

**WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP  
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019  
At Weymouth Fire & Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth**

**1. Welcome and Introduction**

Paul Kimber, (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Carolyn Harris, Cllr David Harris, Mike Kelly (President), Cllr Christine James, D Bowden, Francine Hall, Richard Marshall (Treasurer), Sheila Dyer, George Dyer, Graham & June Ryan, Gill Penwell, Sylvia O'Conner, Dawn Heath (DCC Highways), Carole Chinn, Kathy Boston- Mammah (CDMTL).

**2. Apologies**

Marguerite Brown (Vice Chairman), David Dowle, Ian White, Pauline Haime

**3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 12th February 2018**

Members were invited to show approval of the minutes of the last AGM. Some printed copies were available. The minutes were approved by a show of hands.

**4. Presidents Report**

**30<sup>th</sup> Year of Weymouth and Portland Access Group**

This year the Access Group celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year. Much effort has been given by the Group to improving accessibility to goods, services, and the environment generally in our area, with Tom Silk, John Lambert, Carole Chinn and now Paul Kimber providing such good leadership. Thanks are also due to the other Group Officers, to the many other Group Members who have been with the Group over the years, including some who have been Members since 1989, and to those County and Borough Council Councillors and Officers who have advised and supported the Group over this long period.

Long serving members of the Group will remember John Lambert saying about 20 years ago that, with the thrust of legislation and increased awareness and more enlightened attitudes generally, that our work might soon be done. Sadly this has not proved to be the case although progress has been made in many areas. It is clear that many people with disabilities are enjoying greater degrees of independence and empowerment than was the case in the past. However, working against this are the continuing effects of Austerity, and there is great concern at the high levels of mental health problems and isolation and loneliness.

The continued presence and actions of the Access Group remain very important. Because of our members health and disability issues we struggle, like many other voluntary organisations, to retain sufficient active members to do as much as we would wish to. We can expect to face increased challenges because of further pressures on the National Health Service and with local government reorganisation in this area in 2019. This is why I hope that the Group can recruit new supporters

and, in order to make our efforts as thorough and successful, it would be helpful if we can find members to represent all areas of Weymouth, Portland and Chickerell.

Mike said he thought that he would only continue as President for one more year (though he would wish to continue to support the Group). The group should therefore make plans for a replacement.

## 5. Chairmans Report

Paul stated that as this was only his second meeting he had nothing specific to report for the year. He urged members to feel free to contact him.

## 6. Election of Officers

The following persons were all proposed and seconded as shown below. They were each elected to position by a show of hands.

| <b>Position</b>        | <b>Name</b> | <b>Proposed</b> | <b>Seconded</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| President              | Mike Kelly  | Cllr DH         | Paul Kimber     |
| Chair                  | Paul Kimber | Cllr C James    | Cllr DH         |
| Secretary              | Dave Harris | S Dyer          | Cllr C James    |
| Vice Chair             | Vacancy     |                 |                 |
| Treasurer              | Vacancy     |                 |                 |
| Investigations Officer | Vacancy     |                 |                 |

The meeting concluded at 14.25.

| <b>Next Meetings (All start at 2pm)</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>at The Fire &amp; Safety Centre:</b>   |   |
| <b>Monday April 8th 2019</b>              | <b>Monday October 14<sup>th</sup> 2019</b>  |
| <b>Monday June 10th 2019</b>              | <b>Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019</b>  |
| <b>Monday August 12<sup>th</sup> 2019</b> | <b>Monday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2020</b> |
|   |   |

**Help Line Phone numbers: DCC highway emergencies: 01305 221020**

**WPBC Help Desk: 01305 838000**

**WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING No 143**  
**Monday 11th February 2019**  
**At Weymouth Fire & Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth**

1. Welcome and Introduction (as AGM above)
2. Apologies (as AGM above)
3. Social Media and Fund Raising Opportunities  
– Darren Bowden and Mark Golsby

The talk given by Darren explaining the Veterans Hub is summarised below in note form:

- Started October 2017 – in old Ferry Terminal bldg – 2 hour sessions
- July 2018 started Café/ make cakes / sourced other Vet products
- Peer to Peer support – Vets have a wide range of Issues
- Now they have taken over a garden
- Outreach talks and now go to DWP monthly for drop-in
- aim is to integrate them back into community
- discussion re Armed Forces Covenant – not felt to be understood within councils

The following points came out of subsequent discussion and were summarised by Paul Kimber:

- Knowledge of Access Group is poor in Local Authorities – introductory letter to be sent to new authorities once councils settled after imminent changes.
- Social Media will be a lifeline for the group – need to have an Agenda item for next meeting. Dorset Abilities group have an example – euansguide.com
- PK thanked Mark and Darren for their time and help.

#### 4. President's Report

##### **Dorset Councils Working with you events**

These events have successfully provided support and contact for a range of charitable and voluntary organisations in Weymouth and Portland. The next event on 23 March may be the last with local government re-organisation in Spring 2019. Julie Hursthouse, Kathy, and other council officers are thanked for their efforts. It is hoped that some means will be found to ensure that the Working With You Events can continue in some form.

##### **Accessible housing**

No reply has been received from the Housing Secretary James Brokenshire, who is undertaking a review of Housing Design, but the office of Richard Drax M.P. has got back to me to say that their response will be provided concerning our support for the provision of more adaptable and accessible homes.

##### **Highway works**

Dawn Heath referred to the aim to carry out a range of improvement works in the Town Centre and elsewhere in the Borough, and asked the Group to

identify areas of particular concern. Our concerns for St Thomas Street (especially the southern end) have been repeated, Ian has reported problems at Victoria Street on the approach to Lennox Street, and Sheila has reported problems crossing Beech Road at its junction with Dorchester Road.

### **Living Streets Campaign**

Susan Ward-Rice has provided Information about a new campaign by “Living Streets”. The Group is concerned about the increasing clutter on pavements and footways including road signs, A boards, Electric vehicle charging points, Parking meters, and other barriers, and an increase in parking on pavements.

### **Tourist Information Centre**

Dorset Cottage Holidays have opened a Tourist Information Centre in their new office at the junction of King Street with Gloucester Mews. The bad news is that it has stepped access. I shall contact them. I suspect that although the location seems quite suitable this is again a question of the wrong choice of building.

### **Dorset Community Action**

An event is planned at the Safewise Centre for 14 February (10 – 11.45am) for local voluntary organisations to meet. We have worked before with DCA on issues including closure of post offices and banks, proposed library closures and bus service cuts. I think it would be good if we could be represented.

### **Weymouth Central Library**

A planning application has been granted for the potential to introduce some additional uses into the upper floor of the Library. It is hoped that this will help to sustain the Library but I suggest that the Group should write to repeat our plea that toilets, including an accessible WC, should be made available for the public and that every effort is made to ensure the reliability and availability of the lift.

### **The Marsh Playing Fields**

The children's' playground by the Swimming Pool has been reconstructed and incorporates equipment designed for children with disabilities.

### **Littlemoor**

Home Bargains at Littlemoor are having a “quiet time” without piped music for people who find such noise disturbing.

### **Nothe Fort**

Weymouth Civic Society, as owners of the Fort, propose further works to improve accessibility to the Fort, with the assistance of The Coastal Communities Fund.

### **Proposed Youth & Community Centre, St John's Church, Dorchester Road**

The former Vicarage has been bought back by St. John's. The Vicar is seeking advice on making the building as accessible as reasonably possible.

## **5. Chairman's Report**

In the interest of time, meeting moved on to next item.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Richard produced Accounts for the last Financial Year:

### WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

#### RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 2018

| 2017          | Receipts                                  | 2018          | 2017          | Payments                            | 2018          |
|---------------|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| £             |   | £             | £             |                                     | £             |
|               | Weymouth Mobility<br>(Sponsor of website) | 200.00        | 95.40         | Hall Hire                           | 135.06        |
| 200.00        | Rotary Club donation                      | 330.00        |               | Postages & Stationery               | 156.50        |
| 23            | Tea etc. contribution                     | 0.00          | 190.75        | Insurance                           | 191.90        |
|               |   |               | 100.00        | Web-Site - M Golsby                 | 0.00          |
|               |   |               | 22.80         | Taxi fares                          | 0.00          |
|               |   |               |               |                                     |               |
|               |   |               |               |                                     |               |
| 185.95        | Excess of payments over<br>receipts       |               | 0             | Excess of receipts over<br>payments | 46.54         |
| <b>408.95</b> |   | <b>530.00</b> | <b>408.95</b> |                                     | <b>530.00</b> |

#### CASH ACCOUNT

| 2017            |                         | 2018            | 2017            | Represented by:       | 2018            |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1494.31         | Bank balance b/f 1.1.18 | 1,308.16        | 1308.16         | Bank balance 31.12.18 | 1,354.70        |
| 1.31            | Cash in hand b/f 1.1.18 | 1.51            | 1.51            | Cash in hand 31.12.18 | 1.51            |
|                 |                         | 1,309.67        |                 |                       |                 |
| 223.00          | Add income              | 530.00          |                 |                       |                 |
| 1718.62         |                         | 1,839.67        |                 |                       |                 |
|                 |                         |                 |                 |                       |                 |
| 408.95          | Less Payments           | 483.46          |                 |                       |                 |
| <b>1,309.67</b> |                         | <b>1,356.21</b> | <b>1,309.67</b> |                       | <b>1,356.21</b> |

Richard Marshall, Treasurer

5th January 2019

These accounts have been examined and agreed in accordance with vouchers and documents presented for examination:

Signed

Ian McDougal

Richard announced that he has now resigned his post as Treasurer of the Group as he and his wife are moving out of the area for family reasons. He had asked his contacts in other organisations if they were aware of anyone who might take up the role, but had not found anyone.

This last year the Group had received donations totalling some £46 more than our costs. This was largely due to a donation from Rotary of £330 in addition to our normal sponsorship payment from Weymouth Mobility.

Paul Kimber proposed that we send a letter of thanks to the Rotary and include information on how we had used it.

Paul then went on to give our thanks to Richard for doing this work for us. He had left us in a good position, with a clear understanding of our financial situation.

## 7. Highways Officer's Report

There was work in progress in the town centre reviewing the bollards and barriers. There was also work in St Albans Street. Further into the future there was a plan to make a clearly signed "pedestrian corridor" from the Railway Station to the Town Centre. Dawn would take care to ensure that any work being done in the near term was not likely to clash with this programme.

Gill Penwell asked about the previously requested jobs: the Greenhill footpath handrail and the situation for wheelchair users near to "The Carriages" in Victoria Street.

It was reported during the meeting that the Handrail work is complete. There was no change to the other item. Dawn Heath and Gill to discuss further.

. NOTE: The following is an excerpt from our December 2017 meeting minutes, which mentions the Victoria Street situation:

**"Meeting with Community Highways Officer.** Both Ian and I had a meeting with Dave Carey, Community Highways Officer, regarding dropped kerbs in both Victoria Street (near Crescent Street Surgery), Southill and other problem pavements with a camber and dropped kerb. Dave stated they only visually check kerbs and cambers and until we demonstrated, using a wheelchair and scooter, didn't realise how dangerous they were in a wheelchair or scooter."

## 8. Investigation Officer's Report

Ian White has sent this message:

"I would like to inform the group that I have decided not to stand as Investigations Officer for the group. This was not an easy decision; I do think the group does not need an Investigations Officer as each member is now able to report any issues in there area they find onto Dorset for You".

About the situation re the drop kerb by Tesco Exit door he reports the following:

"I would like to inform the group that the issue about the drop kerb opposite the exit door of Tesco in St Thomas Street. I informed the group that this drop kerb should be removed as it is an accident waiting to happen, I witness a person on a mobility scooter coming off the pavement and going towards the corner when a bus came round thanks to quick action of the driver the chap was not injured, there is safe places to cross no more than a 100yds and thanks to Dawn Atkin the crossing on the corner is safe for all which has been made better."

## 9. Any Other Business

- a) **DWP Drop-in Desk.** Sheila Dyer offered to help set up a desk in the DWP offices for a period as suggested above. It was agreed that she should go ahead.
- b) **Cheque Signatories.** It was agreed that the Authorised Signatories in the current Mandate, for the Weymouth & Portland Access Group, be changed to remove the name of Richard Marshall and add the names of Paul Kimber and Mike Kelly. The signing rules for the current Bank mandate to continue unchanged
- c) **EIAR sign-off structure.** Kathy said that W&PBC / WDDC / NDDC had brought in a new Structure for using and signing off Equalities Impact Assessment Reports.