

MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING
County Hall, Haverfordwest
12th November 2015 at 1.45pm

1. At the meeting:

B Thomas-Cleaver	E Rich	R Codd
A Hunt	B Cleevely	M Pope
L Cartwright	A Peter	

2. Could not attend the meeting:

H Langen, J McNamara, C Cavill, A Thomas, M Phillips, M Baron, M Jakeway, F Heasman, T Mills, Pembrokeshire People First, A letter of resignation has been received from Carol Cavill

Due to the scheduled AGM not being quorate it was decided to start the executive meeting early at 1:45 and resume the AGM after the break.

3. Welcome.

Vice Chair, Beryl Thomas-Cleaver welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An update on the chair, Henry Langen, was given by Alan Hunt. Henry is recuperating at home after major surgery and developed pneumonia. He has declared that he would be happy to continue as chair of the access group and would like this to be considered at the forthcoming election of officers at the AGM.

4. Minutes of the meeting on 8th October 2015.

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

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

- a. Alan Hunt explained that he, Mark Phillips and Annette Peter had visited Bluestone by invitation to audit the accessible lodges that they offer to disabled people. They thought the bedroom and bathroom accommodation was adequate but to the minimum standard and that there were other lodges at Bluestone that had ground floor facilities within larger rooms which could be adapted easily with detachable grab rails, shower chairs etc. Alan has sent Bluestone an example of a supplier which can provide this sort of equipment. PAG members also felt that the surfaces, widths and inclines of the inter-connecting paths were poor. Thanks were sent to Bluestone for their hospitality, and the chance of a free stay to further evaluate their facilities has been offered to Annette and Mark. Since the visit Bluestone has requested a short written report. Alan will attend to this.
- b. Disability Wales will pay for Rex's taxi fare so that he can attend the Citizen Directed Co-operative meetings at PLANED.

- c. New ramp to West Angle Bay – AH to pursue this. Cllr Rob Lewis has suggested that there is a funding pot available.

- d. No suitable location for a changing places toilet has been found in Haverfordwest. The new library at the Market has been suggested, but it was felt that a new location should be found sooner. Possible locations suggested are: Castle Lake car park, the multi-storey car park. Beryl suggested that the old PIPPA building might be used. The supplier, Danfo, said they would site the toilets where possible. It was agreed to ask someone from Danfo to attend a future meeting of PAG.

Rex Codd arrived at 1.50pm.

- e. Letter from Newport Gate B&B – AH contacted them to arrange a visit, but there has been no response yet.

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

- a. The group has £5,454.33 in the bank.

Marilyn Pope arrived at 2pm.

- b. Following a request from Alan, the Council has given PAG a one-off payment of £300, but said it would not contribute further to the group's finances. The finance officer and head of business services have been asked to attend a meeting, but no reply has been received. Alan Hunt will contact them again.
- c. Rex's travel expenses have been paid.
- d. It was suggested that a letter be written asking why the county council has a service level agreement with the 50+ Forum to cover meetings, and two conferences, but will not consider similar with PAG.

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

- a. Pam Davies, Tenby Tourist Information Centre, has contacted the group regarding signposting to wheelchair-friendly accommodation. They have some information but need more because more people are requesting locations of accessible accommodation or attractions. There is no information on the council's website and most hotels and B&B websites including Visit Wales' website has no information on accessible holiday options. It was mentioned that Alan Turner, Tourism officer for PCC, had also forwarded queries on to PAG. Liz mentioned the response she had received from AT when she queried the lack of diversity on the Pembrokeshire

Tourism video. She agreed to forward this to Alan Hunt and he will contact AT regarding these matters.

- b. PAG has been asked to do an access audit at the Pendre Inn, Fishguard. AH to try to arrange for 18th November.

8. Citizen Led Co operative

- a. AH reported on the progress of the bid for PAG to become a Citizen Directed Co-operative and explained that the successful group would advise people on how to use their direct payments and also take on the role of employer for carers.
- b. Liz Cartwright mentioned that the group would need more people who receive direct payment to be involved.
- c. It was suggested to ask groups such as Arthritis Care, Norman Industries, HOPE and the Pain Support Group etc to become involved.
- d. Janet Price Commissioning Service Manager is very supportive in principle of the initiative.

9. Pembrokeshire People First Report

- a. There was no report this month.

10. Beach Wheelchairs.

- b. The harbourmaster at Saundersfoot has said that they can take on more wheelchairs once they have completed their improvement works.
- c. Mark Phillips and Alan Hunt have tested two new types of beach wheelchair.
- d. One can be used with your own chair, but it was not thought that we could use it because it needs too much training and assistance to use it.
- e. The other chair is basically a frame with large balloon tyres which you can fit a standard manual wheelchair to. Mark said was much more comfortable to sit in and was easier to transfer in to. Alan said it was as easy to push as the ones we already have and it also packs away easily and is easier to store.
- f. If the group orders five chairs of this type they will cost less than £1,000 compared with £5,000, which the Angle chair cost. We would need to add the cost of buying manual wheelchairs though so the total cost would be just over £1,000.
- g. It was agreed to seek donations from the Milford Haven Port Authority.
- h. Alan Hunt will contact some wheelchair manufacturers to see if they could be bought more cheaply. This will be decided by the next meeting.

13. Chairman's Report

- a. There was no report this month. The vice-chair praised Henry's commitment to the access group, and praised the work of the access officer.

14. Access Officer's Report

- b. Tenby Observer reporter Caroline Cox has contacted Alan to do a feature on disability involving the Access Group. It was decided to invite her to the February meeting.
- c. Alan Hunt has spoken with Annette regarding the website and assisted technology. It was not possible for Annette to register using her keyboard and there was no audio alternative. Alan Hunt has contacted the council's web team and Annette is going to meet them and help them make it easier to use.

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

- a. Eva Rich raised issues regarding the radar key at the Tenby toilets, which has now been changed to a Yale lock.
- b. A conference for PAG was discussed possibly around the Citizen Directed Co operative Cymru application. It was suggested that an Awards for All lottery application be made to fund this or find sponsors. This

will be an agenda at the next meeting. Members were asked to think about a suitable venue, date and other subjects for the conference apart from direct payments before the next meeting.

- c. Marilyn Pope said that hearing groups are not finding out about important disability meetings.

Carmarthenshire County Council has good directions on its website for hearing impaired.

- d. There will be no celebrations to mark international day for the disabled this year. The group will concentrate on a conference next year instead.

- e. It was highlighted that no county councillors have attended meetings for a while. Alan will contact them.

The meeting finished at 3:40

Next meeting: 10th December 2015 at 2pm, County Hall.