

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN
COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023
AT 7.30 PM**

Sub-Committee members present:

Wantage Town Council: Councillors JT Hannaby (Chairman) and J Sibbald.

Other members: District Councillor R Batstone, J Hutchinson, J Maberley, J Parker, M Swain and S Thwaite.

Town Clerk: Mr W P Falkenau.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillors A Crawford, A Dunford, E Johnson, I Sheldon and C Walters, District Councillor P Barrow, County Councillor J Hanna and Grove Parish Council Chairman J Stock.

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

Other and non-registerable interests were detailed as follows - 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. S Thwaite is a member of the Church Street Patient Group. All the above were also members of the Save The Hospital Group. J Parker is a member of the South Oxfordshire Patient Alliance.

2. Statements and Questions from the public

None.

3.. Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

The Clerk had distributed the Council's Code of Conduct and Register of Interests (ROI) form to co-opted members. As this was the last meeting before the election in May, he advised that submission of the ROI form should be deferred until the next meeting.

The Clerk had not yet followed up on the actions relating to dentistry.

Action: Clerk

The letters from Councillor Hanna, as HOSC chairman, to the Health Trust and University Trust, had been distributed to members.

There had been no perceptible improvement in GP services.

Physiotherapy services were not currently being provided at the Wantage Community Hospital due to lack of staff. When the contract provider was changed, the staff had declined to transfer to the new provider. Replacement staff had not yet been recruited. Patients were having to travel to other towns.

It was agreed that local health services were inadequate and that a letter of complaint be sent to BOB, with a copy to HOSC and David Johnston MP. **Action: Hannaby/Clerk**

It was noted that communication of outcomes from patient hospital tests/visits to GPs was poor. Out of county hospitals appeared not willing to communicate at all.

5. To consider response to email of 8 February 2023 from Dr Riley of Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust re pilots at Wantage Community Hospital

The email was noted. Dr Riley apologised for not contacting the Health Sub-committee since the event at the Community Hospital last summer. Dr Riley was proposing a workshop to re-engage with this sub-committee and the local community. As a next step, he suggested having a conversation with the communications and engagement lead, Peter Gibson, to discuss how they might best re-engage with the Sub-committee members on this work. More information on the "... clearly described national care model" was to be sought. It was agreed to seek details on how the 'home care plans' were working.

Action: Clerk

6. Reports from HOSC and other meetings

Councillor Hannaby and Mrs Maberley had spoken at the HOSC meeting on 9 February.

7. Other business

A Wellbeing Event was to be held at The Beacon on Saturday 22 April between 12 noon and 4 pm. Members were asked to help publicise this.

Action: All

8. Dates of future meetings

25 May, 6 July, 14 September, 26 October 2023, 11 January and 22 February 2024.

The meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.

WPF