

LEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special meeting of COUNCIL re Clevedon Community Hospital held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.30pm on Monday 18th March 2013

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr J. Middleton
 Councillors A. Cotton, B. Garner, A. Giles-Townsend, G. Hill, , L. Little, L. Knott, P. McNeill, T. Morgan, N. Pennycott, A. Shopland, G. Watkins, C. Wring
 Town Clerk - Ms P. Heath;

13/303 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors C. Blades, C. Bussey, C. Hall, (family commitment), C. Francis-Pester, J. Norton-Sealey (another commitment); J. Geldart, B. Hatch, D. Shopland (Illness)

RESOLVED: That Council **ACCEPTS** the apologies and reasons given for absence.

13/304 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest for items on the agenda

Proposed by Cllr Middleton, Seconded by Cllr McNeill and Resolved that standing orders be suspended to enable Dr M Backhouse and Mr B Bennett from the Clinical Commissioning Group to address the Council and answer questions from the Councillors.

13/305 PRESENTATION BY DR MARY BACKHOUSE AND MR BEN BENNETT OF CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP

Copies of the paperwork emailed by Mr Bennett had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Members were informed about the forthcoming changes to the NHS structure. The Primary Care Trusts (PCT) and Strategic Health Boards (SHB) would disappear on 1st April 2013 and be replaced with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) who will commission services for the benefit of communities from a wide ranging service providers. The physical Assets of the NHS i.e. hospitals, medical centres, surgeries etc. will be transferred to NHS Property Services Ltd.

13/305.1 The financial breakdown of the costs and source of funding for the failed new Clevedon hospital from its conception to date

A breakdown of the figures is:-

Clevedon Summary of Costs 2009/10 to July 2012 (rounded to nearest £5,000)

	£
Detailed Planning and Design	438,460
Procurement Costs	456,810
Business Case Development	535,260
Outline Planning	192,520
Totals	1,623,050

Cost incurred to be validated in context of eventual preferred option for any future alternative proposals

The purchase of the land was 1,500,000, the money for which came from the centrally held pot and not from the local PCT; If the site is sold the funds will revert back to the central pot.

13/305.2 A breakdown of the NSPCT Trust funding over the past 2 year with details of the amounts and criteria for the payment of funds to South Gloucester PCT.

The breakdowns of the finances are in the PCT Annual Report. The Town Clerk confirmed that Clevedon Town Council had not received a copy; Mr Bennett would provide copies of the last two years reports.

ACTION MR BENNETT

For the last couple of years the North Somerset PCT was in a cluster including Bristol and South Gloucester PCTs. The Cluster board would move money between the cluster PCT for the best advantage and to support debts within the PCT. Under the new CCG arrangements North Somerset CCG (NSCCG) will be an independent unit and will have to work within the allocated budget. It was explained that the Weston Hospital Debt will not fall primarily on one CCG but will be serviced by several CCG's who commission Weston Hospital Services. Patients under the Health Service Charter have a right to choose therefore funding follows the patient.

It was explained that central government had encouraged the private sector to be involved which has meant that some people have been referred to private practice paid by the NHS. The payment is not greater if referred to a private unit than an NHS one.

Dr Backhouse explained that the budget for the CCG will be approximately 76% of the PCT Budget the remainder will be used for NHS contracts (GP, Dentist, Pharmacy, Opticians) plus specialist services and payment to of Public Health to Local Authorities. The CCG had been set up as a shadow service a year ago and has been working with the PCT/SHB to ensure a smooth change over.

13/305.3 Details of the future of the Millcross site

The Millcross Site will be transferred to NHS Property Services Ltd who will ascertain if this is surplus to requirement. Checks will be made with CCG and other Public Bodies before a decision is made. The money to purchase the site came from the central government fund and as such IF or when the plot is sold the money will revert back to that fund. The demolition of the building was being paid for from a pre allocated budget in the PCT current finances. The building was subject to vandalism and the cost to retain and secure was greater than the cost to demolish and clear the site. Mr Bennett agreed to ensure that the Council's request that the site is left in a clean state and if the boarding left up these would be maintained be passed on to NHS Property Services Ltd. Their local office is in Taunton; the council could contact them direct if any vandalism occurred.

ACTION MR BENNETT

If the site is sold it would be for the Planning Authority to govern via the planning process what is built on the land and any restrictions made. If the CCG request the site to be retained in the hope of alteration in funding at some future point in time then the maintenance and costs related to the site would have to come out of the CCG budget to the possible detriment of service provision.

The financial requirements that were placed on the PCT by government policy in relation to capital purchases, and the instance by Government that private funding agreements over 25 years be used was explained to members. The PCT could not service the level of debt generated by that agreement especially as the government criteria changed during the negotiations.

13/305.4 Details of the Condition Survey of the Current Clevedon Hospital

A copy of the independent survey had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It has been estimated that over the next 10 years 1.7 million will have to be spent just to keep the building at its current level. It will be for the NHS Property Services Ltd in conjunction with service providers to decide if the Hospital was fit for use and compiled with health and safety criteria for each individual provider. Technically the NHS Property Services Ltd will be the Landlord and the individual service providers the tenants who will demand of the landlord a level of provision. How it will work in practice will be seen after 1st April 2013.

13/305.5 Details of the future of Clevedon Hospital & Details of the future provision of health services in Clevedon after the 1st of April

The physical boundaries of the building will impinge on the services being provided especially in relation to the criteria set by Government on space, and privacy on the wards. There is no intention to close the inpatients which is primarily used for rehabilitation but there may come a point in the future when the patients' needs criteria means a revaluation of the financial implications on keeping the wards open. Also Clevedon has been piloting the Community Wards which has been very successful. It aims to treat more people at home in a familiar environment which is more conducive to quicker recovery.

It was explained that the removal of the endoscopy unit was due to the need of the sensitive equipment to have an ultra-clean water supply. It is not possible to put into the building the plumbing required to "wash" the water before use.

Concern was expressed by Members that there was no guarantee that the NHS Property Services would spend the money required. Members were informed that the CCG were committed to commissioning services to be provided in Clevedon which includes using the Community Hospital. Members were reminded that the CCG meetings were open to the public. The CCG web site is <http://www.northsomerset.nhs.uk> and follow the link

There were no plans at the moment to carry out major building work on the site, but it may be necessary to close part of the building whilst essential electrical and plumbing work is undertaken but CCG and NHS Property Services Ltd will publicise this.

The CCG is has an accountable officer, Dr Mary Backhouse, who has undergone National then local selection. The CCG is accountable to the 26 GP Practices in North Somerset and they have the power to cast a vote of no confidence in the CCG if they are not servicing the needs of the community as defined by the individual GP practices. CCG is required by its mandate to carry out public consultation which includes the Town Council.

Proposed by Cllr Middleton, Seconded by Cllr McNeill and Resolved that standing orders be reinstated

The Chairman thanked Dr Backhouse and Mr Bennett for attending

Meeting closed at 9.04 pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....