

## **MINUTES – ACCESS GROUP MEETING**

**County Hall, Haverfordwest**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 1.30pm**

### **1. At the meeting:**

H Langen	A Hunt	R Codd
E Rich	B Cleevely	A Thomas
J Hatchett	I Hatchet	M Baron
K Chandler	J De Wilton	S Merrit
A Peter	J Tyler	

### **2. Could not attend the meeting:**

B Thomas Cleaver, M Phillips, T Mills, Cllr S Hancock, M Pope, A Richards, L Cartwright, F Heasman, M Jakeway

### **3. Welcome.**

Henry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **4. Minutes of the meeting on 10th March, 2016.**

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

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

- a. Jessica asked if there was any news about the lack of wheelchair spaces on buses. Alan said that the council's Transportation Section did not have any direct contact with anyone at the Department for Transport and that

organisations like Guide Dogs were pushing for better access to buses and trains.

- b.** There were not enough Group members to take the beach wheelchairs to the event at Clynyfw but it is hoped to attend next year.
- c.** There has been no feedback from the council regarding the service level agreement. Alan Hunt will get back in touch with them to try and speed things up.
- d.** The proposed closure of the Avenue Centre, Tenby is being reviewed by the council. Group members will try to keep an eye on progress and if necessary will write to the council.

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

- a. The amount of money in the bank is now £1,162.67.
- b. Bill has taken legal advice about having a second bank account for the Community Voice project. It is best if we have a completely new account to make sure that everything to do with the project is kept separate. This will make it easier for accounting purposes.
- c. It was agreed that Annette Peter, Margaret Baron and Alan Thomas would be signatories for the new account and that Annette would be the main contact.
- d. Bill and Alan and Annette have all tried to open a new bank account at Lloyds Bank but this has proved to be

virtually impossible due to the requirement that Bill and all the signatories need to be in the same place at the same time when Lloyds telephones to confirm details. Lloyds Bank is not able to give a time and day for this to happen. It was decided therefore to try Barclays Bank as an alternative. Annette and Alan Hunt will contact them and try to get things moving.

- e. Jessica Hatchett presented her invoice for work so far on the Community Voice Project which will be paid from the Access Group main bank account until the new Community Voice account is opened. The new account will be called Accessible Pembrokeshire.
- f. Both Rex and Jessica also presented receipts from taxi firms for travel expenses. Rex has found a cheaper taxi firm which will save money.
- g. Alan attended the Pembroke County Women's Guild meeting to talk to them about the Access Group and disabled access. They donated £20 to the Access Group after Alan's talk.

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

- a. Alan Hunt has received an email from the Access Association about The House of Lords Select Committee on the Equality Act 2010 and Disability. The report highlights the fact that little has been done to help

disabled people access services and facilities since the Equality Act was made law. A copy of the report is attached.

- b. A Pembrokeshire resident has reported the problems that some people with cardioverter-defibrillators have with security magnets in shop doorways. Alan Hunt brought an information sheet by the American Heart Organisation which is attached for information.
- c. An email was received from Liz Cartwright of PLANED to remind members of the Let's Talk Transport event being held at Crundale Hall on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May Between 9.30am and 2pm. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Liz if you would like to attend at [lizc@planed.org.uk](mailto:lizc@planed.org.uk) or phone Liz on 01834 862111.
- d. A copy of the Charity Commission News has been received. A copy is attached for information.

## **8. Community Voice Project.**

- a.** The Sub-committee held a meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May at County Hall.
- b.** Jessica signed an agreement to carry out work for the Community Voice Project. Her company is called Red Cape Business Solutions.
- c.** Jessica has contacted Picton Castle to confirm the venue for the conference but they had no record of it despite Alan confirming it to them in an email. The castle will be

closed between December and April so Jessica was asked to confirm May 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 for the conference.

- d. Jessica will contact Michelle at PAVS to arrange a meeting to learn about the paperwork required for the project.
- e. Ian Hatchett attended to advise on setting up a website for the Project and a separate website for the proposed conference.
- f. The conference will be called The Big Access Talk.
- g. Ian is to provide a quote for two websites, one called Accessible Pembrokeshire and one for the conference called The Big Access Talk. Subject to the names being available Ian will register both names as .com, .co.uk and .org.uk. The (domain) names will be registered in the name of PAG C/O the Access Officer at County Hall. Jessica will start setting up pages on Facebook and Twitter for the project and the Big Talk.
- h. Henry was concerned that web streaming was being overlooked so it was agreed to investigate this further at the next sub-group meeting.
- i. Pembrokeshire People First (PPF) were booked to give training by Disability Wales (DW) as part of the Community Voice project but this is no longer taking place since DW is no longer delivering the project. PPF are still keen to deliver training as part of the Community Voice project and Karen was invited to

attend the next sub-group meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> June at County Hall at 10.30.

- j.** Engagement meetings with commissioners of services will be arranged between now and the conference.
- k.** Henry suggested inviting Stephen Crabb MP to open the event and also Simon Duffy to challenge him.

#### **9. Service Level Agreement with the council.**

- a.** There is still no news from the council so Alan will try and contact them.

#### **10. Pembrokeshire People First Report.**

- a.** The report was read by Jeremy and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- b.** Jeremy and Karen also mentioned the work they were doing on health and attached is a copy of their Health Questionnaire and Workshop results.
- c.** James talked about the work he is doing to try and get bus timetables changed from a 24 hour clock to a 12 hour clock using am and pm. James also showed us an example of an easier to read version which he is hoping the council's transport section will use.
- d.** Alan Hunt said it would be good if an app could be developed to make it easier for people to find out about bus times in Pembrokeshire. Karen said that PPF were already looking into this. Alan wondered if the app could

come under the Community Voice project and Henry said he knew someone who could develop the app. Ian said he could get a price for an app and Karen said she would contact him with more information.

## **11. Beach Wheelchairs.**

- a.** Alan Hunt said he had contacted Saundersfoot Harbour and the new beach wheelchair has only been out once or twice so far this year. The staff at the harbour prefer the new chair to the old ones.
- b.** Anthony Richards has reported that the beach wheelchair at Poppit Sands is no longer available because there is no longer a car park attendant there to hire it out.
- c.** The Group will write to the RNLI Lifeguards to see if they could host the beach wheelchair and copy in the local councillor Mike James.
- d.** Alan said that he had spoken to the officer at the council who deals with structures on the foreshore and there would be no problem in building a better ramp at Angle. Alan will try and find out from Cllr Rob Lewis if there is any funding available.

## **12. Chairman's Report.**

- a.** None.

### **13. Access Officer's Report**

a) None.

### **14. Any other business (any other things that need to be talked about).**

- a. Margaret said that the drop kerb in Quay Street, Haverfordwest was difficult to use. Alan Hunt will look at it and try and get it altered.
- b. Annette said she had visited the Pendre Inn in Fishguard with friends and that there were no new handrails on the entrance steps as recommended when the access audit was carried out.
- c. James Tyler is co chair of the Learning Disability Board with Jonathan Griffiths and will report back to the Access Group.
- d. Jessica has been speaking to Dewis Advocacy Centre about an employment project and will report back to us at future meetings.

The meeting finished at 3:30 PM.

#### **Next meeting:**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 1.30pm, County Hall.**