

Friends of Peterborough Lido

Minutes of Meeting held 9 July 2019

Present: Janet Martin (Chair) Maggie Divers (Treasurer)
Clare Marshall Trish Halstead
Tom Measures Dave Hopkins
Steven Luker (Vivacity) Sue Godfrey
Josh Aylett (Vivacity) Monica Illett (ex officio)

1. **Apologies for Absence-** Full attendance, no apologies
2. **Previous Minutes - Meeting held 8th May 2019**

Minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Matters arising

2.1 Volunteer Lifeguards (item 2.2) One volunteer lifeguard had come forward from the Friends' membership - Mike Basketeer. Mike will need to be registered as a Vivacity volunteer - formal approval is awaited, and a role description is being drafted

2.2 Postcards (item 2.3) Postcards have been ordered, paid for and delivery is awaited.

2.3 History Boards (item 2.7) JM explained that the initial History board meeting had taken place with Jon Marsden and Chris Allen and ideas discussed for the boards. It was thought that they would start from pre lido days i.e. where people swam before they had the lido, and then work through the 1930s, 40s and so on. There is no budget for this, but JM explained that if we had an idea of the cost it might be something, she could tap into Community Funding for this or at least some of it. Initial research for content will start with the library archives and JM will be writing to FOL to ask if anyone wishes to join her on the initial archive search. SL agreed to look at rough costs and forward to JM.

3. Financial Report

3.1 Current balance(s) MD presented the current accounts. There is £631 plus £15 taken

today to bank and Petty Cash stands at £45

3.2 Fund Spend JM invited a discussion regarding the current funds and whether we should

consider spending some of it on something that would be beneficial for the lido or

the FOL to the tune of £300-£400, which would leave a money to cover website costs and

admin etc. Various ideas were mentioned including BBQ on the final day, outings, benches

and a children's fountain. It was felt that BBQ held on the last day of the lido would be

excluding to visitors not part of the friends and outings would not be feasible for all FOL e.g.

those who work. Therefore, the general agreed opinion was that the money should be spent on something lasting that would benefit all who use the lido and recognise the FOL e.g. fountain, bench or similar. JM agreed to message all members inviting ideas/suggestions

for future discussion.

4. Membership Report

JM reported that we now have 87 members which is a huge increase on last year's membership of 55 and the first year when membership was 35

5. Constitutional Matters

5.1 JM explained that there are currently three committee member vacancies and we only have two officers in post, which means if ever either the Chair and/or the Treasurer are absent we could face difficulty in meeting the constitutional quorum. Our existing constitution states that elections can only be made at the AGM and we would need to change this in order to elect outside the AGM.

In the absence of anyone being willing to undertake the outstanding officer position of Secretary, JM proposed that we elect a Vice Chair into an "officer" position, and invited those present to stand for this office. No one present was willing to volunteer for the office of Vice Chair, and in these circumstances, CM agreed to do so to ensure the requirement of three officers is met; this is on the basis that the role did not involve too much administration.

In order to enact these changes, it was agreed that JM would email all members and ask for any objections before making the constitutional change.

5.2 JM also pointed out that MI was initially invited to sit in on the meetings in an ex-officio capacity as our website expert, however it has since proved to be the case that, in order to fulfil this role, Monica had regularly provided valuable inputs outside of that remit. In these circumstances, it was felt that she should be offered full committee membership in order to legitimise full contribution to discussions. MI was asked if she would be willing to be co-opted onto the committee by which she could contribute but not vote, and then made a full Committee member at the next AGM. MI agreed to this, and JM proposed and CM and MD seconded the election, this then being agreed by all those present.

5.3 It was also agreed that we might approach the PCVS to advertise for a committee member/ Secretary/ minute taker for the FOL, and that an invitation could be placed on the FOL website for anyone interested to make contact.

6. Communications/Public Interface

JM mentioned that there had been feedback of negative statements overheard from some of the FOL members during the mornings, which had been overheard by lifeguards and staff. All present were reminded that, as Committee members, we

are ambassadors for the FOL and lido and need to present a positive front to others. There are mechanisms for feeding back constructive comments and suggestions, either via the Committee, or in the case of one-off daily issues, to Josh, Zack or Steven. JM presented a draft Communications and public interface statement for the Committee to take away, consider and suggest edits to be discussed and adopted at the next meeting.

6.1 Website & Social Media Update MI had prepared a handout providing an insight into how

many posts had been made to the website and how many visitors had engaged with us. The most viewed articles were those about the Summer Solstice and J's recent birthday party (long term swimmer of the lido). DH agreed to write a short article about 'the bench' at the deep end of the pool outside the male changing rooms, where early morning regular swimmers gather.

MI suggested it would be good to find an additional volunteer to learn the IT, website front end alongside herself, so that there was cover if she was ever unable to continue. JM agreed to include in her email to members an invite to anyone with IT skills or an interest in helping with the website and social media to come forward

6.2 Any Other Communications - None received

6.3 Communications Strategy As above - to be discussed at future meeting

7. 2019 Season - Review to Date

7.1 Opening Day JA confirmed very positive feedback had been received from all. To date there had been 800 people through the gate, and only one rescue had been required.

DH asked why entry to the lido was free on the first day of the season and asked whether putting a £1 entrance fee on would help raise money. SL explained that historically it has always been free and that Vivacity wished to maintain the policy in order to encourage maximum use and create a great opportunity to showcase the lido. Due to high attendance, funds raised from café sales on opening day were high, partly off-setting the loss of swim ticket sales.

7.2 Fast Track Entry Management Scheme SL and JA explained that except for a few initial teething problems the scheme had worked very well and had achieved its objective of reducing queueing for the first hour. Currently the system allows 50 people to apply for fast track entry, a number which is manageable and will remain in place.

7.3 Friends/Volunteer Assistance JM suggested that if Vivacity were to produce cards/leaflets made with clear guidelines of the cost options for families and the adult/child supervision policy, volunteers could walk along the queue handing these out so that families are aware of the prices before reaching the kiosk, saving processing time.

JA and SL expressed their gratitude for all the work PJ, CM and HM do in the mornings to help prepare for opening.

8. Season - Ongoing/Future Events

SL informed the meeting that Vivacity are working with a film company to put on a movie night at the end of August. The film company will give £1 to Vivacity for every £10 ticket sold and this will cover the cost of the lifeguards being on duty. Capacity will be 300. The café will be open and probably sell popcorn etc.

Two midnight swims will also take place as the lighting in the pool has been seen to be sufficient for lifeguards to see the swimmers, however, SL confirmed that the electrician has been asked to look at the lights to see if they can be cleaned out, serviced and improved.

The transgender event had attracted only 6 people; the LGBTQI night attracted 30 people. The skinny dip attracted 80 people through the gates with approximately 45 people in the pool, and the organisers have already asked to hold similar events in the future. Vivacity were pleased that the publicity about these events had raised awareness of the lido. Summer Solstice was again a success and enjoyed by all who attended - this year numbers were up on last year for the sunrise swim but down on last year for the sunset swim.

9. Members' Issues

The following issues had been notified to the Chair in advance and were discussed with Vivacity.

1. **Q:** Could there be quiet periods without music ..particularly in the mornings when some

of the older regular swimmers are there.

R: JA and SL agreed that there will be times when the music is on and when it is off.

This is because they need to cater for everyone's taste not just a few, and whilst it is

recognised that some swimmers don't like the music, others do and indeed frequently ask for it too. Music will continue to be played but there will also be quiet times according to Management discretion. When music is played, consideration will be given to the appropriate volume.

2. **Q:** Could there be seasonal membership or season tickets?

R: Vivacity offer 30-day pass, and various levels of Gym membership. Any season tickets or book of entry passes system would only be at the price of normal entry and

Would therefore serve no purpose in terms of cost reduction and is not viable at this

point in time.

3. **Q:** Could we have more tables, seating and parasols possibly at the other end of the Lido near the children's pool and/or deep end of the adult pool or upstairs?

R: Vivacity are looking at bringing in more seating, however parasols will not be provided on the balconies due to the risk of these blowing over the balcony rails. Deck chairs are available for hire where demand for other seating exceeds supply.

4. **Q:** The water is very warm sometimes, could the temperature be turned down?

R: The needs of regular fitness swimmers have to be balanced against those of visiting families - many of whom are attracted through the gates by the current guaranteed minimum temperature. The thermostat is set at 26 degrees (which is lower than many other lidos) and any increase beyond that point is due to warm weather. It was noted that prior to 2018 when the heating system was less effective and the pool temperature was as low as 19 degrees, warm weather could still increase it to 30 degrees. It will therefore remain at the current 26-degree setting. There is no cost saving to lowering the temperature setting - and indeed it could take up to seven days for any adjustment to take effect, meaning that an "instant" response to weather conditions is not possible.

5. **Q:** Other pools have Christmas day swims and make a success of them. Can this be considered for Peterborough Lido?
R: Other pools keep their keep their pools turning throughout the winter and Peterborough doesn't at the moment and so, although it is a lovely idea it is not viable for Peterborough lido
6. **Q:** The rattan furniture is very brittle and beginning to fall apart, can we consider replacing with wooden furniture that is more robust i.e. benches and tables that can be left out overnight?
R: Vivacity will be replacing a lot of tables and chairs. It is to be added to the ongoing maintenance list
7. **Q:** Could screens or extra signage be put up to be clear about men's and ladies showers and toilets.
R: There are doors on the showers and on the toilet cubicles. Extra signage can be put up to ensure the showers and toilets are used by appropriate gender. But "policing" of the cubicle style changing rooms with doors opening onto the pool cannot be managed, and unisex use is therefore permitted; both men and women can and do use them at both ends of the pool, particularly where families are involved.
8. **Q:** Can an alternative to plastic cutlery be used as they are thrown in the ordinary litter bins and not recycled?
R: The plastic cutlery does state on the packaging that it is recyclable and biodegradable.

10. Any Other Business

SG suggested that it might be an idea to have a dog swim at the end of the season after the pool has closed. She presented evidence from other lidos that run these 'post swim pet days. They appear to be successful and a good fund raiser and SG asked what Vivacity's thoughts would be on this for Peterborough. The committee agreed it was an interesting idea and SL agreed to look into this.

The question of extended opening was raised and it was confirmed by SL that closing day will be the 8 September 2019 and there will be no extension beyond that date.

11. **Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 16th October at the public library. Time to be confirmed. In accordance with the agreed rotating minute taking system, Tom Measures has kindly agreed to take minutes at the next meeting.