

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE,
ON TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Wantage Town Council: Councillors A Crawford, J Goodman (Chairman), Mrs Hannaby, B Mabbett, Mrs J Nunn-Price (part) and S Trinder.

Grove Parish Council: Councillors Mrs J Stock and D Rolfe.

Other members: Mr S Blake, Mrs J Hutchinson, Mrs J Maberley and Mrs M Swain.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

In the absence of Councillor C McCarthy, it was agreed that Councillor Goodman chair the meeting.

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors S Dickson and C McCarthy, Grove Parish Councillor D Parry and Mrs J Parker. Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price apologised that she was likely to need to leave the meeting before the end.

B. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

Councillor Mrs Hannaby declared an interest as a member of the Hospital League of Friends and a Trustee of the Wantage Nursing Home Trust. Mrs Swain is secretary to the League of Friends.

C. Statements and Questions from the public

None.

D. To receive an update from Dr Davies on proposals to extend the Health Centre

Dr Davies was not present.

E. Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2018

The minutes were approved and signed.

Matters arising from the minutes

“Old Peoples’ Strategy for Oxfordshire”

The OCCG representatives had declined to attend this meeting, but had initially suggested they would attend a meeting later in the year. On suggesting that a date be put forward, a non-committal response had been received from another officer. The Clerk was to forward copies of the correspondence to Sub-committee members. **Action: Clerk**

Legionella

Mr Hardisty had only recently responded to the Clerk’s emails requesting that legionella information be passed to Mr Blake. The officer responsible for the information was currently on holiday, but was due to return on the following Monday. Mr Blake agreed to contact with Mr Hardisty with a view to securing the information he required. **Q Action: Blake**

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Expiry of Oxford NHS Foundation Trustees at Wantage Community Hospital

The Clerk had written to the Chief Executive of the Trust bringing to his attention the expiry of the lease and asking for his intentions.

Letters to HOSC and OCCG objecting to the length of “temporary” closure of the Community Hospital

Letters had been sent. The Clerk was to pass copies of these to the Sub-Committee members.

Action: Clerk

F. Other business

Councillor Mrs Hannaby reported on a meeting with Dr Hollison and Ms Patten, Chairman and Chief Executive respectively of the OCCG. She was advised that the OCCG was conducting an engagement with interested parties concerning future services, rather than a consultation. Commissioning groups were being encouraged by the government to reduce the number of hospital beds and reduce bed blocking through home care packages and transfer to nursing homes. Members reported on their recent experiences of hospital stays and care packages. It was felt that it was unclear what care packages should provide and it was agreed that this be investigated.

Action: Clerk

In his letter of 21 July 2018, Mr Bell, Chief Executive of the Oxford Health Trust had advised that the Trust was funded to provide an average of 142 beds over the year as a whole. During the summer months only 120 beds were occupied and it was expected that only 150 beds would be required over the winter. It was noted that Mr Bell’s figures gave no regard to the level of bed blocking at the University Trusts Acute Hospitals.

Councillor Mrs Nunn-Price left the meeting.

It was agreed that there was a need to challenge the number of beds set at the contract level and to demonstrate that there was a need for more, which the Wantage Community Hospital could satisfy.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Councillor Goodman

SECONDED BY Mrs Hutchinson

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillors Crawford and Mabbett should work with the Town Clerk on investigating this.

Action: Crawford, Mabbett and Clerk

It was reported that the Health Centre was now providing some services that had previously been provided by the Health Trust, but charges being applied. This was counter to the NHS obligation to provide health services that were free at the point of need.

Concerns were expressed at the failure of health bodies to consult on significant changes that had been made to health services, over a number of years. It was agreed that this be taken up with the respective health authorities.

Action: Clerk

It was noted that Mrs Maberley had registered to speak at the HOSC meeting to be held on 20 September. She was asked to take up with HOSC the points raised at this meeting. **Action: Maberley**

The Clerk was asked to chase responses to the correspondence that he had sent out, mentioned above.

Action: Clerk

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The hospital building had been accepted as a community asset. This meant that if it should come up for sale the community would have 6 months to match whatever the market price might be determined for the property. This was a matter to which the Sub-Committee needed to give more consideration.

Action: All

G. Date of next meeting.

It was agreed that the doctors should be invited again to meet the Health Sub-Committee. If it was more convenient for the doctors, the meeting could be held during the day. It was agreed that the date for the next meeting should be set around the availability of the doctors.

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.48 p.m.

WPF/ME
