

Minutes of General Meeting

Date	Tuesday 10th Feb '015
Time	9.50am to 12.00pm
Venue	Stoke Town Hall

Agenda topic	Action
<p>Attendees and Apologies</p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Matthew Ellis (Police and Crime Commissioner) Rebecca Dawson(PCC PA) John Beech (Chair) Geoff Bryan (Deputy Chair) Pam Bryan (Secretary) Winston Green (Treasurer) John Burgess (Deputy Treasurer) Leslie Smith (Access Officer) Adam Snow (Parking Consultant) Alan Rose(Membership Secretary) Angie Bunn (Disability Solutions) Matt Simpson (Sentinel) Brian Turnock Mick Jones Barry Simpson Jennifer Pardue Fiona Farrell Matthew Fry (councillor)</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Stephanie Wood Tristram Hunt MP Joan Walley MP Rob Ffello MP Pat Layland Val Turner Beverley Raferty Lillian Harvey Stuart Barker Tracy Kirkham Phil Woodward</p>
<p>2. Matthew Ellis Police and Crime Commissioner re Pavement Parking</p> <p>STAND raised this matter with Matthew in April Last year as disabled people, particularly partially sighted and wheelchair users were being put at risk because of vehicles were parking on pavements and forcing them into the road. The Council can take action where a Traffic Regulation Order TRO allows them to do so but all other offences SHOULD be dealt with by the police. Matthew pointed out that it often was not that simple because of the definition of "obstruction" and where the demarcation lines of responsibility around enforcing this lay. Often obstruction cases had been thrown out of court because of these and other problems with the wording of the law around this matter.</p> <p>Matthew not only accepted that the problem needed to be resolved, but was being proactive towards this resolution. He warned us that it would not be easy or quick.</p> <p>Members gave Matthew an official police notice that had (many years previously) been put on a car windscreen pointing out that people should not park on the pavement. Members said that this notice could be reworded to say that the vehicles registration number had been recorded and if a further offence was recorded that action would be taken. Matthew agreed to look at this suggestion and ask PCSOs to put these leaflets on offending vehicles. He also said that both police and PCSOs needed to be educated about their duty to take action where there was a clear breach of the law and the general public needed to be educated about their responsibility to park sensibly.</p> <p>In the longer term Matthew was keen to get a join Working Group comprising of Council officers, police, fire etc. together with representatives from a cross section of society which</p>	

would include the disabled community to hammer out a workable solution to this problem. Adam asked about the make up of these working parties, and what would they be looking at. He said that in London the Council had already banned pavement parking and there was a Bill progressing through Parliament about the issue of Pavement parking. Martin Horwood's Private Members to ban pavement parking.

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/pavementparking.html>

Matthew promised to look at the London example to see if we could learn from it and he promised to keep STAND informed and involved with developments.

Councillor Matthew Fry offered to look at the problems Jennifer highlighted about the Chemist delivery vehicle parking outside the chemist attached to the Health Centre in Meir and email Pam to keep us informed as to developments.

The hotline number to report vehicles causing problems was kindly supplied by Michelle from Shopmobility 01782 237999 All members are recommended to use this if they see these problems.

Matthew
Ellis

Matthew
Fry

John
Burgess
Geoff
Bryan

3. Minutes of last meeting were signed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

Drugs Shortage Update Suggestions have been taken on board and members have been given suggestions as to how to minimise the effects for themselves.

Chiropody Brian is going to take this to the Ombudsman as he has now exhausted all avenues through the health system locally.

Winton House John and John did a site visit at Winton House and found that all the suggestions for changes to the building had been implemented. Parking is still a problem and concerns have been raised about the gradient of the incline.

UHNS Court Case Update Still ongoing

RSUH Construction work is still causing problems for access and parking. Pam told members of an incident where a disabled person had been verbally abused and physically threatened when they spoke to someone occupying a blue badge bay without a blue badge. Mike Brown from the hospital was appalled when he heard of this and sent the following;

should anyone experience an incident of this type, if they telephone APCOA on 07717 451077 (manned 24 hrs.) then they will immediately dispatch an attendant to intervene and resolve

When the APCOA contract finishes this year the hospital are hoping to include pay on exit method of payment in the new contract. Concern was raised by the amount of time patients are kept waiting ie fracture clinic a 10am apt was seen at 2pm, which means a greater parking fee and if pay on exit is introduced how will the additional time for disabled people be handled?

Tontine Street Kerb Edges Terry was still not available to give the update, The problem with the raised paving slabs in Stafford Street was raised and the council commended for their swift action.

Mobility Scooter Access in Meir Jennifer had been trying to contact Carl B from the Highways dept. for an update but had not had any luck so far.

Trade Waste Bins Blocking Disabled Bays in Burslem Jennifer reported that they had now been moved and thought that Councillor Alan Dutton had been as good as his word to get them moved.

5. Council Proposal to Charge Disabled for Car Parking

Pam outlined the STAND submission on the grounds that the proposal was not economically viable.

Adam outlined the legal objections in his submission, in which several important questions had been asked of Councillors and officials. We eagerly await the answers!

John said that this was still a proposal and he was concerned that we had not been consulted on this BEFORE Councillors voted on whether it was to be a policy.

6. Council Proposal to Close Public Toilets

John said that this had been put back and now hopefully has been withdrawn.

7. Blue Badge Abuse in Supermarket Car Parks

John Burgess told members about the work he had done in this area and it is quite obvious that there is still a big problem. Some individual Supermarkets do a great Job of keeping disabled bays for disabled people, others do not. Angie told of one supermarket where the manager had SOLD parking spaces and when the ordinary spaces were full, told people who had bought spaces that they could park in the disabled bays.

Adam will look into a form of wording that we can use to contact supermarket HQs and ask for comments.

Adam Snow

8. Donations

Unite Union £120 John Beech £50

9. AOB

Fiona asked for the meeting room to be set up to allow free passage for disabled people and their wheelchairs.

This can easily be done by moving the tables slightly before the meeting. Can I please ask all members who are able to help to move furniture to come 5 minutes earlier to our meetings so that this can be done and many thanks to Fiona for raising it.

Date of Next General Meetings Tues 14th April and the AGM is on Wed 10th June

Les will you please book a room for these dates

