

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

Held at 2pm on Monday 12th February 2017

At Weymouth Fire & Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth

1. Welcome and Introduction

Carole Chinn (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Mike Kelly (President), Marguerite Brown (Vice Chairman), David Dowle, Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC), Carolyn Harris, Sheila Dyer, Dawn Atkin (DCC Highways), Cllr David Harris (DCC), Graham & June Ryan, Cllr Christine James (WPBC), Bob Irwin (Investigations Officer), Gill Penwell, Sylvia O'Conner, Jean Spain.

2. Apologies

Carole Lord, Ian White (Investigations Officer), Joy Stanley, Pauline Haines.

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 8th February 2016

Proposed: Carolyn Harris/ Seconded: Mike Kelly /Approved - All

4. President`s Report

Health Services

The consultation underway by NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group was mentioned at our December meeting and it was agreed that the Access Group should respond. A separate consultation has commenced on acute mental health services in Dorset.

I am concerned that the future of the Care sector is not addressed given its close relationship with hospital – based services and local community services, and the severe restraints on local authority funding. Proposals that many GP surgeries will be amalgamated is also not addressed. The loss of local facilities would appear to conflict with the Government's "Localism" agenda.

Concern was expressed in the meeting that the consultation needed to be more widely publicised.

Parks and Gardens "Friends Groups"

I understand that there are currently 8 of these groups in the Borough, each assisting the Council in maintaining and improving the existing assets, and coming up with ideas and events which will increase residents' and visitors' knowledge and enjoyment of these areas. They relate to:

Greenhill Gardens

Lodmoor Country Park

The Nothe Gardens

Radipole Park and Gardens

The Rodwell Trail and Sandsfoot Gardens

The Marsh

Victoria Gardens, Fortuneswell

Easton Gardens.

I have contacted the Friends of Greenhill Gardens. This very attractive open space would greatly benefit from access improvements. Lodmoor has an accessible WC by the café in the car park, The Nothe Gardens has an accessible WC. Ian has reported on the further proposals for improvements to Sandsfoot Gardens. Susan may be able to inform us of any proposals at The Marsh, Victoria Gardens, or Easton Gardens.

The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens have proposals, through a Lottery bid, to carry out major improvements including building a café and accessible WC. Carole, Marguerite and I attended a presentation and can provide more information. I propose that W&PAG should work with the Friends Group and support their Lottery bid.

Bus Services

Financial pressures and removal of grants are likely to result in serious service reductions. The Community Bus Route on Portland which links various areas to the main Portland to Weymouth spine route (Route 1), and the Southill service will not continue in their present form. The future of Damory routes 207 and 211 are in doubt. Many rural routes are expected to cease. However South West Coaches are introducing a route that will serve Wyke, Lanehouse and the Pye Hill area, commencing on 20 February, to replace the former First Route 6.

How unfortunate it is that major service reductions are happening when efforts are being made nationally to make bus travel more accessible.

5. Chairman`s Report

NatWest ATM's

The Media Department have been in touch and are keen to go ahead with publicity, perhaps we can now go ahead and contact Harry Walton and Dorset Echo to arrange photos and editorial – hopefully when it is a bit warmer!

NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group

The consultation underway by NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group is ending at the end of February, I have some brochures with the Questionnaire for completing. I've been informed that Weymouth residents haven't responded as well as residents in other areas.

Community Lunch

This was attended by Mike Kelly, Marguerite Brown and I where we met some interesting people, Mike has already mentioned The Friends of Radipole Park and Gardens in his report.

Also a suggestion was made that Groups like ours could consider having a Facebook page.

A charity called Butterflies was also mentioned to me, it is for disabled children up to 18 years of age. It may be worth contacting them if individuals have access problems.

Steve Rook knew someone in that group and would seek to make contact.

6. Treasurer`s Report

The group was in a relatively good financial situation. Annual spending this year had amounted to £366. We had £1495 in the bank at Financial Year end.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 2016

<u>2015</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2016</u>
£		£	£		£
			21.80	Hall Hire	103.80
300.00	Donation re Carnival	0.00	118.59	Postages & Stationery	81.64
			52.00	Disability Rights UK	52.00
0.00	Weymouth Mobility (Sponsor of website)	200.00	184.43	Insurance	189.96
			100.00	Web-Site - M Golsby	100.00
			36.00	Travel	58.00
0	Tea etc. contribution	26.00		Tea etc.	7.30
212.82	Excess of expenditure over income	366.70	0	Excess of Income over expenditure	0.00
512.82		592.70	512.82		592.70

CASH ACCOUNT

<u>2015</u>		<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>Represented by:</u>	<u>2016</u>
2073.63	Bank balance b/f 1.1.16	1,860.81	1860.81	Bank balance 31.12.16	1,494.31
1.51	Cash in hand b/f 1.1.16	1.51	1.51	Cash in hand 31.12.16	1.31
		1,862.32			
300.00	Add income	226.00			
2375.14		2,088.32			
512.82	Less Expenditure	592.70			
1,862.32		1,495.62	1,862.32		1,495.62

S Rook

Hon. Treasurer

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

Signed

I McDougal

Date 24 January 2017

We had as yet not received anything from Weymouth Carnival so far. In previous years the donation had varied from £100 to several hundred pounds. Any donation received would now be accounted in the next Financial Year. No questions, Accounts were approved by show of hands.

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

Vice Chairman - Marguerite Brown

Secretary - David Harris

Treasurer - Steve Rook

Investigations Officers - Ian White, Bob Irwin

Proposed: Mike Kelly/ Seconded: David Harris /Approved - All

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING No. 131

Monday 12th February 2017,(immediately following the AGM)

Weymouth Fire & Safety Centre, Radipole Lane, Weymouth

1. Welcome and Introduction (as AGM)

2. Apologies (as AGM)

3. Minutes of Previous meeting

Proposed: David Harris, Approved - All by show of hands.

4. President`s Report (as AGM)

5. Chairman`s Report (as AGM)

6. Access Officers Report

Chapelhay Steps

Sue Ward Rice stated that she had been in contact with a Zoe Elswood from Aster Housing who had some knowledge of the situation with the recycling and refuse bins at Chapelhay. DH had tried phoning Christine Pearce about the matter but the phone number we have appears to be discontinued. If the problem persists we will be able to take it up with Aster in the future.

Dorchester Access Group

This group has now actually met and was going to be concentrating on the areas of Dorchester town and Poundbury not yet into the wider area.

The newly opened pub in Poundbury [Duchess of Cornwall] has a disabled toilet but it is installed on the first floor of the pub and we don't believe there is lift access in the building. **Wheels In Motion - FireSafe Road Training.**

There was an agreement in principle to have a further event (probably at the Fire and Safety Centre) with the Highways Engineers and Utility Companies. Like last year's events with Wessex Water it would be hoped that much could be learned by having a selection of people with mobility scooters present to illustrate the challenges. [**Post-meeting Note:** Monday April 24th is the likely date for this event.]

7. Highway Officers Report.

The budget for dropped kerb work for the coming year have not yet been confirmed but Dawn was expecting to get the information fairly soon.

8. Investigations Officers Report

Nautico cafe/bar (in old Post Office)

Ian had visited these premises and found them to be level throughout with a disabled toilet. However it was not very spacious and even in a wheelchair there was insufficient room left by the layout to approach the door to the disabled toilet.

Access to Granby Diner

Carole made it clear that now we had two Investigations Officers she expected them to be the ones to make contact with premises on behalf of the group where access difficulties had been reported.

Footpath between Field Barn Drive & Chafeys Avenue

Bob mentioned the footpath had been damaged by a heavy vehicle recently making it dangerous for use by mobility scooter users - there were four such users in adjoining road. Dawn Atkin will investigate/resolve.

9. Any Other Business

IJ Brown Optician access

Reported difficulty with access here. It was necessary to contact staff if you can't climb the step.

Weymouth (East) Car Park

Flats were to be built on this carpark and there was some confusion as to which of the car parks was affected. It is the car park which at present has parking spaces for coaches, nearest to the Bingleaves footbridge.

Greenhill Garden Steps

Gill Penwell Reported that the steps had a handrail fitted to the "last four". This was something, but as there were perhaps 30 steps in all, more were needed.

Sport England - Physical Activities

Cllr David Harris explained that there was a likely to be some funding available which promoted activities for those with disabilities. The significance was any sort of activity might qualify and attract funding and he was particularly interested in making sure he had a clear understanding of all types of activity which people with mobility issues might benefit from. After a short discussion a number of useful ideas were mentioned and noted.

Parking Spaces near Angling Club on Commercial Road

New member Jean Spain raised a question about providing dropped curbs to facilitate the crossing of Commercial Road in the vicinity of the Angling Club. A brief answer was given based on the full investigation held on site reported in August 2014 minutes.

Meeting closed at 15.55

Next Meetings (all start at 14.00):

Future meetings at 2pm at The Fire & Safety Centre:	
Monday 10 April 2017	Monday 9 October 2017
Monday 12 June 2017	Monday 11 December 2017
Monday 14 August 2017	Monday 12 February 2018

Help Line Phone numbers:

DCC highway emergencies: 01305 221020

WPBC Help Desk: 01305 838000