

Access Group Meeting Thursday July 13th 2017

Present (those at the meeting): Beryl Thomas Cleaver, Frank Heasman, Rex Codd, Annette Peter, Eva Rich, Emma Lewis, Jessica Hatchett, Alyson Cooke. Observers: Andrea Howard (Community Connector – PAVS) and Megan Griffiths (Work Experience – PCC).

Apologies (those who could not be at the meeting): Maisie Jakeway, Ian Hatchett, Marilyn Pope, Stuart Merritt and Jeremy De Wilton, Bill Cleevely.

* Before the meeting began, Beryl gave members the opportunity to say a few words about our honorary president Henry Langen, who sadly passed away in June. Alan told the group that Henry was determined to get home to Narberth before his death, having spent a lot of time in France recently. The general feeling of the group was that Henry was a truly extraordinary man who is impossible to replace.

EGM

The extraordinary general meeting dealt with the following:

Proposal one: Margaret Baron to take over the role of treasurer. This was proposed by Annette Peter and seconded by Eva Rich. It was unanimously agreed.

Proposal two: Jessica Hatchett to take over the post of secretary. This was proposed by Rex Codd, seconded by Frank Heasman and unanimously agreed.

MEETING

Matters Arising

- The group would like to know who is replacing Councillor Simon Hancock in his cabinet role.
- Trunk road agency responsible for controlled crossings on the trunk roads – welsh government is dealing requests for a crossing at the new Aldi store in Pembroke Dock and TRA has forwarded it again to WG. Alan to write again on behalf of the group to WG.
- Pembroke Town Hall doors – Alan has visited and given them some advice. When the necessary work is done, Alan will go back and inspect.
- Owen Roberts has spoken to Alan and First Cymru about Alyson's friend and the difficulties she has with the buses. Alyson's friend should keep a diary and if problems still happen they should contact Alan.
- The Council has said the work on the path that Eva previously reported can be done but not before September.
- Dropped kerbs in Trafalgar Road – Alyson saw 7 surveyors outside of the window doing work so it looks like progress is being made.

*Action points – Jessica will assist Alan by drafting a letter to PCC regarding Simon Hancock's replacement.

Disability Confident Scheme

Mark Woolgar from Pembrokeshire County Council's HR department replied to Alan to say that the Council's stance regarding the Disability Confident Scheme (which has replaced the two ticks scheme/symbol) has not changed and they will not be implementing the scheme. The group is unhappy with this and will send a formal letter asking for a reply before the next meeting in September.

* Action point – Jessica will draft a letter regarding the Disability Confident Scheme and ask for a formal response before the meeting in September. Alan will look it over and take it to Beryl to sign.

Treasurer's Report

The account balance is currently £1425.36.

Pembrokeshire People First

There was no report from PPF this month. Stuart and Jeremy were not in attendance.

Emma Lewis from PACTO

Emma Lewis from PACTO came to talk about Bus Buddies. Bus Buddies are difficult to find in Goodwick and Fishguard at the moment. The project has funding to train people. Emma also mentioned that Access Group members can have a taxi to come to PACTO meetings. Beryl said they had asked before if someone could attend the monthly meetings.

Correspondence (any information received since the last meeting)

1. Complaint from a wheelchair user who claims that Costa Coffee in Haverfordwest will not allow his helper to assist him to remove his coat in the restaurant but must do it in the toilet.

*Action point - Alan to get back to Costa regarding the complaint.

Community Voice Project

1. Cheques were written for Jessica Hatchett's wages, the Pavilion hire and catering for the Big Access Talk and the Picton Centre hire fee for the training provided by PPF.
2. The sub group will meet next Thursday.
3. There is the possibility of doing extra Access Audit Training on 10-11 October or 17-18 October. Pembrokeshire Archives is fully booked and we may use the Picton Centre.

4. County Show Wednesday Margaret, Alyson, Rex and Jessica will attend – Community Voice will pay for fee and transport.

Any Other Business (any other things that need to be talked about)

1. Margaret questioned whether the group needs to have a disability policy in place. Andrea suggested Vanessa John at PAVS would have one that the group could use.
2. Jessica said there are drop-in sessions taking place with regards to the changes to social services charges and the group should publicise these.
3. The group felt that a memorial to Henry should be discussed at the September meeting. Jessica and Liz Cartwright had both suggested that if the group is successful in forming a Centre for Independent Living (CIL) it could be named the Henry Langen Centre for Independent Living. Beryl said that benches had been bought in memory of Hazel Cook and Malcolm Pratt.
4. Anthony Richards has contacted the Group asking if someone could be nominated to replace Henry on the Local Access Forum. Henry's contributions were much appreciated and Anthony didn't want the connection with the Group to be lost.
5. Alan to get dates and info on meetings for September meeting.
6. Liz Cartwright Health board has confirmed that Hector Walker will be attending the meeting on September 14th to talk about Transforming Mental Health Services. Liz also asked if someone else could also attend to talk about their Transforming Clinical Services strategy. It was decided that two speakers would be too many and that Liz would be asked if they could attend the October meeting.
7. Beach Wheelchairs – Nino said that the beach wheelchair at Saundersfoot Harbour needed repair and that customers didn't like the new Nomad design as much as the Landeez or the De Bug. Alan to ask Nino to repair the beach chair and the group will seek grant funding for a new chair possible from the Port Authority, South Hook LNG etc.
8. Jonathan Griffiths has not got back to Rex as promised at the Big Access Talk. Alan will email Jonathan about this.
9. Alyson has not received minutes and agenda. Alan will check her email address email is correct on the mailing list.
10. Eva reported that the steps to the Augustus Place Hall in Tenby need highlighting along the step edges. Alan will notify Tenby Town Council about this.
11. Funding event PAVS

Action points -

- Annette to send the details of the funding event in Carmarthen to Alan and Jessica
- Alan will check that Alyson's contact details are correct on the mailing

list

- Jessica to put details of social services consultations on Facebook. She will attend one.
- Jessica will contact Vanessa John to get a copy of the Disability Policy.

Meeting ended at 3.45pm