



Oswestry and District Access Group

Minutes of the AGM Tuesday 8th November 2011

Chairman Angela Bright welcomed Oswestry Town Mayor Cynthia Hawksley

1. Present: Angela Bright (Chairman); Margaret Chamberlain Janis Menage; Anthony Jackson; Cllr. Elaine Channon; Kathleen Smith; Sue Napper; Hannah Bishop CSO West Mercia Police; Geoff Allen, Shropshire Parking; Alfie Jones & Daniel Howarth & Neil Stallard (Derwen College); Michelle Kelsall (Qube); Jackie Elliott
2. Apologies: Lin Stapley, Steve Oakley, Sally Tinkler; Frank Napper, Vince Hunt, Kate Garner, Bill Benyon.
3. Minutes of the last meeting
 - Guide is still under review awaiting some input from Derwen
 - 100 Club will need more members next year
4. Minutes of the AGM 9th November 2010 Proposed as true record by Sue Napper Seconded by Elaine Channon. Approved as a true record.

5. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Firstly I would like to thank the group for their support over the last 12 months. Geoff was a hard act to follow.

I would like to reflect on our progress since the last AGM

On the positive side

- Castle Street crossing is now in place
- Wetherspoon's now has a fully accessible rear entrance and easy access to the garden. I would like to thank Greg and his team for all their hard work.
- The railway crossing at Weston Rhyn is soon to be fitted with corduroy strips to indicate the crossing to the partially sighted; we hope the same will happen at Whittington.
- I went to a meeting of the South Shropshire Access Group in Ludlow. We have been working to form stronger links with their group; they have twice attended our group. There is safety in numbers.

I would like to meet with the Sue Wood Shrewsbury Access group.

Sue Napper it would be a good idea for you to come with me to the wheelchair users group to meet Sue.

- Santander is hopefully going ahead with a disabled entrance to their premises in Oswestry, I spoke to them today and engineers have surveyed can make an entrance at the rear. Will need 5 weeks to go to planning

The negatives for this year have been

- The Cambrian railway crossing Coney Green which is still causing problems
Bill Benyon is to bring up the issue at a meeting he is attending today.
- The Pavement from Festival Square to Boots is an issue which it seems impossible to alter
Ken Allan has expressed his disappointment with the highways that there is nothing that can be done.

Contact her at I would like to thank my vice chair Margaret, secretary Janis and treasurer Anthony who have been a great help to me, also to Kathleen Smith for her work on the web site and last but by no means least Betty and the other ladies who have done a wonderful job seeing to the refreshments

*Kathleen would be pleased to receive any news that could be put onto the web page.
Contact her at kathleensmith77@aol.co.uk*

Thank you all

Sue Napper: Geoff (Forgie) was a very hard act to follow, Angela but I think you have done a good job so far and offer you a vote of thanks. Seconded by all.

6. Treasurer's report

Anthony Jackson prepared and gave a statement of the group's account.

Accounts accepted by the group as true. See attached sheet.

7. Election of Officers

Chair: Angela Bright – proposed by Margaret, seconded by Elaine

Vice chair: Margaret Chamberlain - proposed by Angela, seconded by Elaine

Treasurer: Anthony Jackson - proposed by Elaine, seconded by Sue

Secretary: Janis Ménage – proposed by Anthony, seconded by Sue

All elected unanimously.

8. Certificate presented to Wetherspoon's management by Mayor Cynthia Hawksley for the photographer's from Advertizer and Shropshire Star.

9. Shropshire Parking – Geoff Allen

I am one of three members in the team and our main priority is public safety.

It has just been announced (in the last weeks) that for disabled parking in Oswestry, and Shropshire in general, that blue badge holders will be entitled to one hour extra free parking on top of the hour or 2 hours that they have paid for. It is being well publicised.

Anthony: parking alongside dropped kerbs is a constant concern of the group.

It is a problem we are well aware of. It is only illegal if there are single or double yellow lines. This is decided by local authorities. It is true that in London it is illegal alongside any dropped kerb but not country wide yet. We can only enforce the regulations. We do observe people who park and will move along especially if parked for long periods.

Kathleen: I would like to see a scheme for designated, safe parking for scooters that would enable people to be able to park use the bus services. I have a bus pass but cannot use it; buses do not carry my large scooter. I can walk short distances and if there were suitable parking at the bus station or nearby car parks I could get around more.

Sue: More people could use bus passes if safe parking was available; it possible to pick up a mobility scooter in Shrewsbury just need to reallocate some parking bays

Cynthia Hawksley: How near do these parking places have to be?

Kathleen: for me it is only a few yards as I can only walk short distances.

Geoff: I think this sounds a good idea, will discuss with colleagues.

Blue Badges it is possible that they will be charged for; the scheme is to be overhauled.

We are not responsible for the regulations we just enforce them

Michelle kelsall: the Qube have already lost their agency/corporate blue badge and have had to find new places to park. We have been using the Cambrian and Iceland as an alternative.

Angela it seems a little like the authorities are targeting people they think are unable to fight for themselves. With an aging population we need to be fair to everyone.

Thanks to Geoff for coming along today and for the Blue Badge Booklets.

Oswestry and District Customer Service Award Certificates

were presented by

Oswestry Town Mayor Cynthia Hawksley

to

Greg Hilditch and Gary Williams from JD Wetherspoon's Wilfred Owen

Laura Thomas, Ashley Jones and Sue Powell from The CO-OP, Gobowen

Kirsty Francis from Aroma cafe Bar

Iceland, British Heart Foundation Charity Shop, Milano's Coffee shop
certificates were delivered by hand after the meeting

The meeting closed at 12 noon