

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN  
COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 27 OCTOBER 2022  
AT 7.30 PM**

**Sub-Committee members present:**

Wantage Town Council: Councillors JT Hannaby (Chairman), A Dunford and I Sheldon.

Other members: District Councillor P Barrow, County Councillor J Hanna, and J Maberley, J Parker and M Swain.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors A Crawford, E L Johnson, A Menzies, J Sibbald and C Walters, District Councillor R Batstone and J Hutchinson.

**1. Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests, other registrable interests and any non-registerable 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.

The Clerk was to distribute the recently adopted Code of Conduct and Register of Interests form to co-opted members.

**Action: Clerk**

**2. Statements and Questions from the public**

None.

**3.. Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2022**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

Dr Davies had left the Newbury Street Practice.

The Clerk had held back on pursuing actions because over the past few months there had been significant press coverage of national NHS workforce issues, particularly with regard to dentistry and maternity services. There was a national impetus to address these issues. The situation was being compounded by the amalgamation of Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) managements. It was reported that the Place Director for Oxfordshire would be attending HOSC meetings and this may be the best forum to raising issues.

**5. Reports from HOSC and other meetings**

A letter had been sent to HOSC on 5 July seeking more information about the pilots being performed in the Wantage Community Hospital. Councillor Hanna, the Chairman of HOSC, read out a response from Dr Riley of Oxford Health Trust. There were concerns that the response did not seem to deal with all the issues raised in the letter of 5 July. Councillor Hanna agreed to provide a copy of the response to the Clerk so that a comparison could be made with the information sought.

**Action: Hanna**

A HOSC meeting was due to be held on 24 November at which it was hoped more information would be forthcoming.

It was noted that a poster had been published with the heading “Wantage Birth Centre – Place of birth is your choice!”. It sought support for the re-opening of the centre for births by contacting the Birthrights charity and Oxfordshire Maternity Voices Partnership. The Clerk was to contact both of these and also write to the Chief Midwife regarding the re-opening. **Action: Clerk**

It was noted that at the September HOSC meeting, a report indicated that the population in the Vale of White Horse had grown more by percentage than in any other district in the county. The Clerk was to refer to this in the correspondence above. **Action: Clerk**

**6. Estimates 2023/24**

It was agreed to request a £5k budget for next year, in case further legal advice was required.

**7, Other business**

Dentistry

It was unlikely that the lack of NHS dentists would be resolved without a change of the contract at a national level. It was agreed to write to David Johnston MP requesting him to press for this change. He was also to be asked to intervene regarding the midwifery services. The Clerk was also to write to the Health Minister. **Action: Clerk**

**7. Dates of future meetings**

12 January and 23 February 2023.

The meeting closed at 8.58 p.m.

WPF

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