

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON MONDAY, 16 MAY 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Sub-Committee members present:

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

Grove Parish Council: Councillors J Stock.

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

Others present: Town Councillor A Przybysz.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors A Crawford and C Walters, Councillors P Barrow, R Batstone and J Hanna, and Mrs Hutchinson.

1. 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.

2. Statements and Questions from the public

None.

3.. To consider notes of informal online meeting held on 6 December 2021

The notes were accepted.

4. Update re maternity services

It was noted that births were currently being accommodated at Wallingford, Horton and John Radcliffe hospitals. The accommodation of births in Wantage had been temporarily stopped due to a lack of staffing resource. Although this had been the situation for many months, it had been reported at the recent HOSC meeting that recruitment had not yet commenced.

An invitation had been received from Oxford Health Trust (OHT) for three representatives to visit Wantage Community Hospital to be briefed on a trial of outpatient services. The visit had been set for the 23 June. It was agreed that the Chairman, J Maberley and M Swain should attend.

With the focus of OHT on outpatient services, it appeared that consultation on the temporary closure of the Wantage Community beds was not being progressed and there was no indication as to when it would be.

It was agreed that a letter should go to Sam Foster, Chief Nursing Officer, expressing disappointment at the delay in reopening the birthing facility at the Community Hospital, and requesting an update about

when the service would be reinstated. A copy of the letter was to go to David Johnston MP.

Action: Clerk

It was suggested that a survey be conducted seeking the public's opinion regarding the provision of physio, maternity and reablement services. It was agreed that prior to any survey, it would be appropriate to seek factual information/evidence from the NHS relating to these services. A survey could be used to test the validity of the information provided. A survey had previously been conducted in 2017. It was agreed that the summary results be distributed to the sub-committee members.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed that a working group be established to progress Freedom of Information Requests to the NHS. The Chairman, Council Johnson, Mrs Maberley and the Clerk were to form the working group. The Clerk was to arrange a meeting.

Action: Clerk

Although some dental practices in Wantage accepted NHS patients, it appeared that currently all were closed to new patients. It was agreed to write to BOB ICS regarding its intentions regarding the future provision of NHS dentistry services.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed that questions concerning dentistry be included in the future survey.

6. Other business

- a) Phlebotomy Bus. The Clerk had received a request for the bus to visit the Market Place once a week to provide blood testing services. The Council had not accepted this and suggested that there were better locations elsewhere in the community for this.
- b) Access for disabled persons. There was discussion about accessibility for disabled persons around the town. This was concerned with access to shops, parking and provision of ground floor accommodation.
- c) GP services. The Clerk was to write to Dr Davies seeking a progress report concerning services.

7. Dates of future meetings

30 June, 15 September, 27 October 2022, and 12 January and 23 February 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.

WPF