

# STAND

Stoke-on-Trent Area Network for Disability

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for Disability  
[stand-stoke.org.uk](http://stand-stoke.org.uk)

## Minutes of the General Meeting held at 10.00am on Tuesday 8th Dec. 2015 at Stoke Town Hall.

### Attendees:

John Burgess  
John Beech(Chair)  
Jack Brereton (cllr)  
Geoff Bryan  
Pam Bryan  
Angela Bunn  
Stuart Barker  
Brian Turnock  
Barry Simpson  
Jennifer Pardue  
Mick Jones  
Alan Mountford  
Winston Green  
Stephanie Wood  
Lisa Nixon For Rob Ffello MP  
Adrian Jenkins For Rob Ffello MP

### Apologies:

Leslie Smith  
Cheryl Barnett  
Pauline Betteridge  
Mike Dixon  
Pat Dixon  
Janine Bridges  
Joan Bell  
Lynn Hughes  
Tristram Hunt MP  
Adam Davies  
Jean Simpson  
Ruth Smeeth MP  
Michel Taylor  
John Walmsley  
Phil Woodward

**2.As Teresa Fox Wells had not turned up for this agenda item it was deferred.**

**The minutes of the general meeting held on 27th Oct 2015 were confirmed as a true record.**

### **3. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting**

#### Meir Drainage Channels

Jennifer was to look into this to check up to see if everything had been completed.

#### Museum Canopy

Winston reported that staff did answer the buzzer promptly.

### **4. Tontine Street Update Jack Brereton**

Cllr Brereton thanks the members of STAND who had attended the site meeting and confirmed the agreement to replace one row of kerb stones with a lighter stone in order to increase the visibility of the kerbs in Tontine

Standing up for People with Disabilities

St. and Percy St. This work will be completed within a year. He said that lessons had been learned from this experience.

Praise was given to the area around Piccadilly and Warner St. where the lighter stone made the kerb more apparent. STAND thanked Jack for his help in this matter.

### **5. Taxi/Private Hire Overcharging /Community Transport**

Pam read an up date from Rachel Wallwork. STAND are to receive a copy of the revised taxi policy when it has been completed by the Licensing and General Purposes Committee. Rachel also said that private hire drivers are allowed to set their own prices, but they are not allowed to charge more for the same journey than they would charge an able bodied person as this would be discrimination. The Council cannot prosecute drivers committing this offence but would offer support to anyone wishing to bring a case themselves.

The advice from STAND is, always get a receipt and contact Rachel if you believe you have been unfairly treated.

#### Community Transport

The Council have asked a firm to look into the viability of providing community transport. Pam attended on behalf of STAND. The need for this was backed up by the information we have gathered from the issue above. The final draft is due before Christmas.

Cllr Joan Bell has offered to take this up with the Scrutiny Committee.

### **6. Pavement Parking**

Pam had contacted Matthew Ellis's Office and we have an assurance that all PCSOs now have the advisory notices, so if any members has an issue with these notices not being issued, they need to record the PCSOs name or number, the time and place and let Matthew Ellis's office know.

### **7. Disabled Access at Carmountside**

Leslie Smith had done a site visit to Carmountside. Staff will open the gates when they have been telephoned to say that the person needs to gain access. Health and safety issues prevent free access as Carmountside had had incidents of people speeding along the tracks causing a danger to pedestrians. There remains a problem of disabled access because some parts of Carmountside are only accessible during working hours of staff opening the gates.

### **8. Access to Chiropody**

Brian has spearheaded the campaign to improve access to Chiropody services. STAND has written to all our local MPs to help with this issue. Rob Ffello, Ruth Smeeth and Tristram Hunt have written to the CCG asking for an explanation. Disabled people affected are being told to "go private" in between the 12 week appointments others are being taken off the lists for chiropody as they no longer qualify.

### **9. Wheelchair Transfer Problems at Royal Stoke**

Long serving members will recall that STAND received an assurance a few years ago from Julia Bridgewater then CEO of our hospital, that no disabled person would be left at the front door of the hospital in a push wheelchair without any assistance to get to their cars, following the case of Marcia Ansell being dumped at the front door because porters are "not allowed" to take people to their cars.

We now have another case of member John Walmsley being left at the front door for the same reason. STAND has received an explanation from the hospital confirming that porters are not allowed (training, insurance) to take people out of the hospital building. Apparently volunteers take on this role. Perhaps there were none available but **NO DISABLED PERSON SHOULD EVER BE LEFT IN THIS SITUATION.**

Pam has asked all our local MPs for help, following a lack of response to letters sent to the chair of the board and CEO Mark Hackett. Healthwatch are also involved with trying to find a solution.

### **10. Implications of an M&S food store outside the entrance to Royal Stoke Hospital**

STAND have asked for an assurance that this development will not have an impact on the disabled parking outside the front door, or the drop off points or indeed any aspect of disabled access. Members also expressed concern over other issues to do with this development.

### **11. STAND Publicity**

Moved to next meeting

### **11. AOB**

Disabled access at A&E Through Healthwatch STAND was invited to go to A&E in July and suggest improvements to help disabled people. We had a follow up meeting in Dec. and all of the suggestions have been actioned. Not all are actually in place as orders for stickers and equipment have not yet been delivered. We will receive an update at the end of January. Jennifer asked for help with disability access audits in premises considered for asylum seekers and refugees. We are happy to provide this when needed.

### **Date for Next General Meeting:**

**Tuesday 23rd Feb 2016 - 10.00am Stoke Town Hall**

**Exec Tues 12 Jan 2016 10am Civic centre.**