

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 2pm on Monday 10th August 2015 at
Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1. Welcome and Introduction of those present

Carole Chinn (Chairman), Mike Kelly (President), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer), Carolyn Harris, Sheila Dyer, Christine Pearce, Christine James (Mayor, WPBC), Dawn Atkin (DCC), Nathan Parker (DCC), Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Ian White, Gill Penwell, Bob Irwin, Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC), Carole Lord, Carey Lapin, David Axford, Ald. Jessica Nagel (Part mtg)

2. Apologies

Cllr David Harris, Peter Bennett

3. Chairman's Report

A walkabout with Roy McLeod, licencing officer at WPBC had highlighted lots of abuse of the sitting out licences. The problem for the Council was that there was no money to pay for enforcement.

Carole had visited the Mobility Roadshow at Donington Park and had seen a variety of useful information sources and leaflets including Access Audit Descriptions. She had copies of these available for members.

Publicity Officer - DH had agreed to be considered as Publicity Officer for the current year. Ian White and Sheila Dyer proposed and seconded. The meeting approved the appointment.

4. Access Officers's Report

The Mulberry Centre opening was now expected to take place at the end of the year. Some further work was being undertaken contributing to the revised date. Parking was still an issue.

Complaints had been received about access to the cafe "The Curve" behind M&S and about the accessibility of the toilet in the Oasis cafe at Overcombe Corner. The latter was advertised as accessible outside the building but really was not so. Another complaint identified lack of accessible toilets and a poor customer service attitude by staff to a wheelchair user at Stanley's Cafe, St Thomas Street.

5. Free Portland News

Alderman Jessica Nagel was invited to speak briefly about the free newspaper "Free Portland News" which has been published on the Island since 1978. She recommended it as good place to publicise the existence of the WPAG as she was sure the editor would be pleased to take information about local groups. Contact details were: Phone 821151, email: freeportlandnews@hotmail.com

6. Highways Officer`s Report

Ian Newport was moving jobs and Nathan Parker was introduced who is now doing the highways role previously done by Ian. Dawn will send Nathans contact details to the group.

A cafe at no 60, St Thomas St, "Ayya" had requested a sitting out licence. DA was suggesting a three month trial period to assess safety, obstruction etc. before approval is considered.

Portland Boots at Easton saga continues - now expect works to be fully completed in the first week of September.

Sheila Dyer raised the Icen Way/Nightingale drive footway work which was still awaited.

Cllr James mentioned the expansion of the 20mph speed limit restriction area within Westham and a map showing the extent was passed around the room.

Problems were still being reported about enforcement of the 50 mph speed limit on Weymouth Way. Cllr James would try to get linked to the relevant committee so she could monitor progress

Bob Irwin voiced the opinion that there was insufficient signage on Weymouth Way to give motorist notice of the crossings.

A proposed pedestrian crossing at Ludlow Rd /Lanehouse Rocks Rd mentioned by Mike Kelly was felt to be sensible.

7. Investigations Officers Report

Cllr David Manning had reported a problem with Dropped Kerb in Preston. In talking with him about the Group and its work, Cllr Manning expressed an interest in coming to a WPAG meeting.

Weymouth Post Office. The entrance saga continues - present shop is being run by a licensee, not the post office directly. The Forex Counter which is where the business makes some money is important and has pride of place at the front of the shop. Some scooter users with inappropriate size vehicles had on occasion caused blocking of access to this area, this in turn causes customers to turn away and loses them business. Hence the "everyone must queue" ruling.

8. Treasurers Report

The enclosed Cash Account was presented:

[illegible]

				Cash			
1.1.15	Cash balance b/f	1.51					
				31.12.15	Balance	c/f	1.51
		1.51					1.51

9. Guide/ Assistance Dogs

10. Future Talks

11. AOB

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unresolved matters.

IW suggested that the group produce some "visiting cards" that could be passed out to members of the public to give details of how to contact the group - of particular importance was an email point of contact.. The meeting agreed this was a sensible thing to do.

Lift at Weymouth library. The library lift was out of action, making the upper floor no longer accessible to those with limited mobility. Librarians will help by physically fetching books etc. MK will write expressing Groups dissatisfaction with the situation

Bob Irwin drew attention to the new cycleway from Southill to Swannery Bridge where plants had now overgrown the path so much as to make it very difficult. DA would take action to resolve.

Web Site. CC expressed an intention to discuss redesign of the web site with Mark Golsby.

IW had been in touch with ex-journalist Harry Walton who had said he would be prepared to write a piece introducing the group and its work for inclusion in future press releases. Part of our next meeting would be used to try and get a suitable "group photo" to accompany the piece.

The meeting was closed at 15.55.

Next Meetings (all start at 14.00):

Monday 12th October 2015	
Monday 14th December 2015	
Monday 8th February 2016 [AGM]	