

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM ON THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER 2020 AT 6.45 PM**

**Sub-Committee members present:**

Wantage Town Council: Councillors JT Hannaby (Chairman)(part), A Dunford (part), A Menzies, I Sheldon and J Sibbald

Grove Parish Council: Councillors R Batstone, D Rolfe and J Stock.

Other members: District Councillor P Barrow, County Councillor J Hanna (part), J Hutchinson, S Blake, J Maberley, J Parker and M Swain.

Others: Dr R Davies  
Two members of the public.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

**A. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors J Goodman, E Johnson, and C Walters. Councillor Hannaby had difficulty in joining the meeting and so Councillor Sheldon acted as chairman up to item B.

**B. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests**

Councillor Hannaby joined the meeting

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 Sub-committee meeting held on 23 September 2020**

The minutes were approved.

**E. Discussion with Dr Davies regarding local health services**

Dr Davies gave a report on the actions taken, and changes made, by the surgeries in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Most consultations were being conducted by video. A return to previous practices were unlikely until the middle of next year.

A question was raised about the flu vaccine clinics. Problems were being experienced through a shortage in the receipt of vaccines.

There was a discussion about the suitability of ventilation, in reducing the risk relating to coronavirus, at the Health Centre.

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There were still issues to be resolved regarding the extension to the Health Centre. The coronavirus pandemic had highlighted a need to be able to segregate areas within the Health Centre, whereas the plans being previously pursued involved creating more open spaces. This prompted a need to modify those plans. Mr Blake agreed to provide details of ventilation units to Dr Davies. **Action: Blake**

In the absence of the extension proceeding, two rooms previously used as offices had been converted into additional consultation/clinical rooms, The Clerk advised that this was the purpose for which S106 funding of £39k had been provided. Dr Davies agreed to check whether that amount had been spent on the conversion. **Action: Davies**

Councillor Hanna joined the meeting.

It was reported that there were ongoing discussions between Oxford Health Trust (OHT) and Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHT) about providing some acute outreach services locally at the Community Hospital. OHT currently uses rooms at the Health Centre that might be able to be released for use by the surgeries. Dr Davies advised that there was currently no requirement for this.

It was reported that there appeared to be deficiencies in the eConsult system. It appeared not to cater for long term conditions. Dr Davies acknowledged that eConsult didn't cater for everyone and the surgery tended to use telephone calls as an alternative.

Concerns were expressed about a proposal by government to discharge Covid-19 positive patients to selected nursing homes within a district.

**F. To receive feedback from the HOSC meeting held on 24 September 2020**

Dr Broughton had recently joined the OHT as Chief Executive Officer. He had advised HOSC that there were no plans to re-open the Community Hospital beds. He was reminded by members of HOSC of the need to consult on this. Dr Broughton indicated that he would seek to meet this sub-committee to discuss. The Clerk was to contact Dr Broughton to follow up on this. **Action: Clerk**

The maternity unit had been refurbished and was shortly due to re-open.

Councillor Dunford left the meeting.

The Clerk was also to write to OHT enquiring what was preventing services being restarted at the Community Hospital. **Action: Clerk**

There had been issues with referrals to OUHT. Some services had not fully re-opened after the peak of the Covid-19 crisis.

**G. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 23 September 2020**

None.

**H. Other business**

a) District Council Leisure and Sports Strategy. It was queried when would the strategy be published? The Chairman agreed to enquire. **Action: Hannaby**

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**I. Date of next meeting**

Date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.38 p.m.

WPF

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