

# **WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held at 2pm on Monday 8th February 2016  
At Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth**

## **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Carole Chinn (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Carolyn Harris, Sheila Dyer, Dawn Atkin, Julie Hursthouse (WPBC), Cllr David Harris, Graham & June Ryan, Ian White, Bob Irwin, Carole Lord, Mary Jordan-Winter (POPP), Gill Penwell

## **2. Apologies**

Steve Rook, Mike Kelly, David Dowle, Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC)

## **3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 8th June 2015**

Proposed: Ian White/ Seconded: Graham Ryan /Approved - All

## **4. President`s Report**

### **Inadequate maintenance and management of access facilities**

Following my report to the December 2015 meeting I contacted Access Dorset and Radar, Weymouth and Portland Chamber of Commerce, Weymouth BID and Weymouth and Portland Tourism Partnership. Ian and I have advised the Dorset Echo and "View from Weymouth and Portland" of our concerns and action. So far the Chamber of Commerce and "View from" have expressed an interest and I hope that good progress will have been made on this before our next meeting.

### **Dorchester Access Group**

I have heard nothing more following the attempt to form a group, following the closure of Dorchester Access for All. No doubt Susan Ward-Rice will inform us if and when progress is made.

### **W&PBC / WDDC planning policies**

I understand that following the adoption of the new West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Joint Local Plan the Planners have devised a policy position on floor space and storage facilities for new homes (it has been stated that the UK has been building the smallest homes in Europe), and are also seeking to ensure that new housing will be built to more adaptable and accessible designs. W&PAG has always pushed for this (Lifetime Homes etc.). I have contacted Susan and the Forward Planning Team and hope this can be reported on at our next meeting.

### **Highways**

I am most concerned about the condition of highway areas across the Borough. Ian has been investigating many cases. It is important that we regain the contact we had with DCC Highways staff.

## **Public transport**

With DCC proposing to cease rural bus subsidies, I have been in contact with DCC and a group called bus users UK. These proposals impact mainly on rural areas but will affect the borough with the likely loss of route 253 which provides a very limited service to Southill [via Goldcroft Rd - noted by Cllr Harris], cutting back route X12 Weymouth to Salisbury, to Dorchester to Blandford only, and route 61 which provides a very limited service to several villages including Nottingham. This is occurring after recent investment, especially by Damory, in low floor accessible vehicles.

## **5. Chairman`s Report**

Firstly Carole Offered congratulations from the Group to Gill Penwell, who had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours list.

Carole summed the year up in terms of three main concerns: Transport, with pressure on local authorities to cut funding for buses, Accessibility with difficulties again discussed about accessibility to buildings and Toilets where there had been access and unsuitability problems again highlighted.

She had responded to the invitation from the RSPB reserve suggesting a date after Easter might best suit the group, both from a warmer and dryer (hopefully) perspective.

The Mobility Roadshow this year would be on 26th/27th May at Silverstone in Northamptonshire. Those who are able to attend usually find it an interesting and productive day.

Our Web Sites is now sponsored by Weymouth Mobility and we will change the adverts etc. on our site to reflect this. Thanks were due to Ian White who negotiated the arrangement.

## 6. Treasurer`s Report

I apologise for not being able to be present today. The accounts for 2015 have been audited and the comparative figures for 2014 are shown for information:

### WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 2015

2014	Income	2015	2014	Expenditure	2015
£		£	£		£
			28.40	Hall Hire	21.80
0.00	Donation re Carnival	300.00	0.00	Postages & Stationery	118.59
			52.00	Disability Rights UK	52.00
			182.43	Insurance	184.43
			100.00	Web-Site - M Golsby	100.00
100.00	R Brotherwood (sponsor of website)	0.00	18.90	Travel	36.00
281.73	Excess of expenditure over income	212.82		Excess of Income over expenditure	0.00
<b>381.73</b>		<b>512.82</b>	<b>381.73</b>		<b>512.82</b>

#### CASH ACCOUNT

2014		2015	2014	Represented by:	2015
2353.36	Bank balance b/f 1.1.15	2,073.63	2073.63	Bank balance 31.12.15	1,860.81
3.51	Cash in hand b/f 1.1.15	1.51	1.51	Cash in hand 31.12.15	1.51



On the income side you will see that we received £300 from the Weymouth Carnival whereas last year the Carnival did not make any profit so we didn't receive anything from them.

In effect this payment covers the two years when we have helped on Carnival Day. As previously reported nothing has been received from Brotherwoods as sponsorship despite contacting them on a couple of occasions.

On the expenditure side the hall hire covers only half of the meetings costs – they have written to apologise for the delay in invoicing us.

Postages & Stationery covers 2 years and the Disability Rights, Insurance and web-site costs have remained about the same as last year.

Overall we spent £212.82 more than we received and that is reflected in the balance in our bank account at 31 December 2015 of £1860.81

We are still in a healthy financial position for the time being.

I submit the accounts for approval.

Proposed: Sheila Dyer/ Seconded: Carole Chinn /Approved - All

## **7. Election of Officers for the Coming Year**

The following officers were reelected to post for the coming year:

President - Mike Kelly

Chairman - Carole Chinn

Secretary - David Harris

Treasurer - Steve Rook

Investigations Officer - Ian White

Proposed: David Harris (Cllr)/ Seconded: Sheila Dyer /Approved - All

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## **WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING No. 125**

**Monday 8th February 2016,(immediately following the AGM)**

**Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth**

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction (as AGM)**

#### **2. Apologies (as AGM)**

#### **3. Minutes of Previous meeting**

Proposed: Ian White/ Seconded: Graham Ryan /Approved - All

It was noted by Sheila Dyer that the outstanding "connection" between Nightingale Drive and Icen Lane had now been completed to a very high standard. This made it much easier and safer for wheeled vehicles Scooters, buggies etc. to go between these roads.

#### **4. President`s Report (as AGM)**

#### **5. Chairman`s Report (as AGM)**

#### **6. Access Officers Report**

A short discussion was held about the possibilities for production of the "accessible toilets" leaflet aimed at local shops and other businesses. We would attempt to hold a working group to get a document ready in the near future. There were several options to support the funding of this. IW would host a meeting at his house to progress the "project".

SafeWise / WPBC / WPAG are holding another Wheels In Motion event at Weymouth Community Safety Centre on Friday 11th March from 10.30am. It will be a free event, including lunch. The event is aimed at raising awareness of the

hazards and problems faced by mobility scooter users and pedestrians. All group members are invited to attend - even if you have attended a previous event, there will be new things to consider. Places are limited and therefore people should reserve a place by calling the safety centre on 01305 753050.

## **7. Highway Officers Report**

### **Westham Road Crossing**

Changes were to be made to the crossing at Westham Road, these were in part to improve cycle access to the town.

### **Tramlines on Commercial Road**

Plans were in hand to fill in the tramlines near the new council offices "within the next few weeks" so as to improve the safety of those crossing Commercial Road to visit the new offices.

### **"Blocking" of Drop Kerbs by parked vehicles**

Cllr David Harris in response to comments about some public dropped kerbs being blocked by parking offered to provide some limited funding to allow white lines to be added - this was often effective in stopping such behaviour. Please contact him with details of specific locations.

## **8. Investigations Officers Report**

### **Commercial Road/ New Council Offices**

The pavement beside Wilkos was now the main "safe" route from nearby parking (Westham Road). Ian considered that the various surfaces and cambers on this relatively narrow footway left something to be desired. There were segments where scooters could be "forced" towards the road by the camber and other sections where unevenness makes it difficult to pass other footway users. DA would inspect the path with these points in mind.

In view of the increasing use of mobility scooters in the area, Cllr DH also would introduce the idea of making some relevant changes about cambers into the appropriate council policy meetings.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **Meeting Venue - try Fire Safety Centre**

It was agreed that the Group would plan to hold a meeting in the Fire Safety Centre which had several rooms which may suit. Hire costs were similar, but details of access need to be checked for those travelling by car (parking spaces availability, drop kerb locations etc.)

### **POPPS Introduction and Information.**

Mary Jordan-Winter introduced the POPP scheme (Dorset Partnership for Older People Programme). The vision of Dorset POPP is 'to build supportive communities to enable older people to remain living in their own homes for as long as they wish' by developing responsive, appropriate services and activities at a localised level. Leaflets were provided and more information can be found at <https://www.dorsetforyou.com/popp>.

### **Problems with Buggy access to Bus to Dorchester**

Bob Irwin mentioned difficulties with getting to Dorchester by bus when using a buggy. This needs to be followed as part of longer term discussions with bus companies.

### **Greenhill Garden Steps**

Gill Penwell mentioned these steps and the need for a handrail to make the use of the steps easier for people who were less able. After discussion it was felt that an approach to the Friends of Greenhill Gardens group might be appropriate.

Meeting closed at 15.45

#### **Next Meetings (all start at 14.00):**

<b>Monday 11th April 2016</b>	<b>Monday 10th October 2016</b>
<b>Monday 13th June 2016</b>	<b>Monday 12th December 2016</b>
<b>Monday 8th August 2016</b>	<b>Monday 13th February 2017</b>