

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign Committee Meeting 51 Tuesday 30th September 2014 – Padbrook Park

Present: Dave Haslett (Chair + minutes), Lynn Craddock, Roy Gould, Joyce Giffard, Carol Harrison

Apologies: Lynne Read, Mary Christie, Meryle Staddon, Cat Margrie, Kevin Hurford, Camille Harrison

1. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Two sets of minutes were approved, from 19th August and 9th September. There was an amendment to the minutes of 19th August: Camille clarified that we don't need to have a first aider in the shop at all times, but staff do need to know what to do in an emergency. We now have some signs in the shop instructing staff to call 999 in case of emergency.

The minutes were accepted unanimously with this revision.

2. Updates and Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

Carol was unanimously elected onto the committee (Proposed: Dave. Seconded: Lynn C).

Everyone confirmed they were happy to accept the policies Involve need us to have in place before they can recruit volunteers for us.

Action Point – Camille to let Involve know we have accepted the policies.

Camille and Lynne R are looking into low-cost first aid courses for committee members and shop volunteers.

3. Shop update

Carol reported that the electric socket at the back of the shop was loose and possibly unsafe.

Action Point – Dave to report this to the landlords.

We need signs for: wet / cleaning / emergency exit / video tapes and cassette tapes not accepted

Staff must be reminded not to lift anything too heavy.

The boxes outside the shop are now used for storing the recycling bags and have locks on them. The keys are in the wooden box in the drawer. This should help prevent the changing room from getting so cluttered up.

The fire extinguisher is not immediately visible and is sometimes difficult to access. It is currently kept in the changing room.

Action Point – (Everyone) to find a new location for the fire extinguisher. It needs to be visible, accessible and not a trip hazard.

The incident book is currently missing and needs to be located and kept where everyone knows

where it is.

There are now always two staff on duty throughout Mon, Tues and Weds. We still need to work on getting additional volunteers for Thurs – Sat.

Carol would like a table for sorting donated items, though she doesn't know where to put it.

All clothing is now individually priced. Some prices have been increased as customers seemed to think the cheaper items were of lower quality – which they were not. Some customers are removing price tags and claiming there wasn't one – Carol is on top of this.

The window display is being changed almost daily. Carol reported that items displayed there are selling quickly, even if they've been in the shop for several weeks at a lower price.

The shop has been tidied up and some of the stands removed or relocated to create more space.

Bric-a-brac and toys are currently the best sellers, followed by clothes, books, DVDs and CDs. Handbags, jewellery, shoes and cards are not selling so well.

Carol suggested we pack the jewellery away and put something in its place, such as the pictures and frames. Dave suggested hanging the best of the jewellery on the wall behind what is currently the jewellery table. Carol suggested filling small bags with jewellery and selling them on eBay.

Carol's daughter Jennie is selling things on eBay for us. The money she makes is going into the till under the relevant department, since the items came from the shop originally.

We've been given some model cars which are selling for £5 each on eBay. We will try selling them at £4 each in the shop.

If items are put back for customers to collect later we must take their name and phone number. Some items have not been collected for weeks even though they've been paid for, and we've had no way of contacting the buyer.

The clothes and book sales have now ended.

Dave asked whether we still needed a steamer, as we were told we should have one and have been looking out for a good one for some time. Carol couldn't see any need for one at the moment. The iron works perfectly well, there isn't enough room upstairs to use a steamer properly, and there were concerns about the moisture it would generate. The window gets a lot of condensation from just using the iron. We agreed to carry on as we are for now.

Tip runs

We discussed setting up a rota, but decided that if everyone took a bag of rubbish home with them and put it out with their fortnightly refuse collection we would rarely need to go to the tip.

4. Planning for the AGM (7 pm on Thurs 7th October)

Lynne R has booked Community House for the evening.

The agenda will include:
Public Q & A

Election of new committee members
 Election of officers (Chair, vice-chair, secretary, treasurer)
 Adoption of the new constitution to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation
 Dissolving the current steering group
 Chairman's report (Dave)
 Treasurer's report (Camille)

Lynn C will look after the refreshments.

We need to personally invite people to the AGM in the hope that they will join the committee. We know from previous years that posters and online publicity won't work (but we are obliged to use them anyway).

We need people to fill the following roles:

Vice-chair
 Secretary
 Administrator – to deal with all our correspondence
 Advertising in the community – distribution of posters, etc
 Fundraising organiser(s)
 Recruitment officer – to help get volunteers, committee members, helpers
 Grants officer(s)
 Business Liaison Officer – to get support, donations, etc from businesses
 Training and Development Officer – to train shop volunteers and make them more effective

5. Accounts update

We currently have £49,000 in our bank account, £20,000 held by College Surgery for the hydrotherapy pool, £40,000 promised by Devonshire Homes, making a total of £109,000.

6. Fundraising

Cat was not at the meeting so we were unable to discuss how the Swimathon would run. We have posters but no sponsor forms yet.

Action Point – Dave to ask Cat about the arrangements for the Swimathon and circulate to everyone by email. [Update: event cancelled.]

Dave said a potential way of raising the money would be to find people and companies who were willing to pay money towards it. For example, a company might pay £10,000 to have a plaque on the wall of the pool to say they'd sponsored it. Individuals might pay £500 to receive 2 years' swimming membership. As our campaign now covers a much wider area (including Exeter and Tiverton for the hydrotherapy pool) this is worth exploring further. 4,000 members each paying £500 would give us the £2 million we need without having to bother with grants (though we wouldn't get any further income from those members for 2 years).

Action Point – Dave will continue to explore this.

7. Extending our reach

Since the hydrotherapy pool will be used by people from the Exeter area, as well as the Culm Valley, Tiverton, Bampton, etc, we discussed ways of getting those communities involved in the

campaign.

Suggestions included:

- sending notices and newsletters to the hospitals and doctors' surgeries, and asking them to pass the information on to patients who will make use of the pool
- announcements/requests for help in the newspapers, especially the free ones
- displaying a request for help on the electronic screens that are in most waiting rooms

Action Point – Roy to find out where the screens are and work with Dave to write a suitable message to be displayed

8. Skills update

We need to make sure all committee members and volunteers are doing the right jobs to suit their skills and preferences, and that everyone has something to do and feels that they're actively contributing to the campaign.

Carol said the shop volunteers were well organised now and everyone seemed happy with the arrangements. The committee members might still need to be looked at, particularly after the AGM when we may have new members and we might need to reorganise who does what.

Action Point – Dave to revisit this at the next meeting.

9. Survey update

The survey is currently on hold. The architect, Steve Eastland, has taken a copy of it and will consult with his colleagues and get back to us. He wants to make sure we're asking the questions that funding bodies will want answered. He thinks the Cullompton survey might need to be done again.

About 1 in 6 of the Cullompton surveys were returned. Dave was concerned that this wasn't enough, though we don't have any idea how many we actually need. The only way to get a decent response is to go door-to-door and ask the questions in person, as we originally planned. Apparently many people assumed it was junk mail and threw it away, or they meant to fill it in later but never got round to it.

There are not enough of us to go door-to-door, it would take us far too long, it is not the best use of our time, and several committee members felt uncomfortable about doing it. We agreed that the best solution would be to pay a company to do it for us and see if we can get a grant to cover the cost.

Those who have already completed the survey might not be happy about answering the questions again, so we thought it would be best to run the new survey in the other communities first and leave Cullompton until last. If we tell them we're having to do it again because the response wasn't high enough last time then they should understand, especially if they want the pool.

10. Any other business

We are awaiting a response from Vranck House about going to see their hydrotherapy pool and getting advice about what facilities ours will need, sizing, etc.

Dave will arrange a visit to Flamingo Pool in Axminster after the AGM for those who haven't seen it yet. (Roy and Lynn C expressed an interest in going.)

This year's Christmas Lights Parade is on Saturday 6th December, so we will need to think about what we will be doing for it. We decided it was not worth keeping the shop open, but it was well worth going into the pubs with our collecting buckets. This would work better after the parade, because that's when people head into the pubs.

Roy gave Dave £28 which he collected on the float over the summer and is to go towards the Mile of 20p collection. Dave will pass it on to Camille.

We need to complete a return for MDDC for the draw we ran at the Family Fun Day.

Action Point – Dave and Camille to complete the return and sent it in.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 21st October, 6.30 pm at Padbrook Park.