

**Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 49
Tuesday 19th August 2014 – Padbrook Park**

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

Apologies: Cat Margrie, Camille Harrison, Joyce Giffard, Kevin Hurford

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes were not available in time for the meeting, but were circulated by email the following day and accepted unanimously.

2. Accounts update

The second account we had with Lloyds Bank has now been closed and we are awaiting a cheque from them to pay into our Nat West account.

3. Shop update

We agreed to continue with the shop for a further 6 months.

Action point – Dave to notify the landlords.

The landlords are in the process of handing over the day-to-day running of their properties to their daughter. They will be visiting the shop with her in the near future so she can have a good look at it. They will advise us of the date and time of their visit.

Pat Read has cleaned the carpet in the shop. It will need going over a few more times to get it completely clean. It is quite worn in places but should last for another year.

Pat has also fitted a clothing display rail on the wall in the window, secured the black plastic shelving to the wall upstairs, and repaired a clothing rail. The clothing rail upstairs is quite fragile and should be treated with care.

The shelves were overloaded with winter clothing, so this has now been put in the storage area.

Pinnacle have been in touch to ask if we still want their help in supplying temporary volunteers – each one comes in for a 4-week placement. We agreed that we do still want their help, but as their volunteers tend to have personal issues we could only take one a time. Any problems with their volunteers (such as them not turning up) should be reported directly to Pinnacle and not discussed with the volunteers themselves. All volunteers will have been vetted and approved by Pinnacle before they come to us. They will have to work alongside one of our regular volunteers and should not be left to run the shop alone. There is always plenty of cleaning and dusting they can get on with – eg windows, upstairs work surfaces and sink, etc.

Lynne has written the shop takings for the last 3 months on a board in the window, and this has generated a lot of interest. Lynne offered to produce a more professional-looking printed version, but we felt the handwritten look was more appealing and it should stay as it is.

First Aid

The volunteer policies from Involve state that we must have a qualified first aider available whenever the shop is open. Debbie Vinnicombe from St John's Ambulance was surprised by this and said very few other shops in Cullompton have one. Although we are not able to have a qualified first aider on the premises at all times, we could partner with one of the other businesses nearby that has one. Mary suggested surveying them to see which ones have someone we could call upon.

[Update: we do not need to have a qualified first aider available at all times, but the shop volunteers must know what to do in case of emergency – e.g. to call 999 and ask for an ambulance. An advisory notice will be displayed in the shop.]

4. Feedback from meeting with Involve

Dave and Camille met Involve's manager, Duncan Wood, expecting to be provided with templates for the policies we need to have in place before they can recruit volunteers for us. But it turned out that they can do a lot more than that, including helping us become a charity. We discussed the various options with him and agreed that we should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) at the foundation level. These means we can manage the charity ourselves. At a later date we can (and should) move to the higher level and have external members, but this is unnecessary at the moment. Setting up the charity should take between 6 and 8 weeks. We will then have our own charity number and be able to separate from the CCA.

Dave and Camille will meet Duncan again on 27th August, by which time we should have completed all the policy documents.

5. Grant applications

We will need to obtain a written agreement from the owners of Padbrook Park in the near future to clarify exactly what they intend to provide – i.e. a fixed-term, rent-free lease of the indoor bowls hall, together with an area that can be converted into changing rooms, and adequate parking spaces. This agreement will be vital in obtaining the larger grants we need. But we don't want the lease to begin until we are ready to start building.

██████ has (verbally) offered us a grant of at least £40,000 but the money must be spent within 2 years. We are not in a position to be able to do this, so we can't make a formal application to them yet. But they have said will welcome our application when we are ready, and they are impressed with what we have done. We now need to contact similar organisations (such as ██████) to see if they will do the same thing. When we can get verbal agreements from enough of them to cover the full cost of building the pool then we can make formal applications to them all to get the money, and we will be able to spend it within the timescale they stipulate.

6. Getting More Volunteers/Committee Members/Helpers

While our profile is going up, we need to get the message out to people that we will need a lot more help if we are to get the pool built. There are not enough of us on the committee to do everything that needs to be done – we need to at least double in size. We need more people volunteering in the shop. The shop needs to be properly managed. We need people out doing the surveys. We need more people to organise the fundraising activities next year.

The Family Fun Day should be covered in the local press afterwards, along with a write-up of how well we are doing. We need to build on this and use it as a platform to try and recruit more help.

Since the hydrotherapy pool will be for Tiverton as well, we should get them involved in fundraising too. We might need to consider changing the name of the pool – it will be Cullompton’s community swimming pool, but Mid Devon’s hydrotherapy pool.

We agreed that we would hold a private tour of the site of the pool at 10.00 am on the morning of the Family Fun Day. We will invite Cullompton Town Council, the doctors’ surgeries (including Tiverton), the physiotherapists at Tiverton hospital, all the schools, and the local press.

Action point – Roy to compile a list of surgeries in Tiverton. Dave to send out the invitations.

7. Feedback from meeting with the architect (Steve Eastland Design Ltd)

Dave met Steve Eastland and they discussed possible layouts for the pool(s) in the bowls halls. Steve recommended putting the hydrotherapy unit on the opposite side to the one we suggested, so that it could be a fully enclosed space with its own side entrance off the car park. He will ask the owners of Padbrook Park if we can put the plant room alongside the changing rooms, using the corridor and a small amount of space at the back of the hangar.

Action Point – Mary to contact Vranck House when the new term begins to ask them to come along and visit our site with the architect.

The architect will produce a rough plan and cost estimate free of charge. However we will eventually need a much more detailed plan, and a full technical specification and breakdown of the costs, and this will cost between £7,000 and £10,000 to produce. We should be able to get a grant to cover this.

He will set up another meeting with his fundraising contact who will be able to advise on how to approach people for the bigger grants.

He will also talk to his contacts at Exeter University to see if he can get them to help us. We asked their Business School for help previously, and although the staff seemed keen, the students did not respond when we asked for their help to carry out the feasibility study. Steve thought the staff would be able to give us some technical support and advice.

8. Social Media

Matt Francis has taken over running our Facebook page and Twitter, and will also look at promoting our campaign on other social media platforms. He seems to be doing a good job so far, with messages and photos appearing two or three times a day. He would like us to send him as much news, photos and videos as we can so he can keep pushing it out and keep the public engaged in the campaign.

He suggested having a Bargain of the Day in the shop window, which he will also promote online. The Town Team is giving the shops sheep-shaped blackboards to put in the windows to promote their special offers, so our board could be used for that purpose. We thought a Bargain of the Week would be more manageable to start with.

Someone posted a comment on our Facebook page to say the design for the pool looked uninspiring. They travel outside the area to use fun pools, and felt this was the sort of thing Cullompton should have, not another regular pool. Dave responded to her message to say that the

two previous fun pools in the area had closed as they were not sustainable. Our research shows that the majority of people do not want to travel to use a pool, and they want a regular pool that will be flexible enough for swimming, fun sessions, and all sorts of water sport activities. The same lady then posted a further critical message saying this was exactly the sort of response she expected from us.

Action point – Dave to ask the lady to come to one of our future meetings to present her views, with a view to joining us to help with designing the pool, ensuring it will be sustainable, and raising the funds to build it.

The Cullompton Neighbourhood Planning Group has published the results of its Youth Preference Survey. 70% of those who responded wanted a swimming pool – this was the most-requested facility. We will need to follow this up and try to get some of those who responded to come and join us.

9. Fundraising

Feedback from the Walking Half Marathon

24 people (and 9 dogs) took part. Several people said they were impressed that the walk was professionally organised. They liked the route, and loved the cream tea at the end. Several of them said they will bring more people along next time.

Everyone completed the full route of 13.1 miles, apart from one very young boy who walked 3 miles and was then taken home by Mary. There were no injuries and the first aid kit was not used.

The walkers became much more spread out along the route than we had anticipated, with the first walkers finishing around 90 minutes ahead of the last ones. This meant that marshals were not able to get to their next mile points in time as they were still waiting for slower walkers to pass them. As a result, 3 key points were left unmanned: the turning onto the cycle path at the Halfway House Inn, the point along the cycle path where it splits into two and runs alongside the motorway, and the road leading away from the station where we turn back onto the cycle path and walk up to the canal. We will need to ensure these points are manned next year as some walkers missed them and went the wrong way. We will probably need an extra marshal or two.

Family Fun Day

A separate fundraising meeting was held following the committee meeting to discuss this.

10. Any Other Business

Mary will be taking a few weeks off from the end of September as she is having eye surgery.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 9th September, 6.30 pm at Padbrook Park.