

Minutes of General Meeting

Date	21 st January 2020
Time	10.00-12.00
Venue	Stoke Town Hall

Agenda topic	Action				
<p>Attendees:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam Bryan • Geoff Bryan • Jo Coulson • Stephanie Wood • John Burgess • Laura Johnson </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mick Jones • Angie Bunn • Rob Lamonby • Harmesh Jassal • Kerry Bloor • Cassie Vasilio </td> </tr> </table> <p>Apologies received from:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Beech • Simmy Akhtar • Phil Woodward • Horace Hodson </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Falmer • Pat Dixon • Mike Dixon • John Walmsley </td> </tr> </table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pam Bryan • Geoff Bryan • Jo Coulson • Stephanie Wood • John Burgess • Laura Johnson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mick Jones • Angie Bunn • Rob Lamonby • Harmesh Jassal • Kerry Bloor • Cassie Vasilio 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Beech • Simmy Akhtar • Phil Woodward • Horace Hodson 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Falmer • Pat Dixon • Mike Dixon • John Walmsley 	
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1. Attendees and Apologies					
Pam welcomed members. Apologies noted					
2. Accuracy of minutes of 19th November 2019					
Minutes were accepted as true record of meeting of 19 th November 2019					
3. Matters arising from meeting of 19th November 2019					
All matters arising on agenda					
4. Dual-purpose disabled parking bays / electric car charging points					

Harmesh updated the group that parking throughout the city is being reviewed, overseen by Ian Tamburello. There are no current plans to repurpose disabled spaces that he is aware of. Harmesh assured the group that he will always work to make sure STAND's views are taken into account on matters of parking. Pam remarked that should it be necessary, Harmesh could remind the Council of the assurances they have made to us regarding disabled parking spaces (namely that any lost spaces will always be replaced).

Geoff remarked that more spaces will be needed as more badges are to be awarded for a range of new conditions.

Mick reported that two spaces have been lost in Huntbach Street and six near the Victoria Hall have been replaced with gardens.

Steph reported that on 3rd February, the road near the Mitchell Memorial Theatre (Broad Street) will be closed for 8 weeks, meaning that disabled spaces will be lost. Harmesh will check this.

5. Hospital Parking Update

Pam has met with Mike Brown to discuss the issues faced by people trying to access the Royal Stoke's new pay-on-exit parking system.

Before the December election there was uncertainty around whether recommendations for parking concessions would be implemented. Mike has been reluctant to pay for new software because of this uncertainty. It is hoped that a solution will now be found.

Laura reported some feedback from Healthwatch service users that they had struggled with not having the exact change and having to go back into the hospital to use the shop. Depending on timing (and we know disabled people can take longer), this can mean a few extra minutes takes the payment charge into the next hour. The machine does not give change.

Harmesh suggested that it is possible for users to register their disabled badges before using number plate recognition technology in carparks. Jo confirmed that she has done some research around this and there are a number of carparks offering this as an option (mainly in London).

6. Winter Wonderland

Pam emailed Mike Clarke on this matter and resent his response to members..

There was some discussion around using the train station as a disabled traveller. Rob asked if there was anywhere he could leave his van parked near Stoke Station with disabled badge displayed. It was felt that the Station carpark itself would be best but would not be free.

7. Blue Iris Update

<p>Jo and Pam delivered a talk about the Blue Iris project to Age UK volunteers at the Dudson Centre. It was well received and £31 was given in donations.</p> <p>Laura suggested contacting the new 'Open Space' in Newcastle for people with learning disabilities: http://ourspacestaffs.co.uk</p> <p>This led to a more general chat around fundraising for STAND. Kerry suggested contacting the Kismet as they raise funds for charities with meals. She will investigate further and report back.</p> <p>Jo reported that it hasn't been possible to add a PayPal donate button to the STAND website/social media but that a crowdfunding site should be a better option. She will send a draft to the group for approval.</p> <p>Pam reported that the group has saved a lot of money since going (mostly) paperless.</p>	
<p>8. Any other business</p>	
<p>Pam has contacted the new MPs that are in post but has yet to receive a reply. Jo replied that they don't seem to be in office yet.</p> <p>Pam asked if the group would be interested in having a guest speaker to talk about benefits. The group responded that they would. Mick explained that he has a relative paying £14 a month bedroom tax however is unable to move as they cannot find a suitable property. Pam knows of a couple being charged bedroom tax for their 'spare' room despite the wife/carer needing to sleep in it due to the husband's disabilities.</p> <p>Jo reported on some small pots of potential funding for STAND and Blue Iris, which she will report back on next time.</p> <p>Laura explained that Healthwatch Stoke-on-Trent are starting a new project around care in the home. She asked if she could bring some surveys to the next meeting and the group said yes.</p>	
<p>Exec – 11th February 2020 at Disability Solutions, Hartshill</p> <p>General – 3rd March 2020 10.00am at Civic Centre Stoke</p>	