

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, WANTAGE,
ON THURSDAY 27 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 7.00 P.M.**

Sub-Committee members present:

Wantage Town Council: Councillors JT Hannaby (Chairman), A Dunford, E Johnson
A Menzies and C Walters.

Grove Parish Council: Councillor D Rolfe

Other members: J Maberley, J Parker and M Swain.

Others: One members of the public.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

A. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors A Crawford and J Goodman, Grove Parish Councillor J Stock, and J Hutchinson. It was noted that Councillors Menzies and Walters had given their apologies for absence for the previous meeting.

B. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests

Councillor Hannaby declared an interest as a member of the Hospital League of Friends and a Trustee of the Wantage Nursing Home Trust. M Swain is secretary to the League of Friends. Councillor Hannaby, J Maberley and M Swain are members of the OX12 CCG Stakeholder Reference Group. J Maberley and J Parker are members of the Newbury Street Patient Group. All the above were also members of the Save The Hospital Group.

C. Statements and Questions from the public

None.

D. Minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2020

The minutes were approved and signed.

E. To consider further actions arising from the OCCG report to the HOSC meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2020.

The Town Clerk and a number of members from the sub-committee and “Save the Hospital” group had spoken at the Health and Wellbeing Board and HOSC meetings, objecting to the OCCG OX12 Report and seeking its withdrawal. The response of the Health and Wellbeing Board had been non-committal. The HOSC members showed more sympathy, but had accepted to proceed with consultation regarding the future of the beds at the Wantage Community Hospital, based upon assurances given.

It was noted that there was an NHS Long Term Plan document and the response by the sub-committee should consider this with regard to the provision of services locally. To respond to the hospital beds consultation, there was a need to secure more statistical information. It was suggested that the following be sought under the Freedom of Information Act:

- Number of patients occupying community hospital beds over the past five years by post code.
- Number of patients discharged to care homes with re-enablement packages over the same period.
- Bed blocking statistics

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The requests would need to be made to the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust and the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, who all had a role in this. It was agreed that the submission of the requests be spread between members to reduce the risk of these being rejected because the work being too onerous. The Clerk and Chairman were to sort out arrangements for submitting the Freedom of Information Requests. **Action: Clerk/Chairman**

F. To consider arrangements for a public meeting

It was reported that, due to forthcoming elections, there would be a period of purdah between 31 March and 8 May. It was felt that it would not be appropriate or practical to arrange a public meeting prior to purdah. A public meeting should be held after this.

It was felt that it would be helpful to inform the public prior to the 31 March through a newsletter providing information on the current situation. This would need to be hand delivered. The Chairman was to organise this. **Action: Chairman**

G. Other business

There was a discussion about the promotion of wellbeing. It was suggested that there was a need to prepare a list of local wellbeing activities. Exercise equipment could be placed on a number of open spaces and a trail between them created. It was noted that Dr Ladd would be giving a talk concerning wellbeing on 23 April 2020 at 7 pm at the Catholic Church.

Councillor Johnson suggested there was a need to conduct a public survey to ascertain local needs. He was advised that the sub-committee had conducted a comprehensive survey in 2017. The Clerk agreed to provide Councillor Johnson with details of the 2017 survey responses. **Action: Clerk**

There was a need to receive an update regarding GP services and the expansion of the Health Centre. It was agreed that Dr Davies should be invited to give a report to the Wantage Annual Town Meeting. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Walters agreed to review the NHS Long Term Plan and report back to the sub-committee regarding its implications for provision of local health services. **Action: Walters**

The sub-committee recorded its thanks to all those that spoke at the Health and Wellbeing Board and HOSC meetings in support of retaining the beds at the Wantage Community Hospital.

H. Date of next meeting.

Mid April – date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.39 p.m.

WPF