



Arthur Hill – Save Our Swimming CIC Meeting of Board of Directors

8.00 pm, Monday 26 April

Directors present: Chris Beales, Peter Burt (minutes), Sarah Gardner, Marlon Minty (chair), Gerard Stewart, Phil Vaughan.
Others present: Phil Johnston, Tom Lake
Apologies: Nikki Gordelier, Liz Hayes, Marjan Kuyken, Stewart Johnston, Rhiannon Stocking-Williams.

1. Declaration of conflicts of interests (standing agenda item).

No conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting (27 March) (including confirmation of decisions made since last meeting)

Minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

The following actions remain outstanding (Peter):

- Add to action to Trello board with deadline to submit Confirmation Statement.
- Write up what needs to happen (crib note) including password for Companies House website.
- Arrange in due course for paper files to be retained in a more permanent location.
- Review policies (not urgent) with Marjan.
- Circulate insurance policy [see accompanying documents].

Bank account:

- Is now open and operating and all monies have now been paid in except for £101 petty cash float.
- Nikki and Stewart to ensure that ID&V forms are returned to Metro Bank.



Membership:

- Agreed that online membership would be set up using Paypal (10p fee per £1).
- Peter to set up Paypal account.
- Peter and Chris to liaise over setting up website membership page.

Directors:

- Companies House has been notified that Gerard is now a Director.
- Agreed that Peter should recycle any junk mail received without forwarding on to Directors.
- Marlon to investigate cancelling of junk mail.

3. Future actions following community right to challenge bid

Reading Borough Council turned down the Company's community right to challenge bid for Arthur Hill Pool at the Policy Committee meeting on 10 April, raising issues for the future direction of the Company. A private leisure operator has visited the pool to see whether it would be viable for them to re-open it, but as yet it is too early to say whether this is likely to bear fruit.

It was agreed that decisions on the future direction of the Company should be postponed until the position of the private operator has become clearer, and that an awayday would then be organised to consider next steps.

4. Funding raised from Crowdfunding appeal

The Company was currently holding over £10,000 raised from a crowd-funding appeal to set up the Company and prepare a business plan for re-opening Arthur Hill Pool. As a result of prudent financial management and volunteer efforts, it had proved necessary to spend less than £1,000 of this money, raising the question of what to do with the remainder. At the time of the Crowdfunding appeal donors were told that if the bid to re-open the pool was unsuccessful the money would be given to local schools to pay for transport to other pools for swimming lessons. Reading Borough Council has claimed that schools have already been provided with budgets for this (although there is no evidence to support the claim). A suggestion was made that the company could operate a grant-funding scheme for local schools, groups, and individuals using the Crowdfunding money.

It was agreed to consider the matter further in due course in the light of the position of the private operator which has expressed an interest in the pool.

5. Email communications

As not everyone is able to check emails on a daily basis, it was requested that efforts should be made to keep email traffic to a minimum and clearly indicate the purpose of emails. The following ground-rules were agreed:

- Only send messages to those who need to see them.
- Ensure that messages have a clear title that allows recipients to judge its relevance.
- Where necessary, flag messages as being for action / information / urgent / important.
- If possible, discuss an issue at the next face-to-face meeting rather than by email.
- Use cc where relevant to signal if action is not needed by some recipients.
- Only reply to those who need a reply, which may not be everyone who has received the message.

6. Council proposal for local listing of Arthur Hill Pool

Reading Borough Council's Planning Department has proposed that Arthur Hill Pool should be given a 'local listing' to signify its heritage status. The reasons for this are not known.

It was agreed that the Company would write to the Council to say that we would not support such a step until the future of the pool was clearer, and ask for an explanation of why it had been proposed that the building should be given a local listing.

7. Health and Safety (standing agenda item)

There were no Health and Safety matters to discuss.

8. Safeguarding (standing agenda item)

Marlon will attend the Safeguarding for Directors course which Reading Voluntary Action are organising on 8 June.

9. Financial report (standing agenda item)

Income £442 since January. £48 received since the previous meeting, mainly in membership fees.

Expenditure since January remains at £659.47.

10. Complaints (standing agenda item)

No complaints have been received since the previous meeting. Directors were reminded that any complaints or concerns that they were aware of should be brought to the Company Secretary's attention or raised at meetings.

11. Any other business

Community Right to Challenge:

- Tom will investigate comments made by Councillors at the Policy Committee meeting which suggested that they were not aware of the financial details of the bid.

Website costs:

- Agreed that reasonable website hosting costs would be reimbursed to Chris. Chris to invoice Peter.

Communications:

- Communications group had identified a need to clarify the Company's vision, values, and aims in the context of our new circumstances. To be discussed and agreed at the awayday.
- The wider Company membership and our supporters need to be informed of the outcome of the community right to challenge bid and future steps. Peter to send out an email communication.
- Gerard to upload photos from the last community meeting to Facebook.

Summer festival activities:

- Marlon, Gerard, and Sarah agreed to be involved in a subgroup to plan activities. Group to meet on Tuesday 2 May.

12. Arrangements for next meeting: date, location, and chair

Next Directors meeting to take place at 7.30 pm, Wednesday 14 June at Phil's house. Gerard to chair.

Next working group meeting to take place 7.00 pm, Thursday 11 May at Phil's house. Chris to chair. [Post-meeting note: Phil has requested that the meeting be brought forward to Wednesday 10 May].