

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING

County Hall, Haverfordwest

8th January 2015 at 2.00pm

1. At the meeting:

H Langen,	A Hunt.	B Thomas-Cleaver,
A Peter,	E Rich,	B Cleevely,
R Codd,	C Cavill	

2. Could not attend the meeting:

A Richards, Cllr S Hancock

3. Minutes of 11th December 2014.

Everyone agreed that the minutes of the last meeting were correct.

4. Matters Arising (things people wanted to talk about from the last meeting).

a. Cleddau Bridge Blue Badge Passes.

1. Alan asked the bridge manager how many people get concessionary bridge tickets and the answer is 2953.
2. The Access Group still feel that the policy of allowing only a few blue badge holders to get free bridge tickets is not right. The reasons chosen by the Council for getting the free tickets have no

connection with whether a person can afford to pay or not. But these reasons are the same as most other toll roads and bridges in Britain so it is not likely that the Council will change this policy.

3. B Thomas Cleaver mentioned a report in the Milford Mercury this week about the Council wanting to charge £10 for Blue Badges. The Access Officer said he thought this was not quite right and will look into it and let us know at the next meeting.

b. Clynyfw West Wales Celebration Event.

The celebration event at Clynyfw, Abercych has now changed to Saturday, 17th January. This is so that it matches the new Disabled Access Day event which VisitWales is advertising. The Access Officer and the Chairman will try to go. The event is being held from 10.30 to 3.30 pm and Henry and Alan hope to take a beach wheelchair, the Pembrokeshire Passport and some flush kerb flyers for people to see.

5. Treasurers Report (the person in charge of the group money).

- a. Our insurance has been paid.
- b. £1000 has been received from the Milford Haven Port Authority towards a new beach wheelchair.

- c. £369 has been received from the National Park.
This is money was given by people who used the beach wheelchair at Broad Haven Surf Shop.
- d. The money in the bank is £2110.99.
- e. Bills we have to pay this month are
 - 1) £210 for the British Sign Language translator at the International Celebration Day event in the Torch theatre.
 - 2) £2.44 for tea and coffee at the meetings
 - 3) £200 expenses for the Chairman for going to meetings on behalf of the Access Group. The Chairman really didn't want to claim these expenses but everyone at the meeting said he should.
- f. Everyone at the meeting said that Rex should be able to claim the cost of his taxi to get to meetings.
- g. The Access Officer had finally sorted out the forms for us to be able to get Gift Aid from any donations made to the Group. The forms will now be sent off.

6. Correspondence (Any information received since the last meeting).

a. Pembrokeshire Association of Voluntary Services (PAVS).

PAVS Annual report, Annual Review and Pembrokeshire Voice have been received.

It was recorded that Beryl Thomas Cleaver had now left the Trustee Board of PAVS after 16 years. The Chairman and Access Officer thanked her for all her work there as it had helped the Access Group greatly.

b. Disability Wales.

An email was received from Disability Wales about their Enabling Wales programme. There are a number of training events available. The Access Officer will find out more about it.

c. Taxi Fares.

The new list of taxi fares had been received from the Council's Licensing Department. If the taxi is a hackney carriage, then the meter must be used for the trip and private hire rates can't be charged. If any taxi firm tries to charge more than the new rates, they should be reported to Alan who will let the licensing people know.

d. Consultation on the Review of the Public Service Vehicles Regulations for the behaviour of Drivers, Inspectors and Conductors.

A response to this consultation from the Access Association was read out. Everyone at the meeting hoped that all the recommendations about disability awareness in the response will be made law.

e. Disability Wales – Manifesto for Wales.

It is important that Disability organisations have a strong say about the manifestos of all the political parties

before the 2016 Assembly elections. There are 2 workshops being held – Port Talbot on 28 January and Aberystwyth on 5 March.

7. Dewis Centre for Independent Living, Pontypridd.

This organisation is renting offices in Milford Haven and setting up an advocacy service. It would be good for us to work with them because they could help us set up a Centre for Independent Living (CIL). There is a meeting with their Chief Executive in Pembrokeshire County Hall on 11 February 11am to 1 pm, everyone is invited to attend.

There is a new loan available through PAVS which could be useful in helping us set up a CIL in Pembrokeshire.

8. Disability today, Western Telegraph feature.

Next week's Western Telegraph and Milford Mercury will have a full colour, pull out section which is an information guide for people with disabilities. It was agreed that we take out an advert in this guide. The Access Officer has designed it and managed to get the papers to knock down the price because we are a registered charity.

9. Pembrokeshire People First Report.

There was no report this month.

10. International Day of Disabled People.

This was on the agenda so that we think about it earlier this year. We hope it will be a drama production like the last two years in the Torch Theatre. We need to arrange the publicity earlier than we have before to make sure that as many people as possible know about the event.

11. Beach wheelchairs / Face book page.

- a. The Chairman is working at getting more people to look at our profile on Facebook. He said we now have 142 followers and is sure we could reach 500 this year. The aim is to get us known by lots more people and also to make sure that businesses know about the amount of money which disabled people have to spend in their shops if we can get in.

- b. Anthony Richards had been in touch with Alton Mobility. Landeez beach wheelchairs are no longer being made but Alton Mobility says it has a large amount of spare parts for them. They say that the beach wheelchair they sell is called the D Bug and is better than the Landeez. They cost about £3950 each including delivery.

- c. As we have £5000 from Bluestone and £1000 from Milford Haven Port Authority to buy beach wheelchairs,

we could buy one now and try and get enough money for another one.

- d. Coppet Hall, Saundersfoot would like to have one.
- e. PAVS is running a grant scheme for South Hook LNG which we could apply to. This could help us buy another beach wheelchair. It might be possible to have a beach wheelchair in Dale which is within the area that South Hook LNG allow grants for. Alan will find out more about it.

12. Access Officer's Report.

The Council has told Alan that the slippery piece of pavement in Saundersfoot High Street will be put right at the same time as they repair the pavement outside the Spar shop.

13. Matters Arising (any other things that need to be talked about).

- a. There don't seem to be enough 'disabled' parking spaces at Letterston Village Hall. The Access Officer will look into this.
- b. The question was asked whether FRAME was still giving out ordinary wheelchairs. The answer was yes.

Next meeting: 12th February 2015 at County Hall.

Meeting finished: 3:40pm.

