

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING
County Hall, Haverfordwest
10th December 2015 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

E Rich	R Codd	A Hunt
A Thomas	B Cleevely	A Peter
F Heasman		

2. Could not attend the meeting:

H Langen, M Phillips, T Mills, Pembrokeshire People First,
B Thomas Cleaver, Cllr S Hancock, L Cartwright

3. Welcome.

In the absence of the Chairman Alan Hunt took the chair.

4. Ian Eynon Head of Financial Services

Alan explained that he had asked Ian not to attend due to the high number of apologies. However, Alan reported that it had been agreed at last week's Corporate Equality Strategy Group meeting that the Access Group should be on the same footing as other groups i.e. 50+ Forum. Alan has been asked to prepare a draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the next meeting.

5. Minutes of the meeting on 12th November 2015.

a. It was agreed that the minutes were a true record.

6. Matters Arising (things people wanted to talk about from the minutes of the last meeting).

- a. Alan is to try and contact Newport Gate B&B to see if we can visit.
- b. It was agreed to invite Caroline Cox of Tenby Observer to the February 2016 meeting.
- c. Alan to look into the reasons for councillors no longer attending PAG meetings

7. Treasurers Report (the person in charge of the group's money).

- a. The group has £5,454.33 in the bank, same as last month.
- b. Rex's expenses receipt handed to treasurer.
- c. Our insurance policy will be £182 this year.
- d. The annual report for the Charities Commission has been completed.

8. Correspondence (Any letters or emails received since the last meeting).

- a. Letter sent to the council on behalf of the Group by Access Officer about the Council's Active Travel Plan Questionnaire.
- b. Email from Bluestone thanking us for visiting to audit their accessible accommodation and inviting Mark &

Annette to let them know when they would like to stay and evaluate Bluestones facilities.

- c.** Email from Equality & Human Rights Commission advising of their successful challenge in the High Court. The court has ruled that the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions has indirectly discriminated against carers for disabled family members by failing to exempt them from the benefits cap.
- d.** Press release from Disability Wales about the possibility they may have to close because of Welsh Government funding changes.
- e.** Email from European Commission about proposals to make products and services more accessible. Products to include cash machines, banking services, Computers, telephones, transport, e-books and e-commerce.

9. Citizen Directed Co operative (CDCC)

- a.** Report by Mark Phillips (MP) received.
- b.** A decision has been made not to continue with the bid for the CDCC.
- c.** Mark has also been in contact with Clarbston Road Amateur Football Club who are keen to improve their facilities for disabled sports people and spectators.
- d.** It was agreed to invite someone from the club to a future meeting.

10. Pembrokeshire People First Report

- a. There was no report this month.

11. PAG Conference

- a. It is proposed to hold a conference in the spring.
Annette Peter (AP) to get some prices of venues by the next meeting.
- b. Suggestions for speakers are needed.

12. Beach Wheelchairs.

- a. £450 donation has been received from Milford Haven Port Authority towards the purchase of two manual wheelchairs to use with the new beach wheelchairs.
- b. We have £4000 to spend on the beach wheelchairs which allow us to buy two.
- c. Alan to find out how we pay and how long they will take to deliver.

13. Chairman's Report

- a. There was no report this month.

14. Access Officer's Report

- a. Alan had carried out an access visit at the Pendre Inn, Fishguard.
- b. The front entrance has steps and is located where even the use of a temporary ramp would not be possible.

- c. The toilets are up a step and it is not possible to lower them because of the level of the drains. Alan recommended that grab rails should be fitted to the toilets and all steps should be highlighted and a handrail should be provided on the front entrance steps.
- d. Problems largely due to the age of the building.
- e. Large print menus are available.
- f. Alan advised them that when alterations are made in the future they should make sure that access is improved.

15. Any other business (any other things that need to be talked about).

- a. It was suggested we put an advertisement in PAVS newsletter to try and get some new members.

The meeting finished at 3:30 PM.

Next meeting: 14th January 2016 at 2pm, County Hall.