

Minutes of WAAFA meeting 14th June in The Winchester Centre

Present – Ian Barrett
Janet Chierchia
Derek Smithers
Chris Griffiths-Jones
Nick Coe
Elizabeth McKerracher
Keith Hackett
Sharon Rhodes
Pat Neal
Stuart Banks

Apologies – Councillor Vicky Weston
Kim Walsgrove
Shirley Kinneally
Nick Birtley

1) Introductions

As there were several new attendees everyone briefly introduced themselves to the meeting.

2) Previous Meeting Minutes

These were approved and there were no matters arising that were not already on the Agenda for today's meeting.

3) Hearing Loops

Nick brought in a newly purchased portable version which, after some initial problems, did seem to offer some, but small, improvement over no hearing assistance apparatus. However the consensus was that, considering the cost – about £500, this was not a major step forward in the very problematic issue of supporting people with hearing difficulties.

As a particularly interested party, Derek agreed to take up this issue with WCC and HCC, whose systems are generally inefficient or not even switched on. **ACT Derek**

4) Dedicated disabled changing/toilet facilities

Ian, Janet and Nick confirmed, from several different sources, that the cost of a 12 sq metre facility fully equipped is about £25000. Janet emphasised that the Andover Mencap and Marwell Zoo facilities were funded through grants.

The meeting agreed that the next opportunity to take this forward would be the Silverhill development and that we need to get a facility of this type written into the plans. Elizabeth agreed to take this up with the appropriate WCC personnel.

ACT Elizabeth

5) Osborne School

It was agreed that SB should attend the School Council Meeting at the end of July and present the case for WAAFA working together with the school. SB asked if anyone else wished to attend also, could they let him know.

It was also agreed that WAAFA should join up with Osborne School on the issue of their request for a school crossing. SB raise with Penny Parkinson. **ACT SB**

The meeting also agreed with the proposal that a representative of Osborne School should sit on the Forum Committee. SB raise with Penny **ACT SB**

6) Forum Committee Office Bearers

Keith was elected as Chairman and Janet as Treasurer

7) WAAFA Website

SB explained that Tim Cox was only temporary at WACA and could not, therefore, take on the job of designing and updating our website. Keith explained that he has a contact at the RNIB who could help us with design and will contact to discuss the WAAFA website. **ACT Keith**

8) Planning Applications

Councillor Vicky Weston had hoped to be present to explain how to segregate planning applications to make it easier to “vet” the appropriate submissions however, due to other commitments, she was unable to attend.

Ian made the valid point that it would be better to get WCC to agree some supplementary planning procedures so that WAAFA can be automatically included in the process. Ian will try to find out who would be the correct person to contact (Steve Opavec – sorry if spelling is wrong – may be able to help) **ACT Ian**

9) Making contact with Fire and Rescue + Police

SB still has to do this. Ian suggested that SB get help from the police to understand what the legal system/process is related to Disability Related “Hate” Crime. If we

know the procedure then we should be able to help and advise if a member of the public comes to WAAFA for assistance. **ACT SB**

10) Sustainability of WAAFA

Sharon raised this as a question after a particularly poor turnout at the May meeting. However, today's meeting was very well attended and the assembled delegates felt that there was enough momentum to ensure that WAAFA has a strong future.

Janet offered to bring some others along if she felt that this would be worthwhile for them. The meeting left it to Janet to decide what is best but sincerely hopes that she will bring somebody to the next meeting **ACT Janet**

11) Access Survey

The meeting agreed that it would be good to make some quick progress by getting some of the Osborne School Post 16 year olds involved and that we should limit the first foray to High St and Jewry St. SB to contact Penny Parkinson to see if this is possible. **ACT SB**

AOB

Sainsbury

Keith will follow up the issue of an internal waiting area (for buses and taxis) in Sainsbury's store as current arrangements make it difficult for the elderly **ACT Keith**

Radar – the disability rights people

Ian will contact to find out a little more on their plans for constituents to contact their MP's, so that the voice of the disabled is well and truly heard in parliament. **ACT Ian**

SB take this up with Steve Brine, who is already involved **ACT SB**