

**Cullompton Swimming Pool Campaign**  
**Public Meeting**  
**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Cullompton Town Hall**

Committee members present: Dave Haslett (Chair), Anita North, Pete Woodley, Sean Burrett, Sarah Cagney, Lynne Read

**1. Introduction**

A small but enthusiastic group of 12 - 15 people braved the severe weather to attend the meeting.

Chairman Dave Haslett welcomed everyone, and thanked the previous committee(s) who had worked hard, and in difficult circumstances, to raise the pool fund by almost £1,000 per year since 1986. This meant that the current committee were not starting from scratch and had a good idea of which activities had worked well and which had not.

Dave also stated that the closing date for the competition to design a new logo had been extended until 26th November.

**2. Achievements**

Dave listed the committee's achievements since it formed in August:

- The campaign is now officially supported by the Town Council.
- There have been 4 committee meetings.
- All committee members have been allocated roles based on their interests and skills.
- The campaign now has an excellent website ([www.cullypool.org.uk](http://www.cullypool.org.uk)), a Facebook page with approximately 300 subscribers ([facebook.com/cullypool](https://facebook.com/cullypool)), and a Twitter account ([twitter.com/cullypool](https://twitter.com/cullypool)).
- The first fundraising event has been held, and was very successful.
- Plans are being made for a number of large and small fundraising events in 2012.
- Several other pools have been identified in the area that were built by local communities, operate as charities and are run by volunteers not local authorities.
- Members of the committee have visited Topsham and Crewkerne Pools and learnt about how they were built and how they operate, and obtained details of their running costs. These visits were extremely positive and the committee

was very optimistic that many of the same processes could be used to build and run a pool in Cullompton. Plans are being made to visit Axminster next as they also have a hydrotherapy pool, which the committee feels would be a great asset in Cullompton.

- 30 potential sites for the pool in Cullompton have been visited, and each of them rated according to a set of criteria to identify the most suitable.
- The Treasurer has analysed 25 years' of accounts from the previous committee, and has put them on the campaign's website where everyone can view them. Minutes from the previous committee's meetings, dating back to 2002, have also been put on the website.
- The Treasurer has also attended a funding conference and learnt about new possibilities for funding the pool.
- Several pool suppliers have been contacted, and members of the committee have learnt about building methods, materials and costs, and have established a target figure for fundraising.
- A meeting is being arranged with the planning department at MDDC, hopefully within the next two weeks, to discuss the potential sites and determine the most suitable ones to focus on.

### **3. Accounts**

Anita gave a brief report on the accounts. She has examined the full set of accounts provided by the previous committee, dating back to 1986 when the current campaign started. Everything was found to be in order, and there is £23,262 in the swimming pool fund. The accounts have been put on the campaign's website for anyone to view.

### **4. Campaign history**

The committee has been told that the old pool campaign closed down in 1970s/80s and the money was returned to the town. Dave asked if anyone knew anything about this.

Linda Holloway thought there was only about £800 in the account at that time, and it had been given to the CCA committee. She also thought the CCA committee had repaid £1,000 to the pool campaign in the early 1990s.

[Update: the CCA committee gave this money to Cullompton Community College in Oct-Nov 1991 to go towards the cost of a cover for their pool.]

Linda had also brought along a large collection of press cuttings about the pool campaign, dating back to 1987. These show that a new campaign started from scratch in October 1985, which ties in with the accounts the committee currently holds.

#### **4. Vote: investigate the past or move forwards?**

The public were asked to vote on whether the committee should actively investigate the accounts and campaign history prior to 1985/6, or move forwards and concentrate on building the pool.

It was unanimously agreed that the committee should move forwards.

Any historical information that does come to light will be made available on the website.

#### **5. Seeking new committee members**

Dave stated that if the public had voted in favour of investigating the history, he would have asked for a new person to join the committee as a historian. This would have allowed the other members to continue moving forwards. However, this person would not now be needed.

The committee is looking for someone who works in the building trade to join them. This person will have knowledge of current building methods and regulations, and will have contacts within the industry. No one at the meeting worked in the building trade, so the vacancy will be advertised.

#### **6. Reshuffle**

The committee was criticised for lack of publicity regarding this meeting. Dave agreed there had been serious issues and said the committee was fully aware of this. Lynne Read will take over the publicity role with immediate effect.

#### **7. Fundraising target**

The target is £1 million.

This figure is based on the cost to build a 25 metre indoor heated pool using the Swim 25 design, which is an off-the-peg design that has been replicated all over the country. The committee will not necessarily use the Swim 25 design; it was only used as a reference to establish the likely cost of building the pool.

Much of the cost should be met through grants, sponsorships and donations, as has happened with other pools, but the town will also need to do a considerable amount of fundraising itself.

John Chard, the former manager of Padbrook Park, asked about the proposed width of the pool, but details of the Swim 25 design were not available at the meeting. Dave re-emphasised that the Swim 25 design had only been considered from a cost point of view in order to establish a fundraising target. Other designs will also be considered and the public will be able to examine and approve these before anything goes ahead.

## **8. New funding options**

Anita had recently attended a funding conference and had found out about the Industrial and Provident Society/community benefit society (IPS Bencom). She, and others at the conference, felt that this might be a better way of funding the pool. It would allow the committee to set up a registered charity and sell shares in the pool. They felt there would be much greater support for the pool and fundraising events if people owned a share of it. The Community Council of Devon will help the committee take this forward.

## **9. Possible locations for the pool**

A board at the back of the room showed a map of Cullompton, development plans for the town, and photos of 25 potential sites for the pool. Sean talked people through these at the end of the meeting.

John Chard once again pushed the case for having the pool at Padbrook. Dave confirmed that Padbrook was one of the sites under consideration and said it would be followed up after the meeting with MDDC's planning department. John emphasised that Padbrook already has electricity and drainage on site, whereas many of the other sites do not at the present time, which would add to the cost.

## **10. Fundraising**

The committee's first fundraising event was a table-top sale, which raised £135.71. This exceeded expectations, and the event will be repeated in November and December, with the possibility of it becoming a regular monthly event.

Plans are being made to hold large events every 4 – 6 weeks, probably starting in the spring, with many smaller events to be held in between them.

Dave said the large-scale events had the potential to raise a considerable amount of money. For example, if 100 people each raised £100 in sponsorship, then each event could raise £10,000.

The committee were also planning to take part in the Christmas Lights Parade on 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## **11. 100 Club**

The committee launched a 100 Club, which is being managed by Lynne. 100 people can join for £1 per month (£6 payable every 6 months) and they will each be given a number (1 – 100). The winners will be selected by a random member of the public at the Farmers' Market each month. Prizes of £30, £10 and 2 x £5 will be awarded each month – a total of £50. The remaining £50 will go into the pool fund. This will raise £600 per year.

## **12. Next event**

The committee's next fundraising event is a table-top sale in the Market House Inn's garden on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November (the same day as the Farmers' Market).

## **13. Close**

The meeting ended with a short Q & A session. The public were asked to leave their contact details if they wanted to help with fundraising events or publicity, or come forward with any fundraising ideas. They were then invited to look at the display board of potential sites, examine the accounts, read the minutes from the previous committee dating back to 2002, and look through the collection of press cuttings dating back to 1987.