

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign

Committee Meeting 43

Wednesday 22nd April 2014

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair), Lynne Read, Mary Christie (minutes), Camille Harrison, Meryle Staddon, Kevin Hurford, Roy Gould

Apologies: Joyce Giffard, Lynn Craddock, Cat Margrie

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Unanimous.

2. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Dave will visit a potential storage space in Kentisbeare on 23rd April.

Dave has discussed potential routes for the sponsored walk (Sunday 17th August) with Nick Savage, and they agreed that the best option would be to follow our usual route to the canal via Willand, the cycle path and Tiverton Parkway station, but then turn left and walk back to the canal basin in Tiverton. This is 13 miles rather than the usual 18. Walkers would need transport back to Cullompton afterwards. Roy suggested that we could arrange to have tea (organised by ourselves) in or around the refreshment barge at the end of the walk (at about 5.30pm).

The Football Club have not responded to Dave's enquiries about the car boot sales they said they would organise over the summer. Lynne said she understood they had already held one, though none of us had seen anything about it and apparently it was not well attended.

Action Point – Dave to try contacting the Football Club again.

Lynne has visited Sue Scargill at Padbrook Park. Although the last 5 years have been difficult for them, things are looking much brighter now. Sue continues to support the pool and is happy for us to hold the Family Fun Day there again this year. She confirmed that Sunday 7th Sept will be suitable. She also said the indoor bowls hall is now unused and might be a good place to put the pool.

Emails we have sent to Sue do not seem to have been getting through, and she would like to keep in touch with us more often.

Action Point – Dave to email Sue to re-establish communication, and also to suggest that a member of Padbrook's staff joins our committee to improve joint communication.

Lynne agreed that we would advertise Padbrook's Sunday Carvery in our shop.

The Auction of Promises raised £700 and our collection day at Tesco raised £255.44. Dave suggested doing another Tesco collection when Devonshire Homes presents us with their donation, as this will be a big news story and the campaign will be uppermost in everyone's minds.

Aldi have officially said they do not support local charities, but their manager has already donated 2 crates of Christmas cards to our shop and given vouchers for a draw for people who complete the

Neighbourhood Planning Team's survey, so he is clearly quite flexible about this arrangement. Hopefully he will be able to provide raffle prizes, etc.

3. Shop Update

Our shop has been assessed by a friend of Lynne's who manages a charity shop and trains volunteers. She has provided a great deal of advice about how the shop can be improved and what items can be sold. Lynne has discussed the major issues with Dave, who has agreed that the necessary changes can be made.

It is important to note that officers from Trading Standards could visit the shop at any time to check that everything on sale complies with the law. Hand-knitted toys cannot be sold as we have no proof that the dyes are safe or parts will not come loose. All toys must have a CE label – if they do not then we must dispose of them.

Electrical items must be PAT tested, and those who carry out the testing may be liable for damages if any problems occur after the items are sold.

Action Point – Lynne to find out about the legal position of PAT testers. Lynne also to inform all volunteers about what we can and cannot sell.

The stock needs to be refreshed regularly. Lynne will look into the best way of managing this.

Lynne will organise a rota of people who can take things to the rubbish tip. Kevin, Mary and Camille agreed to take turns.

Clothing

Camille has purchased a selection of sizing tags.

There was a discussion about the pricing of clothing, but the matter was left unresolved. Lynne proposed having regular sales to shift old stock. Mary said she had already begun implementing this and would continue to work on it, as it had proved successful in another shop she visited.

Lynne emphasised the importance of not overloading the clothing rails in case they collapse.

She also proposed displaying clothing in the window, as we have not done this since the shop opened. Mary will pick out some attractive clothing for a window display.

Mary said that garages will pay £6 or more for a bag of absorbent rags. We agreed that this was something we could do, as we receive plenty of suitable material that would otherwise be thrown out.

Action Point – Mary to fill a bag with rags made from donated clothing/bedding that is unsuitable for sale, as a trial.

Lynne said the volunteers were starting to come back to the shop again, and she is aiming to have two people on duty at all times, as we originally planned.

She also said an expensive digital camera had been donated to the shop, but she felt it would make more money if we sold it on eBay. Camille agreed to do this.

Action Point – Lynne to let Camille have details of the camera. Camille to put the camera on eBay.

New product ideas

Mary reminded everyone that she would like them to try to come up with unique products to sell in the shop – for example, things they could make themselves.

Action Point – everyone to try to come up with one idea for a product.

4. Fundraising Update

Auction of Promises

The auction went very well, but there were problems afterwards as we had no proper system for managing the administration.

Mary said the lighting was poor in the area where she was working, and we needed a better filing system to keep everything in order. Lynn C said she had not received any instructions on how to collect money from winning bidders or who to distribute the thank you cards to. We agreed that we would need to make some improvements for next time.

Coffee morning

Lynne and Camille are planning to hold a coffee morning at the Baptist Church Hall on Saturday 14th June, to coincide with the Farmers Market. They intend selling some things from the shop, having jewellery and tombola stalls, and letting other traders have stalls for £5, which should cover the cost of hiring the hall.

We have been asked to have a stall at the CCA's fair, but as everyone is busy with the shop and the survey we do not have anyone available to run it.

Fashionable Fundraising (Thursday 1st May)

Mary will email the event timetable to all the volunteers. We have been asked to arrive at 6.00pm to set up, with visitors arriving from 7.00pm. Barclays Bank have agreed to match whatever is raised on the night, and the money will then be split equally between the swimming pool campaign, HospisCare and Cullompton Friends.

Sponsored Cycle Ride (Sunday 18th May) [update: now Sunday 25th May]

Dave and Kevin will cycle from Tiverton to Burlescombe along the canal tow path, stop for refreshments, then cycle back to Tiverton – total distance 20 miles. Lynne will print sponsor forms. We do not need posters as we will individually approach sponsors. Mary and Lynne can transport the bicycles.

Action point – Lynne to photograph Dave and Kevin for a press release to be issued in advance of the cycle ride.

Action Point – Camille to look at setting up a JustGiving page for online donations.

5. Survey Update

The survey needs to be delivered to every household in Cullompton by the end of May. Due to the limited number of volunteers and the time constraints, we will not be able to call on people and take them through the survey questions. Instead we will have to post the forms through their letterboxes.

We will number each form and record which house it was delivered to, so we can visit them at a later date if they have not returned their form. Dave has bought an automatic numbering machine and Lynne is in the process of numbering all the forms. Dave will prepare numbered sheets to go in each pack of 50 forms, so volunteers can record the street/house number alongside the relevant form number.

6. Charitable Status

Lynne read out our revised constitution, which we agreed when we joined the CCA. She felt that the CCA had changed the terms of the agreement, without our approval, leaving us at a disadvantage. We have been charged a large sum of money to have our accounts fully audited by their accountant, when we only agreed to an occasional inspection of our accounts. She also felt that some of the decisions made by the CCA Council were not democratic.

We should therefore obtain charitable status in our own right at the earliest opportunity and become a separate organisation again.

We will need 3 trustees – the CCA are currently our trustees. Ashley Wilce and Pat Read have offered to become two of our trustees, so we would only need one more.

Roy is continuing to investigate the various options for charitable status. Several people have told us that becoming an Industrial and Provident Society for the Benefit of the Community (IPS/bencom) is the right way to go, though there are some newer options that also need to be investigated.

Dave agreed to become our official representative on the CCA Council. Lynne will remain an independent member.

7. Any Other Business

Dave asked committee members who had not yet provided a photo and mini biography for our website to let him have them as soon as possible. The website will look much more professional if everyone has a proper entry.

Important dates

Tuesday 6th May: Cullompton Traders Association – Dave and Roy will attend.

Wednesday 7th May: CCA AGM – Dave and Lynne will attend.

Thursday 8th May: Annual Parish Meeting – Dave, Roy, Mary and Lynne will attend.
[update: just Dave and Roy]

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 13th May 2014, 6:30pm at Lynne's house.