

Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign
Committee Meeting 7
Tuesday 17th January 2012, The Kings Head, Cullompton

Attendees: Dave Haslett (Chair), Sarah Cagney (Minutes), Pete Woodley, Sean Burrett

Guest: Steve Eastland (architect)

Apologies: Anita North, James MacPherson, Sharon Vaughan, Carla Wetherell, Caroline Pring, Carol Pickering, Lynne Read

1. Previous Minutes, Matters Arising, Action Points

Previous minutes agreed.

All 100 Club tickets have now been sold and the first draw has taken place. Lynne has asked how the winners should be paid – cheque or cash. Since we do not yet have our own bank account we agreed to pay them in cash. Dave is holding on to the money collected from the most recent 100 Club sales, and he withdrew £50 to pay the winners.

The Christmas Lights Parade street collection raised £45.22 and Lynne's stall raised an additional £30.00.

The logo competition has been judged, and the winner is to be announced on our Facebook page and website. The winning logo is a splash design.

Dave asked how we planned to spend our Town Council grant of £200, as this was meant for publicity materials. He suggested getting some banners as soon as possible, as these could be displayed at fundraising events to show they were official swimming pool campaign events. We were also going to look at getting car/window stickers.

Action Point – Sarah to look at sources/prices of banners and stickers.

We still need to get more people to Like our Facebook page as this is a good way of spreading news about the campaign and fundraising events. The number of Likes is currently stuck at just above 300. Posters for events should mention the page and encourage people to Like it. Committee members also should use the facility on the page to invite their friends to join. Sarah said that when she last visited the page the link to do this seemed to be missing.

Action Point – Dave to check the Invite Friends link on our Facebook page

James was going to arrange a meeting with College Surgery to find out more about the land they own at the rear of the Health Centre. Unfortunately he has not yet done this, and will be away until mid-February. We also need to arrange a meeting with the Head of Cullompton Community College to look at the site of the old pool and to consider whether it might be possible to build a new pool there.

Action Point – Dave and Sean to arrange meetings with College Surgery and Cullompton Community College.

Lynne has made contact with Anna Curtis, and she would have come to this meeting if we'd held it last week. Unfortunately as we had to postpone it she is unable to come this time, but she will try to attend a meeting in the future.

2. Feedback from meeting with Charlotte Weedon

Anita met Charlotte at a funding event in September. She works for the Community Council of Devon and offered her assistance, particularly regarding registering as a charity.

She suggested that the best legal structure for us would probably be to become a Charitable IPS (Industrial and Provident Society) Community Benefit Society. (Also known as an IPS bencom.) As well as being a registered charity, we would then be able to raise funds locally and through grant applications, but we would also be able to sell shares to the local community. This would enable the public to 'buy in' to the scheme, and should encourage them to support it more actively.

Dave and Anita held a meeting with Charlotte at the King's Head on 29th November 2011. Charlotte felt we were at a very early stage, but heading in the right direction. She discussed the need to carry out a consultation/feasibility study with the local community to ensure we deliver exactly what they want. She can help us with this. She also emphasised the need to be professional, especially when making funding applications.

She isn't yet absolutely certain about the type of charitable organisation that would best suit us, and will continue to discuss this with Anita. However she said that in the meantime we are effectively a charity anyway, as we are a group with wholly charitable objectives and not for profit. There is no need for us to become a registered charity at this stage – this will be covered later when we apply to become an IPS bencom. This means we can proceed with fundraising on the basis that we are already a charity.

She provided us with an extensive list of organisations who provide grants for sporting facilities – Dave passed this on to Pete.

3. Guest speaker: Steve Eastland, architect

Steve is very enthusiastic about a pool for Cullompton and is keen to be involved. He can do some work for free, particularly concerning the feasibility study, but he will need to charge for things like architectural drawings, as this is his business.

He has studied the 2004/5 feasibility study carried out on behalf of Mid Devon District Council and, having written such things himself, found it to be quite biased. He recommends we break the study down into its individual components, decide exactly what we need to know, and then challenge each part of it using Freedom of

Information requests. This will allow us to find out the current situation at little or no cost.

He repeated the need to carry out a public consultation to establish exactly what the public wants – and he has experience of doing this. He and his colleagues also have experience of making successful funding applications worth millions of pounds – mainly for children’s playgrounds. He can put us in touch with his colleagues who have done this.

He has put together some costings for us based on our current plans and the cost of building similar swimming pools elsewhere. The cost is calculated as a price per square metre of floor space. To build a 25m pool, learner pool and hydrotherapy pool with all the associated facilities would require around 1,550 m². According to his calculations the minimum cost to build this would be £2.2 million, and a more realistic cost would be closer to £4 million. (Costing spreadsheet attached.)

While this isn’t impossible, it would be quite a stretch to raise this sort of money. Our current overall target of £1 million (which was only for a single 25m pool) would be the sort of amount we would need to raise locally, not including all the grant money we would need. We will therefore need to reconsider our proposed design to see how we can reduce the floor space to something we can afford.

He did not like our proposal to build the pool using volunteer labour and surplus materials. Current health and safety regulations are very strict, and this sort of thing would not be allowed for a public building. We would need to appoint a contractor to build it – and based on his experience this would actually turn out to be the cheapest option.

He emphasised that we would have to appoint someone to oversee health and safety on the site as one of the first things we do, and he provided some documentation about this. (Dave forwarded this to Sean and James.)

He is also a governor at Cullompton Community College, and is keen to have the pool sited there – on the site of the old outdoor pool. The new head teacher would also support this, and we should arrange a meeting with her as soon as possible. The site is much smaller than the one at the Health Centre, and we would not be able to have a full-size pool, nor any separate pools. But we should be able to put a pool of reasonable size there, and it would be much easier to fund, especially in the current economic climate.

Steve agreed to put together a formal plan of action for us to work from, which will list all the things we need to do and the order in which we need to do them. He will send this to Dave.

4. Feedback from meeting Dominic Tyler (Space Architects, Exmouth)

Dominic’s colleague lives in Cullompton and contacted Dave about being involved in the design of the pool.

Dominic met Dave and Anita in Cullompton on 6th December 2011, and they took him to have a look at the proposed site at the rear of the Health Centre. Unfortunately James was unable to attend the meeting, so they did not have any information about the additional land the Health Centre owns. Dominic asked us to find out about this and to provide him with an Ordnance Survey map with the land outlined.

He discussed the need to carry out land surveys, possibly an archeological survey, and also a highways study. He also repeated the importance of health and safety on site, and provided documentation about this. (Forwarded to Sean and James.) He said he could arrange the necessary surveys and do a rough block outline of the proposed pool to show how it might fit within the available space. He has now sent Dave a quote for carrying out this work, which Dave has circulated to committee members.

Steve Eastland initially seemed reluctant to get involved in the design as he didn't have time, but he has since expressed an interest in doing this. This means we now have two architects competing for the design work.

Bearing in mind the cost of building the pool on the Health Centre site, and the possible need to consider a smaller pool, Dave will contact Steve and Dominic to let them know of our position. He will also ask Steve to quote for doing the same work that Dominic has quoted for to see if they are both able to do this type of work and to compare their prices.

5. Fundraising

Dave and Sarah have held a meeting to look at putting together a calendar of fundraising events for the next 12 months. Sarah will continue working on this, based on ideas that Dave has provided.

The first event will be an Easter egg hunt/treasure hunt around the town in April. Sarah will do some more work on this to decide how much to charge people to enter, source some prizes, and come up with around 30 clues.

There will also be a sponsored walk during the summer, probably in July. This will include 3 routes: short walks of 1 and 2 miles for those who can't walk very far, and a longer route of approximately 17 miles for more experienced walkers. Dave is familiar with the route of the longer walk.

Dave and Sarah are also looking at setting up a separate fundraising subcommittee with around 8 members. The subcommittee will concentrate solely on fundraising. Dave and Sarah will represent the main committee and will invite local contacts to take part. Dave said the subcommittee should also take over the database of helpers that Carol currently manages, as they will need to be able to call upon people to help with events.

6. Any Other Business

We normally hold our meetings on Tuesdays, but fewer and fewer people are attending them now. Should we hold them on a different day that would be more convenient for everyone?

Action Point – Dave to email all committee members regarding their preferred meeting day.

Dave asked if we still needed a new committee member from the building trade. Since we now have Steve Eastland helping, this will no longer be necessary. Though it might be a good idea to find someone with project management skills.

Dave wondered whether it might be possible to move one of the derelict greenhouses at Culm Lea to another site and use that to house the pool. However, it was felt that the structure would not be strong enough to survive dismantling and reassembly.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7th February 2011, 7.00pm at The King's Head, Cullompton.