

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2022 AT 7.30 PM

Sub-Committee members present:

Wantage Town Council: Councillors JT Hannaby (Chairman), E Johnson and I Sheldon.

Grove Parish Council: Councillors R Batstone and J Stock (part).

Other members: County Councillor J Hanna, and J Maberley and M Swain.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors A Crawford, A Dunford, A Menzies, J Sibbald and C Walters, District Councillor P Barrow, and J Hutchinson and J Parker.

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.. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4. 2017 Survey. The Clerk had not yet distributed this.

Action: Clerk

6 c). GP Services. The Clerk had emailed Dr Davies for a progress report and for an update about arrangements after his departure at the end of August. He had received no response.

4. Letter to Sam Foster. The Clerk had not progressed this because, having received further information, he felt the timing was not appropriate.

4. Application for information under FOI. The Clerk had not progressed the request relating to maternity services. Councillor Johnson reported on the requests he had made. Church Street Practice had not responded. Newbury Street Practice advised it didn't have the information he was seeking. The CCG had provided information on hospital discharges. Out of 27,000 discharges to the Wantage area, 25,500 had been discharged to their homes. They had no information about how many patients required a care package or a re-enablement plan. It was agreed that this information be sought from the County Council whose social services team were involved in discharges.

Action: Johnson

The Clerk had not written yet to BOB ICS regarding its intentions regarding the future provision of NHS dentistry services.

Action: Clerk

5. Reports from HOSC and other meetings

Councillor Hanna reported on HOSC business. There was a lack of data relating to workforce resource issues. It was hoped that this would be addressed in the coming months. Although pilot projects were being conducted at the Community Hospital, there was a lack of evidential data being produced from these. With regard to maternity services, the temporary closure of birthing in Wantage was due to staff shortages. Recruitment was ongoing. A full report on future strategy was to be presented to HOSC on 14 July. The CCG had now been scrapped and replaced by BOB ICS. There was inevitably disruption due to the changeover.

It was viewed that statistics being used by the health services were being skewed by the shortage and absence of staff which was forcing patients to travel to services outside their local area.

Councillor Hannaby, Mrs Maberley and Ms Swain reported on their recent visit to the Wantage Community Hospital to be briefed on the pilot schemes being conducted there. There was some scepticism from them about what was being achieved. An update was to be given to the HOSC meeting on 14 July. It was agreed that a letter be sent to the HOSC raising questions about the integrated care strategy and the pilots. This was to be sent by 7 July. It was noted that the pilots being pursued didn't match those advised to the sub-committee in December 2020. The Clerk was to pass to members copies of the slides provided. **Action: Clerk**

Councillor Stock left the meeting.

There was discussion about the lack of availability of GPs.

6. Other business

None.

7. Dates of future meetings

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

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

WPF