

Friends of the Peterborough Lido

Minutes of Meeting held Monday 18th October 2021 At the Regional Pool

Present: Janet Martin (JM) (Chair) Jon Marsden (JMv)(Vivacity)
Clare Marshall (CM) (Vice Chair) Steven Luker (SL) (Vivacity)
Maggie Divers (MD) (Treasurer)
Sue Godfrey (SG)

1. **Apologies** – none received.
2. **Previous Minutes** - Minutes of the meeting held on 19th August 2021 were agreed to be correct.
3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**
 - (i) **Café Development** – no further updates have been received.
 - (ii) **Visitor Book** – it was agreed to implement this with effect from the 2021 season; Janet will obtain a suitable book.
 - (iii) **Vivacity Marketing/Design Staffing** –
 - Clare Smith is providing maternity leave cover for Rachel Hayden as Marketing Manager
 - Darren ? has been appointed as Designer
 - Nina Wright will be given dates of future meetings and invited to attend if available (Note - Nina does not work Thursdays/Fridays)
 - (iv) **Friends of Lido Charitable Status** – JM will contact PCVS for advice, and JMv will look into the financial benefits via Vivacity; although there would be benefits (e.g. non-payment of VAT) it is thought that this could generate a considerable workload for the committee.
4. **Membership Update** – at the end of the season, there had been 63 members. This included one late joiner, who has indicated that she may be interested in serving on the committee.
5. **Financial Update** - £958.28 is currently held in our account at Santander.
6. **Lido Upgrade/Maintenance Issues** – JMv reported that work commenced four weeks previously, and that good progress is being made –
 - The main pool tank has received its 5-yearly re-lining, with line painting to follow – completion anticipated in a couple of days.

- Similar work will then take place on the teaching and paddling pools – completion is anticipated by mid-November.
- Painting of exterior walls and towers will be undertaken by external contractors, and will include work on cracked rendering and internal redecoration. Measures will be taken to preserve the poetry on the internal walls.
- All works should be completed by end of December.
- Members of the Friends are once again willing to assist with other pre-season maintenance.

Instead of draining, cleaning and disinfecting the pool at the start of the season, this year the pool will remain filled; the filtration system will continue to run, and chemical/disinfectant applied as necessary during the Winter months – this will help considerably with pre-season maintenance works. The success of this, including impact on costs, will be reviewed at the end of the closed season.

In response to a question about poolside lighting, it was stated that an upgrade is not affordable within this year's budget.

7. **Future Plans** – SL said that the following events are again proposed

- Solistice swims
- Additional midnight swims – these will be ticketed events
- Pop-up cinema screenings
- LGBT event
- Dog swim (more than one session may be held, following the popularity of last year's event, which yielded a profit of £900). Sponsorship may be sought from animal related businesses

Other events to be considered include -

- An event to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (to 'piggy back' this and other national events, e.g. Wimbledon – an idea recommended to us by the Friends of Ilkley Lido, where this has been very successful)
- Paddleboard training sessions (linked to activities taking place on the River Nene)
- Dog shows/agility events
- Family orientated open days

8. **Midsummer Magic** – this black-tie, champagne and canape evening will take place on the evening of 24th June, and will be organised by the Friends of the Lido, with the support of the Rotary Club of Peterborough. It is aimed at the business community, in order that the potential use of the lido grounds/towers/balcony might be considered for corporate events. Sponsorship of £500 has already been obtained from John Peach. Entertainment similar to that planned for the 2021 event – including a swing band and Latvian dancing - will again be arranged. Much of the planning for the 2021 scheduled event (which was cancelled due to Covid) would be utilised, and a project team, comprising members of both the Friends and Rotary, will be formed, to start meeting early in the New Year.

9. **Annual General Meeting** – this will be held at 6.00pm on Tuesday 22nd March 2022. A change of venue will need to be identified – since the separation of different areas of Vivacity business, the Key Theatre and John Clare library are no longer available to us free of charge. Details and AGM agenda will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

10. **Any Other Business**

- (i) Opening Date – it is very much hoped that the pool may again be able to open at the end of March, however, this depends on the availability of staff. In 2021 more staff were available as, due to lockdown, students were unable to attend their universities, and this circumstance would not apply in 2022. JM suggested that members of the Friends may be willing to undertake reception duties, which would free up lifeguarding staff, and this was very much welcomed by lido management. The all-round opening of the Jesus Green lido at Cambridge was highlighted, however, it was pointed out that Peterborough lido does not enjoy the same benefits as Jesus Green which is managed by JLL and has a greater level of community support.
- (ii) Previous Staffing Issues – some issues had been observed concerning the attitudes displayed by some members of the 2021 team, however, it is noted that staff had been under extreme pressure due to staff shortages and the need to manage both the regional pool and lido with low numbers.
- (iii) Staff Identification - it was agreed that it would be helpful if details of each day's duty manager could be displayed; this would increase visibility and support effective supervision – and this suggestion was welcomed.
- (iv) Entry Procedures – a tablet would be used next year to provide an additional point of entry, so easing the congestion that arises at busy times of year.
- (v) Merchandise Point of Sale – it was suggested that if an alternative site to the reception office from which to purchase swim merchandise could be identified, this would also alleviate delays for swimmers waiting to gain entrance.
- (vi) Shower Facilities – it was asked if additional ladies' showers might be installed where the older toilets – which are rarely used – are currently sited. This will be looked into, albeit the limitations of the drainage system, in addition to unbudgeted costs, would present difficulties.
- (vii) Jon Marsden Retirement – This will be Jon's last meeting before his retirement at the end of October; he is looking forward to having time to swim in the lido as a customer.

11. **Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 7th February 2022, at 3.00pm. *Post meeting note – this will now be held at the Hampton Premiere Fitness Centre, and not the Regional Pool as originally notified.*