

# **WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING No. 129**

**Held at Weymouth Fire Station & Community Safety Centre  
Radipole Lane, Weymouth DT4 0QF**

**Held at 2pm on Monday 10th October 2016**

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Mile Kelly (President), Ian White, Steve Rook (Treasurer), Gill Penwell, Bob Irwin, Dawn Atkin, Pauline Haime, Christine Pearce, Mary Jordan-Winter Marguerite Brown.

**2. Apologies:** Carol Chinn (Chairman) David Harris (Secretary), Carolyn Harris, Cllr. Kate Wheller, Sheila & George Dyer, Cllr David Harris, David Dowle

In the absence of Carole Chinn, Mike Kelly chaired the meeting

### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

These were accepted as a true record.

### **4. President's Report**

#### **Local Government Re-organisation**

The consultation ends on 25 October. I think the Access Group should respond as all residents and visitors will be affected in some way and disabled people are likely to be particularly affected. In my last report I said that a Weymouth Town Council will need to be created to look after the town's interests. I also think that Portland Town Council will have to meet the same challenge.

#### **Car Parking Charges**

As you know there has been a further Borough Council report on the subject but this was withdrawn. The subject will return and it is vital that the Access Group is fully consulted prior to any decisions being taken.

#### **Public Conveniences**

The Council is considering the closure of the public conveniences in Bond Street. These are far from ideal but they are large, as are the underground ones on The Esplanade. Clearly there is a need for more accessible W.Cs. and the Council needs to take into account

the high visitor numbers in the summer, and the needs of an ageing population. Provision of public conveniences is costly and there are few suitable sites but it is important that the Council liaises with the Access Group on the subject.

## **Bus Services**

First Bus Group has now withdrawn route 6 leaving Lanehouse and the eastern section of Chickerell Road without any bus route. There is a trend of First closing routes and there being no replacement, or an inadequate one being created. On Portland and at Southill a community service has been provided and I would welcome feedback about these. There are also concerns because of further grant reductions by DCC which are likely to affect other First and Damory services. Problems continue with the Real Time Information systems being inadequately maintained by DCC. I have voiced concerns at the First Passenger Panel on these subjects. On a more positive note First Group are interested in having an involvement with the Mobility Scooter Training Sessions held at the Community Fire Station.

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

No report in view of her absence

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

The Group had £1619.49 in the bank as at 10 October – payment of £100 had been made to M Golsby for his annual fee for the maintenance of our website

## **7. Access Officer's Report**

No report in view of her absence

## **8. Investigation Officer's Report**

### **Drop Kerbs**

I have been looking at some drop kerbs but I have issues? (Which I going to speak with Dawn Atkin Highways at the meeting)

**The café at Sandsfoot Garden** I have spoken with them and was informed that any person on a mobility scooter who is unable to get up the stairs all they need to do is wave and a member of staff will come down and take their order.

## **ASDA Filling Station**

I am concern about the petrol station at Asda as it was stated that there would not be any one to help disable people who need help. As pumps would be automated with no cash sales, no payment kiosk is needed.

**Foot path from Weston Bridge to Southill** that shows the lack of maintenance is very high also very dangerous in some areas where you have to move to the centre of the path putting you in the path of cyclists to get round as the edge of the path is so over grown also some thorns which are hanging at eye level.

## **Bank / Building Society Automatic Telling Machines (ATMs).**

Last week Carole Chinn received an E-mail from Lindy Treasurer [Lindy of London] about ATM's at the Nat West Bank which a meeting was arranged with Ms Carly Ings the Branch Manager, Carole Chinn, Ian White and Lindy to look into the issues with the ATM's inside and outside of the bank. There was an issue where there was a small table in front of the ATM also the one for disabled was in the middle, I suggested that it would be better if the first ATM had its table moved which would be easier for some one on mobility scooter or wheelchair. The Branch Manger took on board the suggestion which Lindy tried out and was happy.

Ms Carly Ings the Branch Manager has informed us that they are changing one of the outside ATM and would like us to meet up again to see how it is. Also she is very happy to get the local paper involved.

Carole did go with Lindy to Santander and then onto HSBC. Carole found that these ATMs were accessible but it would have been hard if the three scooter users turned up together.

Mike Kelly mentioned that some ATM screens can be difficult to read especially if the sun is shining on the screen. It was agreed this can be a serious problem.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### **a) New Positions in the Group.**

Two new position were discussed and approved by those present:

**Marguerite Brown** as Vice-Chairman and **Bob Irwin** as an Investigations Officer.

**b)** Mary Jordan-Winter in her role with Safe & Independent Living mentioned an event at All Saints Church Easton on 27 October and one at Littlemoor on 1 November both running 9.30 to noon.

She also mentioned she would shortly be starting a study on Loneliness etc. on people aged 18 to 49.

**c)** Christine Pearce reported that problems still existed with the skips at Chapelhay

**d)** Induction Loop at the WPBC premises on Commercial Road – reported that she had helped staff there to resolve the problem.

**e)** Susan Ward-Rice was still waiting for a response from Chickerell Town Council as to whether the Induction Loop at the Willowbed Hall was now working properly.

**f)** Dawn Atkin informed us that she had passed on our details to those conducting consultation on the Town Centre Management Plan. She also urged us to use the Dorset For You website to report any problems.

**g)** Gill Penwell reported that a Volunteer Lunch was being held on Saturday 26 November starting around noon.

Meeting Closed at 15.55

<b>Future meetings at 2pm at The Fire &amp; Safety Centre</b>
---

<b>Monday 12th December 2016</b>
----------------------------------

<b>Monday 13th February 2017</b>
----------------------------------