

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign

Committee meeting 46

24th June 2014 – Padbrook Park

Present: Dave Haslett (Chair + minutes), Lynne Read, Camille Harrison, Lynn Craddock, Meryle Staddon, Roy Gould

Apologies: Mary Christie, Cat Margrie, Kevin Hurford, Joyce Giffard

1. Acceptance of previous minutes

Unanimous.

2. Updates and matters arising from previous minutes

Dave has invited the architect Steve Eastland to look at the indoor bowls hall and redraw the plans for the pool. Steve has said he will come along as soon as he can find the time. He will also put us in touch with some contacts who are in the swimming pool business and may be able to help us.

The CCA would like to have a meeting with us. Dave, Mary and Camille will attend, but they aren't all available at the same time for several weeks so the meeting will probably have to wait until August. We have previously agreed that we want to return to being an independent group which is not a part of the CCA, and that we will do this when we have established our own charity status. We will need to ensure that the control of the money we have raised is returned to us.

Dave and Lynne R attended the most recent CCA meeting. The CCA is very short of funds and is finding it almost impossible to raise any money. They need to raise £200 per month to keep going, but can't seem to see any way of achieving this. They're struggling to carry out basic maintenance as they have no money.

The only idea they came up with was to hold a car boot sale in collaboration with the football club. We had previously arranged to do this ourselves, but the football club went ahead without telling us, didn't seem to advertise it (although they dispute this), and didn't get any customers. We agreed that there was no point in pursuing this any further and will leave it to the CCA. If anyone has any other fundraising ideas the CCA could use, please let Dave or Lynne know and they will pass them on.

Dave and Lynne commended our own fundraising efforts, which are in a different league to the CCA's and most other groups in the town – it is all down to the enormous amount of hard work everyone has put in.

3. Accounts update

We have received a £50 grant from Cullompton Town Council. We agreed that this should be used to cover the cost of buying the till for the shop. We will send the council a photo to show what the money was used for.

Action Point – Lynne to provide a receipt for the till so we can reimburse her.
Dave/Camille to send a photo of the till (in action) to the Town Council with a covering letter thanking them.

Camille has just emptied the collecting tin in the shop and there was over £50 in it.

We still have a Lloyds Bank account which needs to be closed and the balance (if there is one) transferred to our main NatWest account.

Action Point – Camille to look into this.

Action Point – Dave to track down the former signatories to the NS&I account (Carla and Sean) and get them to sign the form to close the account.

Camille will ask the CCA's Treasurer to let Dave have a copy of our accounts to post online. They have not yet been signed off by the CCA's trustees even though they were accepted at their AGM in May. [Update: Dave has now received the accounts.]

We have one spare 100 Club number for July – December 2014. We will try to sell this at the Town Fayre. [Update: sold.]

Mile of 20p Coins

The Mile of 20p Coins challenge has raised £745 to date, which is about 5% of our target. Distance-wise this equates to about 82 metres or 89 yards. We agreed that we should relaunch the challenge as it will raise £15,000 if we can complete it.

Lynne R said we should have a big display in the shop window, perhaps using our large 20p as a graph to show the amount collected. We might need to reduce the initial target to 1/4 mile to make it look more achievable. We already have a linear graph, but due to a miscalculation too many squares have been filled in. (It shows that we have raised about £1,800.)

We originally planned to write to every business and school in the area asking them to try to collect enough 20p coins to span the width of their premises. However, we haven't yet managed to compile the list of businesses.

Action Point – Relaunch the 20p Mile challenge with a promotion in the shop window.

4. Shop update

Lynne R circulated details of the takings since the new shop opened in October. Takings for the last 3 months have all been around £1,500.

Most of the donations in the shop's collecting tin are actually from electrical items that have been 'sold' in the shop. Lynne wondered if this could be counted towards the shop's takings, but Camille felt it would be better to keep it listed under 'donations'.

We need another clothes rail in the shop – we have one stored upstairs but can't access it until everything has been taken to storage.

Pat Read will put some shelves in the storage space upstairs when it has been cleared.

Everything that needs to go to storage has now been boxed up and labelled. Dave will take it to storage this week. [Update: done.]

The majority of members at the meeting were against having music playing in the shop.

Lynn C reported that the shop was running short of books as none have been donated for a while. Dave said he would try to pick out a couple of bags of decent books from the ones he has been storing, though most of what he has left are probably only fit for recycling.

Shop manager

Now that the shop has been properly reorganised it is time look at recruiting a new manager.

Duties will involve:

being the named contact for the shop
keeping the shop ticking over
ensuring the shop is clean and safe and ready to open each morning
ensuring that donated items are in good condition, clean, priced and put out for sale
cashing up at the end of the day
ensuring the recycling is ready for collection each week
ensuring the rota is filled in
filling in for occasional sessions when no one else is available

There is no need for the manager to be in the shop all the time – it is not (and should not be) a full time job.

Action Point – Job description to be approved at the next meeting and then advertised.

In the meantime, Lynn C will collect the money from the shop each night if Lynne R is away.

PAT testing

Lynne reported that anyone carrying out PAT tests on electrical items would be legally liable if an item we sold turned out to be faulty. We therefore agreed that we would not sell used electrical items, but would continue to display them ‘as seen’ and accept donations only. Pat Read will continue to test everything to ensure it is safe and working, but he will not certify it as PAT tested. This system has been working well and customers have been donating reasonable amounts.

Street Fair

Cullompton’s annual Street Fair is on Saturday 28th June so it should be well worth keeping the shop open for the whole day. The morning session is already covered and Lynn C agreed to cover the afternoon session until 4pm.

5. Fundraising update

Sponsored cycle ride

The sponsored cycle ride took place on Thursday 19th June. Dave and Lynne R both completed 20 miles.

Action Point – Everyone to bring their sponsor forms and sponsor money to the next meeting.

Culm Valley Learning Community sponsored sports day – Fri 27th June, 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Lynne apologised that she would not now be able to attend this. Dave and Camille will attend to sell raffle tickets and collect money in collecting buckets. It will take place at Willowbank Primary School’s sports field, which is on the right at the start of the lane leading up to the rugby club.

Representatives from the Learning Community will be coming to our shop with a photographer from the Gazette on Monday 7th July to present us with a cheque. This will be an ideal opportunity to get as many committee members and volunteers together for a group photo.

[Update: the sports day was cancelled due to bad weather. A couple of the schools have since held their own events and sent us the money.]

Town Fayre – Sunday 29th June

The site (rugby club) will be open from 7.30 am and we must be set up by 10 am. The lane to the rugby club will be closed to vehicles from 10 am. The fayre opens at 11 am. We agreed that we would arrive between 9.00 am and 9.30 am. Meryle will collect the items we need for the stall from Lynne R and the shop and take them to the rugby club at 9.30 am on Sunday morning.

Those attending will be Roy (with float), Dave, Meryle, Lynn C and Mary (from 1.30 pm). One person will be needed to sell tickets for the ferret racing and pay the winners of each race – we will keep all the profits from this.

We agreed that we would display posters about the campaign, hand out our information leaflets, try to recruit new committee members and volunteers, advertise the sponsored walk and Family Fun Day, sell t-shirts, raffle an ebook reader, sell the one remaining 100 Club number, and try to get Cullompton residents to fill in their survey forms if they haven't returned them yet. Roy will bring the float which displays a tableau of some of the activities that will be available when the pool opens.

Celebrating Cullompton with Flowers, Arts & Crafts – 4th – 6th July

Mary and Dave will set up our stall on Thursday 3rd July and dismantle it on Monday 7th.

Rota for manning the stall:

Friday 4th

10am – 1pm: Mary, 1pm – 3.30pm: Camille, 3.30pm – 5pm: Dave

Saturday 5th

10am – 1.30pm: Mary, 1.30pm – 3.00pm (closed for wedding), 3.00pm – 5pm: Dave

Sunday 6th

Regular church services in the morning and Mary will attend the Songs of Praise in the afternoon, so no one else is needed.

Float

We felt that the float could be made a little more eye-catching and inviting with the addition of some bunting, some of our t-shirts hanging up, and one of our paddling pools.

Plymtree Fair – Monday 25th August (bank holiday)

We have applied to have a stall at this event, but they now have a different person in charge and the field they usually use is not available so they are having to use a different one. Lynne will send the dimensions of our stall and float to the organiser to see if they can fit us in, but there is no guarantee at the moment.

Lynne will have her own stall at the event and will advertise our campaign on it if we can't get in ourselves.

Action Point – Lynne to send the details of our stall and float to the event organiser.

Christmas Lights Parade

We aren't sure about the date of this yet. It's usually the first Saturday in December, but the traders have asked for it to be moved to the last Saturday in November. The Town Council will fund the lights but will not run the event, and neither the traders nor the Town Team want to take it on. The town clerk will be calling a meeting for interested people to come forward to help run it.

Other fundraising matters

Lynne R felt we were taking on too much at the moment and piling the pressure on ourselves, and we need to be careful. Unfortunately there are a lot of events all going on at the same time and we do need to be involved in them. Things will calm down in July but we will need to advertise and collect sponsors for the Walking Half Marathon and continue planning the Family Fun Day.

Action Point – Dave and Lynn C to arrange to visit Kia-Ora gardens.

6. Survey update

Cullompton has been just about completed. We have had about 540 responses so far.

When we distribute the survey in other towns and villages we will need to arrange for them to have local collecting points to return their surveys to – e.g. post offices or village shops.

Lynne R will organise a team of people to print, collate, staple, number and fold the next batch of forms.

7. Any other business

Dave is still awaiting biographies for the website from Meryle, Joyce and Kevin.

Date of next meeting

Next committee meeting Tuesday 15th July, 6.30pm at Padbrook Park.

Fundraising meetings at Mary's House, 7pm on Thursday 26th June and Friday 18th July.