaign.

Action Point – James to write to Devonshire Homes.

Dave has designed posters for the sponsored walk (25th August), which Lynne will print, ready for distribution.

Lynne said she would not be able to drive the support vehicle this year as she will be away that day.

Fashion Fundraising

Mary attended a planning meeting for this event, which will take place on Saturday 23rd November at the Community Centre. Local charity shops will present a fashion show to showcase their best clothing, which will be on sale at the event. Other groups will offer various therapies. We have been invited to have a promotional stall and to sell items such as T-shirts and good quality jewellery. In exchange they would like us to help organise a draw, sell tickets, and act as stewards on the day.

We agreed that we would attend the event, and we will set aside any decent jewellery that comes into the shop so we can sell it at the event.

6. Feasibility Team update

We are waiting to see if the CCA, Town Team or Town Council want to add questions to our questionnaire, in exchange for helping us deliver it. We have not yet received any responses. Lynne suggested setting a cut-off date of 1st September.

7. Shop update

Dave will manage the shop for the rest of July, and Lynne will manage it during August and possibly also September.

There is a shortage of volunteers at the moment as many of them go away for the summer or look after grandchildren. Several volunteers have also found full-time work recently.

Dave has been in touch with the landlord of the empty shop next to the launderette, but he is refurbishing it to a high standard and wants to recoup his costs, so the rent will be far more than we can afford. James suggested approaching the Town Team to see if we can take advantage of shops which are currently empty.

8. Any other business

We are running out of campaign T-shirts. Dave and Lynne will look at ordering some more. We particularly need L, XL and children's sizes. They cost us £4.80 each and we sell them for £5.00, so they cover their cost

Lynne said some people did not understand the purpose of our shop. She suggested putting a large sticker across the top of the window to explain that its purpose is to raise funds for a swimming pool.

We are still having storage issues. James said he would see if he can find a piece of land we can use, and he and Dave will then look at purchasing a shed to erect on it.

Action Point – James to see if he can find some land to put a shed on.

Ensuring effective communication

Mary volunteered to compile a campaign directory, including full contact details of everyone connected with the campaign. She requested that every committee member sends her contact details of all the interested parties they are in touch with, including volunteers, businesses, local and national organisations, community groups, councils, and other charities.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 30th July, 6.30pm at Padbrook Park