

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ONLINE USING ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.30 PM

Sub-Committee members present:

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

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 and J Parker.

Others present: 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 Councillor A Crawford, E Johnson, I Sheldon and J Sibbald. Councillor Hanna gave an apology for needing to leave the meeting early.

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. Councillor Hannaby and J Maberley are members of the OX12 CCG Stakeholder Reference Group. J Maberley is a member of the Newbury Street Patient Group. Both the above are 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 7 December 2020

The minutes were approved.

F. Report from HOSC Task and Finish Group (item taken out of order)

County Councillor Barrow is chairman of the Group and Councillor Hanna a member. Councillor Hanna advised that the Group had prepared a report for consideration at the recent HOSC meeting, but due to protocol, consideration of it had been put back until the next HOSC meeting on 22 April. As the report remained in draft form the Group was currently unable to pass it to others. The report included a number of recommendations. She advised that the Group would welcome a meeting with this sub-committee and members of other groups to explore future options. It was agreed that the Clerk should request a copy of the draft report and request a meeting with the Task and Finish Group in advance of the next HOSC meeting.

Action: Clerk

Councillor Hanna left the meeting.

E. To consider matters arising from the meeting held on 7 December 2020

a) Update re Health Centre extension

Dr Davies was thanked for attending the meeting and for the work done by all of those involved in dealing with the pandemic.

Dr Davies reported that proposals for the extension of the health centre had progressed to a point where legal documents were imminently due to be signed. The design has been modified to make the centre more suited to deal with future pandemics. It was hoped construction would proceed by the end of the year.

There had not been liaison with the Oxford Health Trust or the Oxford University Hospitals about what new services might be provided at the Health Centre.

b) Health Centre - conversion of two offices into consultation/clinical rooms

Due to staff changes and time passing, Dr Davies was unable to provide information on the expenditure incurred. The Clerk was to try to trace back how the S106 funding had been spent through the body that applied for the funding. **Action: Clerk**

c) Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West Integrated Care System (BOB)

The integration was proceeding. It was unclear at this stage how this would work. It seemed certain that the CCGs would no longer exist.

F. Report from HOSC Task and Finish Group (continued)

Councillor Barrow advised that the Group had concluded that:

- the assessment of needs element of the OX12 Project had failed
- there had been a lack of transparency
- the opportunity to adequately engage with the OX12 community had been missed
- views of the stakeholder group had not been given due regard
- overall public engagement had been inadequate

He was thanked for his briefing.

G. Follow up re meetings with the CEO of Oxford Health Trust and its Executive and Managing Director for Primary and Community Services.

A meeting had been held with Dr Nick Broughton, CEO, and Dr Ben Riley, the Executive and Managing Director for Primary and Community Services, on 15 December 2020. There had been a follow up meeting with Dr Riley on 28 January 2021. Dr Riley was investigating what services could be delivered locally. He had not yet provided slides from, or notes of, the meeting, which he had agreed to do. It was noted that Dr Riley had provided assistance in getting staff at Fitzwaryn School inoculated. Residents in the age group 65-69 were currently being invited to attend large vaccination centres, such as the Kassam Stadium. The Mably Way surgeries were focusing their efforts on inviting cohort six, which includes a wider group of people at higher clinical risk, including carers and young adults in residential settings. Dr Davies accepted that there was a need to inform the public of these priorities. The Clerk was to agree with Dr Davies the wording for a statement to be posted on social media. **Action: Clerk**

Dr Riley indicated that the decision to reopen the beds at the Community Hospital did not rest with him but that it was likely to be considered in a review of all community hospitals in Oxfordshire. The Clerk was to try to ascertain where this responsibility currently lay. **Action: Clerk**

H. Other business

A Home Care First trial was being conducted. There was a need to get feedback on the success of this in due course.

It was noted that the new care home on Grove Road was seeking to increase the number of rooms from 65 to 74, without increasing staff levels. The planning application was due to be considered by the Town Council's Planning Committee on the following Monday.

Dr Davies was thanked for attending the meeting.

I. Date of next meeting

Date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

WPF