

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING No 142
Monday 10th December 2018
At Weymouth Fire & Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth

1. Welcome and Introduction

Present:

Cllr Paul Kimber (WPBC) (Chairman), Mike Kelly (President), David Harris (Secretary), Carolyn Harris, Richard Marshall (Treasurer), Pauline Haime, Sylvia O'Conner, Sheila Dyer, George Dyer, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Dawn Heath (DCC Highways),

2. Apologies

Carole Chinn, Kathleen Boston - Mammah, Gill Penwell, Marguerite Brown (Vice Chairman), Ian White

3. CONSTITUTION UPDATE

Before voting on the updated constitution, the meeting reviewed the membership list. After the review, 36 members were confirmed as the current membership, several persons having left the area and/or not attended meetings or otherwise communicated with the group for more than a year. The meeting was therefore declared quorate.

The Secretary then read out the proposed changes and gave the reasons for them. The updated Constitution was Proposed by Sheila Dyer and Seconded by Sylvia O'Conner. The meeting was unanimous in its approval of the updated document.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record of the October meeting.

5. President's Report

Dorset Unitary Council

Weymouth, Portland and Chickerell Town Councils

I propose to write to Matt Prosser, the Chief Executive of Dorset Unitary Council to make known our concerns, and our hopes for a good working relationship.

I have also written to the recently appointed Clerk to Weymouth Town Council as we need to have good contact established from the outset. I shall also renew our contact with Portland and Chickerell Town Councils, both of which are likely to have increased responsibilities following re-organisation in Spring 2019.

Accessible Housing

I have followed up on my report to the last meeting with a letter to Oliver Letwin M.P. who has led a Government study on Housing Provision. I have copied this to the Housing Secretary James Brokenshire, who is undertaking a review of Housing Design, and to Richard Drax M.P. for his information. I have repeated our support for the provision of more adaptable and accessible homes and our support for the policy

in that respect within the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan (similar policies having previously been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate!)

Veteran's Hub, 114a Portland Road, Wyke Regis

This café and meeting point is proving popular and helpful with many people in the area, and in particular with ex-services personnel, many of whom have disabilities and special needs. Other communities are contacting the Hub with an interest in setting up similar efforts to help people discharged from the Services, or more generally to positively combat the loneliness encountered by so many people, young and old.

"Purple Tuesday"

This new national initiative to encourage shops to be more accessible and helpful to people with disabilities has gained the support of Sainsbury, Argos, M&S, and Asda amongst others but seemed to have little impact outside the largest town centres and retail parks. Hopefully, next year, the supporting firms will be more involved in other areas. If so perhaps the Access Group can liaise with them and others to get some event running locally, and some publicity.

6. Chairman's Report -

The siting of temporary toilets in disabled spaces by Tesco on Portland had caused some concern. Jane Nicklen from DCC had investigated the situation and had provided a summary speedily. Paul suggested that Jane be given an invitation to speak to the group about her role at a future meeting.

A similar request was made by Sheila Dyer about Mark Golsby who maintains our Web Site for us – it was thought that by attending a meeting we would be able to decide better how the web and its facilities might be used to further promote the group.

7. Treasurers Report

As his first point, Richard announced that he was going to be leaving the area for family reasons. He will complete the accounts for the current Financial Year, and should be able to get them Audited. He had tried without success to get a volunteer amongst acquaintances.

Richard produced a Financial Report for the meeting. The basic facts are we have some £1380 in the bank.

Paul Kimber thanked Richard for his work for the group – and expressed our sorrow to hear that he had to leave the area for family reasons.

8. Access Officer's Report - N/A .

9. Highways Officer's Report -

Dawn Heath (nee Atkin) re-introduced herself to the group as the Highways Officer for the area. She had been seconded away from the area for over a year but had now returned to the post.

Frederick Place Disabled Bays

Changes were under way to modify the disabled parking bay area in Frederick Place. There had been issues where the bay was being used all day because there were no restrictions preventing that. Changes were being made to the relevant Parking Orders to address that situation.

Chickerell Pedestrian Crossing request

Dawn was aware of an initiative to request provision of a new pedestrian crossing in the Chickerell area. Could the group put this on the Agenda of our next meeting so we could discuss it and, if appropriate, support a formal request to the Council.

Drop Kerbs Near Tesco

Dawn was made aware of a previous discussion about road safety and the suggestion of a dropped kerb crossing near to the entrance to Tesco in St Thomas St. She would take a look at the present situation and report back.

Drop Kerbs Budget

Dawn reported that she at present had £5K in the Drop Kerb Budget, which would allow some works to be completed within this financial year.

10. Investigation Officer's Report- N/A - none present

11. Awareness Event at Weymouth Library

Sheila Dyer reported that the following items had now been updated and produced and were ready for use on the day: Leaflets/ Publicity poster/ Gifts/Business Cards Brochures. The event had taken place, although few members of the public had attended the stall. Those who did stop however were interested in the work of the Group. Now that we had the material it would be easier to run another event if volunteers could be found to staff the event..

12. Any Other Business

a) Cheque Signatories for Access Group

It was resolved that:

'The Authorised Signatories in the current Mandate, for the Weymouth & Portland Access Group, be changed to add the names of Paul Kimber and Mike Kelly. The signing rules for the current Bank mandate to continue unchanged'.

b) Access Issues Training. It was stated that the new Council will be providing co-ordinated training of staff about access issues.

Next Meetings (All start at 2pm)	
at The Fire & Safety Centre:	
Monday 11th February 2019	Monday October 14 th 2019
Monday April 8th 2019	Monday December 9 th 2019
Monday June 10th 2019	Monday February 10 th 2020
Monday August 12 th 2019	

**Help Line Phone numbers: DCC highway emergencies: 01305 221020
WPBC Help Desk: 01305 838000**