

# **WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held at 2pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at  
Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth

### **1. Introduction of those present**

Mike Kelly (President), David Harris (Secretary), David Dowle (Vice-Chairman), Carolyn Harris, Carole Chinn, Ian Newport (DCC), Dawn Atkin (DCC), Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Ian White, Gill Penwell, Gordon Lake, Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC)

### **2. Apologies**

Carole Lord, Steve Rook (Treasurer), Sue Blake (DAG)

### **3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the 2014 Annual General Meeting.

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

#### **John Lambert**

With the recent death of our very long serving Chairman, John Lambert, it is necessary to elect a new Chairman at this meeting. The new Chairman will be only the third in the history of our Group although we were formed in the late 1980s. John will not be an easy act to follow but I am sure we are committed to continue our efforts and will give support to the new Chairman in keeping up the good work of the Group. I hope we can also recruit additional members and, as part of that aim, I believe we need to renew our efforts to network with other groups and organisations who have an influence on, or an interest in, access issues (or should have!).

#### **Weymouth & Portland Borough Council changes**

Planning permission has been granted for the use of the Mulberry Centre in Commercial Road as Council Offices following the closure of the Council Offices at North Quay. We shall see how the offices operate but have stated that we have concerns about certain issues including the lack of easy access from the disabled parking spaces in the area.

#### **Weymouth Town Centre Masterplan**

Susan Ward-Rice will, no doubt, keep us informed on how the Masterplan will develop, and how it will relate to the planning policies of the draft West Dorset, Weymouth & Portland Local Plan.

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

David Dowle as Vice Chairman mentioned the passing of John who had been

at the helm since the group was formed. He next said that the Easton Boots situation reminded him of the Asda lift scenario in the way it was dragging on. He felt the the group had recently seen good turn outs from those regularly in attendance and hoped it would go on to do so.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

In Steve Rook's absence, Dave Harris presented the examined accounts and said that the account was in a healthy state showing a balance of just over £2000 at year end. No payment had been received from our efforts as volunteers at Weymouth Carnival. We had again received the sponsorship of £100 from Brotherwood which funds maintenance of the Group's Web Site. Approval of the accounts was proposed and seconded by David Dowle and Mike Kelly. The meeting approved them.

### WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31st December 2014

2013	Income	2014	2013	Expenditure	2014
£		£	£		£
			28.00	Hall Hire	28.40 ✓
100.00	Donation re Carnival	0.00	47.87	Postages & Stationery	0.00
			52.00	Disability Rights UK	52.00 ✓
			182.43	Insurance	182.43 ✓
			100.00	Web-Site - M Golsby	100.00 ✓
100.00	R Brotherwood (sponsor of website)	✓ 100.00	32.10	Travel	18.90
			45.00	Carer costs	0.00
287.40	Excess of expenditure over income	281.73		Excess of Income over expenditure	0.00
<b>487.40</b>		<b>381.73</b>	<b>487.40</b>		<b>381.73</b>

#### CASH ACCOUNT

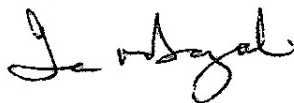
2013		2014	2013	Represented by:	2014
2635.46	Bank balance b/f 1.1.14	2,353.36 ✓	2353.36	Bank balance 31.12.14	2,073.63 ✓
8.81	Cash in hand b/f 1.1.14	3.51	3.51	Cash in hand 31.12.14	1.51
		2,356.87			
200.00	Add income	100.00			
2844.27		2,456.87			
487.40	Less Expenditure	381.73			
2,356.87		2,075.14 ✓	2,356.87		2,075.14 ✓

S Rook

Hon. Treasurer

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

Signed I McDougal



Date 21/1/2015

## 7. Election of Officers for the Coming Year

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

Post	Nominee	Proposer	Second
Chairman	Carole Chinn	Gill Penwell	Ian White
Vice Chairman	David Dowle	Dave Harris	Mike Kelly
President	Mike Kelly	David Dowle	Dave Harris
Secretary	David Harris	David Dowle	Ian White
Treasurer	Steve Rook	Ian White	Carole Chinn
Investigations Officer	Ian White	David Dowle	Graham Ryan
Publicity Officer	(Will be co-opted)		

The meeting was closed at 14.35.

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## **WEYMOUTH & PORTLAND ACCESS GROUP**

### **MINUTES FOR MEETING No. 121**

**Held following the AGM on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
at Acorns Centre, Grosvenor Road, Weymouth**

#### **1 Introduction of those present**

Mike Kelly (President), David Harris (Secretary), David Dowle (Vice-Chairman), Carolyn Harris, Carole Chinn, Ian Newport (DCC), Dawn Atkin (DCC), Graham Ryan, June Ryan, Ian White, Gill Penwell, Gordon Lake, Sue Ward-Rice (WPBC)

#### **2 Apologies**

Carole Lord, Steve Rook (Treasurer), Sue Blake (DAG)

- 3 Approval of Minutes of Meeting 120 held on 13th April 2015  
The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

#### **5 President`s Report**

##### **Weymouth and Dorchester Parkinsons Group**

As part of the effort to network with local groups who share our concerns about accessibility issues, Ian White and I will meet the Parkinsons Group on 13 July.

## **Boots Pharmacy, Easton Square, Portland**

I met Susan Ward-Rice, Dawn Atkin, and an Easton resident, Carole Pattison, to discuss ongoing concerns about the accessibility of this pharmacy. The step into the shop has been removed by regrading the forecourt and highway areas in front of the shop but this work does not conform to the guidelines provided. No doubt Dawn and Susan will wish to report on further measures which could be taken to improve the situation. It had been hoped, following the grant of planning permission in 2012, that the entrance door would be widened to 1 metre, but this no longer appears to be proposed. I have been back in contact with Portland Community Partnership and will report further if I have anything to add.

## **St. Peter's Church, The Grove, Portland**

This redundant church is listed as being of special architectural and historic interest. I have assisted the owner in his aim to put the building into community uses by providing an Access Audit. A site meeting has been held with the Conservation Officer of Weymouth & Portland Borough and West Dorset District Councils to discuss how access improvements can be carried out without harm to the special character of the building and his advice has been constructive.

## **MEMO and Jurassica Projects, Portland**

The Group will be aware of proposals for 2 major visitor attractions on Portland. Both the projects are committed to ensuring that disability access needs are considered in accordance with, and beyond, the legislative requirements and I am pleased to report that I am involved as part of the project Design Teams.

## **Buses**

First Wessex have removed most of the stepped access buses from local routes but some double deckers with steps at the entrance still remain. The Equalities Act requires that all single deckers with more than 22 seats will have a flat floor for the front section of the vehicle from the start of 2016. Double deckers will have a similar requirement from the start of 2017. The requirement for coaches with more than 22 seats does not kick in until 2020.

## **6 Chairman's Report**

As reported in AGM above.

## **7 Access Officers Report**

Sue Ward-Rice reported there had been a highway complaint re a shop - **Hedleys - on the Esplanade**. A person had been unable to get back into their car because of an obstruction outside the shop.

**Town Centre Master Plan** had been approved, but now council responsibilities had been shuffled post-election there were bound to be updates and changes - Sue agreed to keep the group informed.

**Mulberry Centre** - council functions were due to move there later in the year - probably October.

**Wheels in Motion** road layouts at Dorset Safety Centre had been started - expect to be finished by October.

## 8 Investigations Officers Report

The meeting had discussion about a range of topics. For simplicity these are recorded here:

**Access to Mulberry Centre** from Car Parks - Dawn Atkins had plans to infill part of the railway line to facilitate crossing the road as a test.

**Sitting out areas** - agreed plans were supposed to be visible in the windows of premises. Licences were being re-negotiated - Dawn would see if there were ways that the group could be informed as these were each completed.

## 9 Treasurer`s Report

Dave Harris reported that the current balance in our account (half way through financial year) is £1767. Main bills for the year have been paid. Volunteers needed to work the Carnival Raffle ticket sales stall on 19th August 2 hour or 4 hour sessions - contact Steve Rook if you can help. Phone: 01305 781258

Email: [steveandfran71@btinternet.com](mailto:steveandfran71@btinternet.com)

## 10 AOB

Ian White reported difficulties encountered as a wheelchair user in visiting the new WDCC/WPBC offices in Charles St, Dorchester. Clear route and call-button signage were not apparent, which made getting access more difficult than necessary.

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

<b>Monday 10th August 2015</b>	<b>Monday 14th December 2015</b>
<b>Monday 12th October 2015</b>	<b>Monday 8th February 2016</b>