

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF
WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT SYKES HALL, TUGWELL FIELD, WANTAGE
ON FRIDAY 12TH JANUARY 2024
AT 6.30 PM**

Sub-Committee members present:

Wantage Town Council: Councillors J Hannaby (Chair), A Crawford, A Dunford, R Fitzjohn, K Morris, C Walters and V Wright

Other members: East Challow Parish Councillor P Barrow, District and Grove Parish Councillor R Batstone, Grove Parish Councillor J Leggott, and J Hutchinson, J Maberley, J Parker and M Swain.

Others present:

Town Clerk: Mrs J Evans.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Town Councillor E Johnson.

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. Councillors P Barrow declared an interest as a member of HOSC, M Swain declared an interest as a member of the League of Friends.

2. Statements and Questions from the public

None.

3. To review the NHS reports on Wantage Hospital and the comments from the Public meeting held on 11th January. To develop a response for consideration by the Full Council.

There was an in-depth discussion on the comments received at the Public Meeting held on 11th January. The following points were noted:

1. Members of the public wanted an MIU with X-Ray facility. It was recognised that funds were not available for this facility.
2. The proposal from the NHS was based on the number of people who could be treated. It was noted that this was just a start.
3. Not enough data was presented at the public meeting. Cllr Crawford had established that 15 people per week from the OX12 area used the MIU at Abingdon, although this number was questioned, The proposed clinics would deal with 21,000 patients per year.
4. Extra services could only be delivered with changes to the building. CIL money had been earmarked for this but could be lost if there was a delay to the project.
5. Issues were raised about parking for patients and staff.
6. Inpatient beds had been deemed unviable. It was noted that it was national policy for people to be cared for at home.
7. Assurance had been given that the hospital would not close and more services would be available in the future. It was felt that this was important. The solution ensured that people received the care they needed in their own area.
8. A commitment to future expansion of services should be sought. Engagement with the NHS should continue.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE OF WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE BEACON, PORTWAY, WANTAGE ON THURSDAY 11 DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM

ON THE PROPOSAL OF COUNCILLOR HANNABY
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WRIGHT
IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BE PUT BEFORE WANTAGE
TOWN COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

The health sub-committee did not want this matter to go to the Secretary of State. Stronger commitment to a first aid unit and end of life care was required. These should be on the table for future negotiation. The health sub-committee would work with the NHS to ensure meaningful services for the growing population.

4. Other business

None.

5. Dates of next meeting

February 2024.

The meeting closed at 7.29 p.m.

JE
