

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 2pm on Monday 10th February 2013 at
Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

1. Introduction of those present

Mike Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer) Carolyn Harris, Sheila Dyer, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Ian White, Christine Pearce, Gill Penwell, Colin Huckle (Cllr WPBC), Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC)

2. Apologies

Ray Bartlett, Terri Bartlett , Carole Lord, Carol Chinn

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 19th February 2013

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

4. President`s Report

I regret to say that this is not the most encouraging Annual Report I have written.

Although I welcome the continued support of our contact officers from Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and their attendance at our meetings, together with Councillor Colin Huckle, our experiences have been less good with some of the discussions we have had with certain firms, notably concerning Post Office relocation and the long awaited improvements at Boots branches on Portland. I think we may have been naïve in expecting that certain access improvements discussed would be delivered. In future, I suggest, we put such discussions on a record that we can refer to later if it is important to pursue the matter. It was noted that internally the new Post Office in Weymouth had been re-arranged to leave more space near the entrance and that service for disabled customers was generally good.

Economic problems have no doubt acted as a brake on access improvements and no doubt most service providers understand that easier access is good for business generally. Let us hope that trends indicating an economic recovery are mirrored locally allowing investment in the improvement of premises to increase.

However the Access Group will need to be vigilant in watching how continued reductions in Government grant and other savings impact on local government expenditure. Further cuts in service provision are expected. Many of these are likely to impact more severely on disabled people than the community generally.

To assist us in our task I would request that both Dorset County Council and Weymouth & Portland Borough Council understand the need to consult the Access Group and other organisations representing disabled

people (and others likely to be disadvantaged) before decisions are made on further significant service reductions. .

5. Chairman`s Report

1) The problems found crossing the junctions at the Chafey`s Roundabout are being remedied. A new cycleway is in the process of construction in that area, and this is to incorporate a Toucan crossing facility to the north of the roundabout on Weymouth Way. (Dorset County Council (DCC) state this will be completed by March – next month). Three islands have already been put along the southern part of that road, and it appears the carriageways at the other junctions are being narrowed to 5 metres to facilitate safer passageway for both pedestrians and cyclists – and, of course, wheelchair/mobility scooter users.

2) Our new Weymouth & Portland Borough Council (WPBC) Liaison Officer, Susan Ward-Rice, joined us half way through the last year.

3) Mirrors in lifts at local stores, which assist disabled wheelchair users, now seem to be satisfactory.

4) “A” Boards continue to cause problems, but our members will be accompanying DCC officers when they visit traders` premises with the new Guide to “A” Board Enforcement Policy. Watch this space!

5) There have been no major issues to come before the Access Group during the year. This is a shame and seems to be caused by:

Local Government re-organisation and integration, and subsequent redeployment of officers who liaise with our Group. This leads to a lack of continuity in the necessary liaison. These changes, and other negative influences on our Group, can all be put down to the poor economic climate nationally.

In conclusion, I must agree with those sentiments expressed by our President, Mike Kelly in his report We must make every effort to keep in touch with Susan Ward-Rice of WPBC, our current Access Liaison Officer, and also Ian Newport and Dawn Atkin, both of DCC, who deal with “A” Boards and dropped kerbs respectively.

6. Treasurer`s Report

Steve Rook presented the examined accounts and said that the account was in a healthy state. A payment had been received from our efforts as volunteers at Weymouth Carnival, £100. We had also received again the sponsorship of £100 from Brotherwood which funds maintenance of the Group's Web Site. Approval of the accounts was proposed and seconded by Sheila Dyer and Mike Kelly. The meeting approved them.

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 2013

2012	Income	2013	2012	Expenditure	2013
£		£	£		£
			14.00	Hall Hire	28.00
250.00	Donation re Carnival	100.00	48.89	Postages & Stationery	47.87
			50.00	Disability Rights UK	52.00
			174.46	Insurance	182.43
			100.00	Web-Site - M Golsby	100.00
100.00	R Brotherwood	100.00	35.00	Travel	32.10
	(sponsor of website)		65.00	Carer costs	45.00
137.35	Excess of expenditure	287.40		Excess of Income over	0.00
	over income			expenditure	
487.35		487.40	487.35		487.40

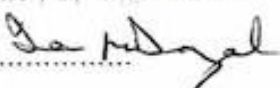
CASH ACCOUNT

2012		2013	2012	Represented by:	2013
2772.81	Bank balance b/f 1.1.13	2,635.46	2635.46	Bank balance 31.12.13	2,353.36
8.81	Cash in hand b/f 1.1.13	8.81	8.81	Cash in hand 31.12.13	3.51
		2,644.27			
350.00	Add income	200.00			
3131.62		2,844.27			
487.35	Less Expenditure	487.40			
2,644.27		2,356.87	2,644.27		2,356.87

S Rook

Hon. Treasurer

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

Signed 

Date 21/1/2014

7. Election of Officers for the Coming Year

The following were approved to the posts for the coming year:

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Chairman	John Lambert	Dave Harris	Sheila Dyer
Vice Chairman	David Dowle	** Deferred	** Deferred
Secretary	David Harris	John Lambert	Mike Kelly
Treasurer	Steve Rook	Mike Kelly	Ian White
Publicity Officer	John Lambert	Mike Kelly	Dave Harris

** Due to David Dowle's absence it was not possible to vote him into position. The Meeting approved the Chairman to approach him and if amenable it was the meetings intention that David Dowle be elected.

The meeting was closed at 14.35.

N.B. Subsequent to the meeting, John Lambert has confirmed that David Dowle was prepared to continue as Vice Chairman and as lead Information Officer - he is therefore co-opted to Vice-Chairman.

=====

WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

MINUTES FOR MEETING No. 116

**Held following the AGM on Monday 10th February 2014
at Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth**

1 Introduction of those present

Mike Kelly (President), John Lambert (Chairman), David Harris (Secretary), Steve Rook (Treasurer) Carolyn Harris, Sheila Dyer, Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Ian White, Christine Pearce, Gill Penwell, Colin Huckle (Cllr WPBC), Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC)

2 Apologies

Ray Bartlett, Terri Bartlett , Carole Lord, Carol Chinn

3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 115 held on 12th November 2013

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

4 Summary of Points from 2013

Several outstanding items were briefly discussed in order to update those present:

a) **"A" Boards** - The proposed action of visiting premises in the town with a team from the councils and the Access Group to explain the policy was still in prospect. The view of the meeting was that this should take place before Easter - when traders might have more time. Attempts would be made to set this up for w/c 7th April with Dawn Atkin and Ian Newport.

Action Sue Ward Rice

b) **Chapelhay slope** Christine Pearce reports work has started - and is now expected to complete by 31/3/14.

c) **Post Office footway "lifting"** - update needed from DCC Highways - Dawn Atkins. Sue Ward-Rice to pursue.

d). **Easton Boots ramp** unsatisfactory - MK would ask Tesco if they would consider opening an in-store pharmacy. Also we need Dawn Atkins to report back on what she had found out after our November meeting.

e) **Sea Life Tower** - because of his unsatisfactory experience when in his wheelchair, Ian White was going to pursue getting Merlin to agree to free rides for those in wheelchairs as some form of mitigation.

f) "**Buggy Permit**" for buses - although a scheme had been described, there had been no further action as far as the group could see. MK would pursue this at the next meeting with First Bus.

g) **Drop Kerbs improvements** IW had produced a list of all the Drop Kerbs we were aware of where some action was needed. He had passed this to Dawn Atkins with prioritisation information. He would copy this to committee members. We need an update from Dawn Atkins on the present status.

5 **President`s Report**

As AGM above.

6 **Chairman's Report**

In early February, **Castle Cove Sailing Club** at the end of Old Castle Road, Weymouth was inspected by Ian White for accessibility, and particularly for advice on how to make the disabled toilet fully accessible; this advice was most welcome. The remainder of the Club was fully accessible.

For my part, apologies for my relative inactivity, but this has been due to my continuing health problems, not to mention the weather!.

Chafeys Roundabout Crossing A Toucan crossing was being built to the North of the roundabout on Weymouth Way. This was part of the new cycleway /pedestrian route which will link to Morrisons. Completion is expected late Feb/ early March.

7 **Access Officers Report**

WPBC Services - Sue Ward-Rice told us that WPBC were doing an across the board review of its service.

Weymouth Town Plan Colin Huckle told us that the Town Plan also was being revised/updated - the work was now in hand.

8 **Investigations Officers Report**

(None - will be resumed when post is filled)

9 **Treasurer`s Report**

As AGM above.

10 **AOB**

Weymouth Area Seniors Forum is holding a meeting at 14.00 on 25th February at the Angling Club. There will be a speaker explaining changes which are happening to Refuse Collection. Information will be distributed to residents before the new system commences. Contact Gill Penwell on 778208 for more information.

Next Meetings (all start at 14.00):

Monday 12th May 2014	Monday 10th November 2014
Monday 11th August 2014	Monday 9th February 2015