

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee meeting 33
Tuesday 20th August 2013, Padbrook Park

Present: Dave Haslett (Chairman), Lynne Read, Lynn Craddock, Chris Mussen, Roy Gould, Mary Christie (minutes), Cat Margrie

Apologies: James MacPherson

Absent: Helen Giles, Sharon Vaughan

1. Acceptance of previous minutes

Unanimous.

2. Updates and matters arising from previous minutes

Dave asked at the Cullompton Traders Association's August meeting whether anyone had any storage space. No one had, but there were very few people at that meeting due to holidays. The chairman (Jerry Allen) said he would pass the word around.

Action Point – everyone to look out for storage space. This could be a piece of land where we could put a shed, an unused garage, an empty office or back room, a corner of a warehouse or barn, or whatever we can get.

3. Discussion regarding potential new shop premises

We considered the pros and cons of moving into the larger shop premises at 15 Fore Street.

Pros: much more space, will allow us to expand the range of items to sell, office space, some storage space, laundry and sorting space, our own self-contained facilities, a newer and cleaner environment with a much higher standard of decoration, easy loading/unloading space outside, better location in the centre of town, front and back entrances.

Cons: higher rent plus utility bills (some costs not yet known), costs involved with moving (carpet, heating, shelving, signage, etc.) and a lack of volunteers – we would need two staff in the shop at a time rather than the one we have at present. Sorting and cleaning donated items (particularly clothing) will be time consuming.

If we can get enough volunteers it is crucial that they are reliable – we have lost many of our regulars over the summer once again, due to holidays and family commitments.

Action Point – Dave to issue a press release and post messages on website and Facebook asking for more volunteers so we can take on the new shop.

Action Point – Everyone to encourage new volunteers to join us.

Cat suggested that older schoolchildren could work in the shop for their work experience. We could mention this to the schools when contacting them.

If we decide to take on the new shop, we hoped to start out with a six-month lease initially.

Having looked at the shop, we felt that additional storage space would still be needed.

We felt that we did not want to share the shop with another organisation that sold anything – anything where money is involved could lead to problems. We discussed inviting the Town Council to share the cost of the shop, perhaps using half of it as a tourist information centre. However they would not be able to make a quick decision on this, they have limited funds, and the landlord needs our answer by the end of the month. So realistically we would be looking at taking on the whole shop ourselves.

[Update: an emergency meeting was held to discuss the shop on 30th August, as several of the items discussed above had been resolved by then. We agreed that we would go ahead with the new shop.]

We do not need to register for VAT if we only sell donated goods.

4. Fundraising Team update

Our Sponsored Walk takes place this Sunday 25th August. The Football Club is having a Family Fun Day on the same day, but it should not interfere with the walk. Our registration stand should be set up by 8.45am, ready for walkers to arrive at 9am. The walk begins at 9.15am. We have sufficient volunteers to cover the start, 1 and 3 mile turning points, first aid and safety car.

Car boot sale at Dawlish Warren on Thursday 22nd August. Mary and Dave will attend, selling everything for 50p unless specially priced.

Sponsored swim at Welling ton School on Saturday/Sunday 9th/10th November. Dave recommended following the same plan that the BT Swimathon (now British Gas Swim Britain) uses. This would involve teams of four swimming 200 lengths [update Swim Britain is 160 lengths – 40 lengths per person – 10 lengths at a time.] Lynne said she would prefer to swim alone and complete her lengths in a single session.

Charity Fashion Show at the Community Centre on Saturday 23rd November, 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We will need to provide volunteers to sell draw tickets, man our promotional stall and jewellery stall, and act as stewards to show people in and direct them to the various therapies taking place upstairs. Mary, Chris, Lynn, Lynne and Dave agreed to cover these roles.

The other three charity shops in Cullompton will be presenting the fashion show and providing the clothing and models for the catwalk. There will be rails of clothing and accessories on sale in a side room. The total takings for the evening will be shared between the four charities taking part (after £100 has been deducted and given to the community centre to cover their overheads). Tickets will be sold in advance at £5 per person. Refreshments will be available.

Mary will attend a further fashion show meeting on Monday 9th September and will provide an update at our next committee meeting.

Action Point – more volunteers are needed – a total of nine or ten would be ideal. Please contact Mary if you can help, or if you know someone who can.

Easter Egg Hunt update. This year's Easter Egg Hunt raised £88. Feedback from those taking part was that it was boring, as it was almost identical to the previous year. Mary suggested choosing a different venue for next year, such as a park or playground, and hiding the clues. We will discuss

this again at a future meeting.

5. Feasibility Team update

Cullompton Town Council has agreed to support our questionnaire, and some of the councillors will assist in knocking on doors, in exchange for adding up to five leisure-related questions of their own. They will also contribute towards the printing costs, either by printing the questionnaires in-house or by allowing us to apply for a grant to cover the cost of having them printed. We agreed that we would need 10,000 copies.

Action Point – Lynne to obtain quotes for the cost of printing.

Action Point – Lynne to make sure the Town Council is aware that the questionnaire will also be going to towns and villages outside Cullompton – the whole Culm Valley.

6. Accounts Update

Lynne has been working with the CCA's Treasurer, Nick Savage, to make sure that all our accounts are in order and completely transparent. In order to do this she has introduced some new procedures that all committee members must adhere to.

Committee members must pay any expenses themselves and then claim for reimbursement on our official form (a receipt must also be provided). Expenses forms should be presented at committee meetings, where reimbursement will be agreed if appropriate.

No money is to be taken out of the shop takings etc to cover the cost of any items (except for the electricity meter – this should be recorded on the daily sales sheet).

Payments for larger items should be agreed by the committee in advance and a cheque will be issued.

Every committee member will be given a book of receipts and must issue one for every donation of £10 or more. Whenever money is received, two people (one whom must be independent) must be present while the money is counted. Both people's names should then be entered on the receipt.

Small change can be put in the collecting tin or 20p tube in the shop and does not need a receipt. Other donations (below £10) should be put in the cash box and recorded on the daily sales sheet in the "other" column.

Anyone returning a full tube of 20ps must be given a receipt. (Coins in the tube will need to be counted in front of the person who returned it.)

Lynne issued everyone at the meeting with a receipt book and expense form.

Action Point – Lynne to get the previous committee's Lloyds Bank account transferred over to us.

Action Point – Dave to issue an invoice for £50 to Seat, Exeter for the display of their Seat Leon at the Family Fun Day

7. Any Other Business

Lynne wanted to record her thanks to Trevor Watkins, who is an excellent shop volunteer and constantly steps in to fill gaps.

Chris suggested holding an auction of promises. We agreed to discuss this at our next meeting.

Cat Margrie officially joined the committee (proposed by Lynne, seconded by Lynn, vote unanimous).

Dave said that in the days before the National Lottery, public facilities such as swimming pools were funded by public subscription. Lynne said there was no reason why we couldn't use this method again.

Action Point – Dave to find out more about what is involved.

The secretary of Culmstock School knows the person who designed the logo for one of the first swimming pool campaigns. We agreed that it would be worth contacting this person.

Action Point – Lynne to get in contact with Culmstock School after the summer holidays.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 10th September, 6.30pm at Padbrook Park