

**Minutes of the
AGM
Mid-Bedfordshire Access Group Meeting
18th March 2009
MBDC Offices
Priory House
Chicksands**

Present

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| Roy Storey | MBAG |
| Ian Kelly | MBAG |
| Rex Skinner | MBAG |
| Jean Bird | GDAGB/MBAG |
| Brian Bird | MBAG |
| Charlotte Bonser | LINK |
| Martin Usher | MBDC |
| Steve Nash | Aragon Housing Association |
| Dianna Blackmun | BCC |
| Julie Ogley | Director CBC |
| Richard Ellis | Director CBC |

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| 1 | Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping | |
| | The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and introduced the guests Julie Ogley and Richard Ellis. | |
| 2 | Apologies | |
| | Jon Balaam, Greensand Trust Simon Daize, Bedfordshire Police Cllr Mrs Anita Lewis, Portfolio Holder MBDC Mick Dillon, DRC Peter Keates, MBDC Viv Payne, Bedfordshire NHS Claire Harding, BCC Alan White, Chair Leighton & Linslade Access Group R Kennedy, FTC | |
| 3 | Election Of Officers | |
| | The Meeting was handed over to Martin Usher to read out Nominations of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. There being no other names it was agreed by those present the Officers be; Roy Storey Chairman Ian Kelly Deputy Chairman Rex Skinner Minutes Secretary The Position of Treasurer to be discussed at the next meeting. The Chairman thanked Martin and the meeting resumed. | |

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| 4 | To Agree Minutes of AGM held on the 5th March 2008, Previously circulated | |
| | Proposed and Seconded as a true record and agreed by all present. | |
| 4a | Matters Arising | |
| | None. | |
| 5 | Chairman's Report (previously circulated | |
| 5a | Questions and answers relating to Agenda Item 6 | |
| | The Chairman explained that although the year had been a busy one many issues in the report were ongoing and results would be seen in time. Richard Ellis stated that he was unsure of why an access group was necessary as he felt that many of the issues should be dealt with by the local authorities. | |
| 6 | Financial Statement of the Access Group | |
| | The Chairman informed the Members the post of Treasure is still vacant. The Financial Statement, (previously circulated) was presented to all present which showed a healthy total. There followed a brief explanation of a cheque to the value £75 which had not been banked. All agreed on the action taken. | |
| 7 | To receive a report from Martin Usher, MBDC Access Officer | |
| | <p>During the past year there have been times when the future has been uncertain in the move to CBC particularly with my own role. There is still no confirmation.</p> <p>On more positive note it has been another successful year of co-operation with the Access Group.</p> <p>Useful working relationship sometimes Mr Nasty Sometimes Mr Nice</p> <p>The independence of the Group has enabled it on at least 1 occasion to challenge Mid Beds ensuring that Customer Services delivered a non-discriminatory service.</p> <p>I have been extremely proud to be associated with the Group in securing a major role in the development of Wrest Park in association with English Heritage.</p> <p>I am also pleased that the Group has been involved in other consultations from such bodies as BCC and Town Councils.</p> <p>I value the assistance the Group has been able to give in such things as dealing with the County in the transfer of their property</p> | |

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| | <p>stock to CBC ensuring we will not be inheriting a lot of non accessible buildings; and in specific comments, when I have requested them, on individual planning applications.</p> <p>In return I hope I have been of assistance to the group in my advice in cases you, as a group, have chosen to pursue where discrimination has been observed. A lot of time and effort has been spent endeavouring to ensure that a local Church, of all places, treats their parishioners equally in two proposed developments.</p> <p>It is encouraging to see that the group has attracted more professional members assisting with their considerable experience.</p> <p>Finally I hope that I will be able to continue to work with the Group in the coming year.</p> <p>Martin Usher 18/03/09</p> | |
| 8 | To invite Julie and Richard to give a presentation on their new roles within the CBC | |
| | <p>Both Julie and Richard gave a broad outline of their duties as Directors of the new Central Bedfordshire Council. They both answered questions put to them and they were wished success in their roles.</p> <p>Julie and Richard left the meeting.</p> | |
| 9. | Election of Management Committee | |
| | <p>It was proposed and agreed the Management Committee be; Roy Storey, Ian Kelly, Rex Skinner, Jean Bird, Martin Usher, Peter Keates Steve Nash, Simon Daize and Charlotte Bonser</p> <p>The meeting resumed by the elected Chairman</p> | |
| 10/11 | <p>To agree the change of name to: Central Beds Access Group</p> <p>The Chairman informed the meeting that as the MBDC would from the 1st April 2009 become the Central Bedfordshire Council it would make sense to change the name of the group to “Central Beds Access Group” The group were advised that their partners were aware of the proposed change of name and had given assurances that the working relationships would remain in place. The independence of the group shall remain.</p> <p>It was therefore agreed by those present that the name be changed to Central Beds Access Group as of the 1st April and the appropriate changes to the Constitution be made.</p> | |

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| 12 | Date and Time of Next Meeting The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th May (room 13) at Priory House Chicksands, 6.30 pm start | |
| | The Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20 pm | |