

## CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Special meeting of COUNCIL held in The Council Office, 44 Old Street, Clevedon at 7.00pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012

**PRESENT:** Chairman – Cllr J Middleton  
 Councillors, C. Francis-Pester, B. Garner, C Hall, B. Hatch, G. Hill, L Little, P. McNeill, J. Norton-Sealey, N. Pennycott, A. Shopland, D. Shopland, G Watkins, C. Wring  
 Town Clerk - Ms P Heath

#### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr John Powell, Clevedon Hospital League of Friends, spoke about the lack of information on the decision taken and reasoning behind the cancellation of the commissioning of the new Clevedon Hospital, and the amount of money that had been spent on the project to date. He also mentioned the amount of money that had been transferred from the NSPCT to South Gloucester PCT to assist them in balancing their books. He reported that the preferred bidder was seeking a financial settlement in respect of the cancelled project.

#### **FORMAL SESSION**

##### **12/274 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors C Blades (other meeting) C Bussey (work commitment), A Cotton (family commitment), J Geldart (family commitment) , A Giles-Townsend (family Commitment), L. Knott (family commitment) T Morgan (family commitment)

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

##### **12/275 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 are suspended to enable the names guests to address the Council. – Mr Ben Bennett. PCT/Clinical Commissioning Group*

**“In view of the deep concern of the residents in the town for the future of Clevedon Hospital following the sudden decision not to go ahead with building a new hospital at Millcross”**

Mr Bennett explained the changes that were being implemented on the financial management of the NHS and the alteration to commissioning services by Central Government. He explained the process that had been gone through in respect of the commissioning of the hospital and the decisions taken by the Strategic Health Authority. The reason for the cancellation was part due to budget constraints and part due to the reorganisation of future strategic health plans and the way the service is to be delivered in the future. The NSPCT has to find a 6 million pounds savings every year. The Current Hospital needs work on to enable it to be used for the future but until the service review has been completed and the survey into the

state of the current building the NSPCT/CCG could not say what role the hospital would play in the delivery of Health services in Clevedon. The Millcross site will be retained until a decision has been made.

Members asked questions and sought information on the Clevedon Hospital and future plans.

The SHA since 2010 have paid additional funds to NSPCT to enable them to balance their books. The NSPCT has undertaken to pass some of that money over to South Gloucester PCT to help them meet their deficit which was greater than NSPCT. It was not clear how the NSPCT could pay over nearly 3 million to South Gloucester over 2 years when that was from funding given to NSPCT to balance their books.

**Mr Bennett to provide a breakdown of the figures**

Query was made as to the financial state of the NSPCT and its successor NSCCG and the effect of Weston PFI has on the finances of the organisation. Mr Bennett was unable to answer what impact the lack of a new hospital would have on the surrounding hospitals both in their budgets and in practical terms.

The new hospital project had cost nearly 3 million – 1.5 million on the purchase of the land and 1.5 million on fees; part of which came from the central government pot and part from the local NSPCT budget.

**Mr Bennett to provide a breakdown of the costs associated with the new hospital and the percentage of central and local government funding.**

If the land at Mill Cross is sold then the funds would be returned to the central pot from which it was received and not to the local budget. The £900,000 in the budget was for the servicing of the lease fees and not part of the running costs for the hospital. When asked IF a hospital was built and given to the PCT free of all building and lease costs would the hospital then be viable. Mr Bennett was of the opinion that it would not as the funding to run the facility was not available within the budget.

In response to issues raised Members were informed that it was not viable or practicable to defer the building of the new hospital. Nor could money allocated to build the hospital be used to improve the current hospital. No budget had yet been set for the improvements needed as the survey report was being awaited, there was no indication in the future budgets as to what level of funding for the current hospital refurbishment was available.

It was clear the current hospital in its present state and building could not go on forever. Members sort assurance that the hospital would not be closed until a viable local alternative was completed and open. The CCG were committed to the NHS policy for local services to be delivered locally, therefore would seek local alternatives to provide the health provision for Clevedon residents.

Concern was expressed by members that the way the decision was made and the lack of communication since the decision was made. Members commented on the recent document published by NSPCT edited by Dr Mary Backhouse “‘Voices for Health’: Communication, Engagement and Experience Strategy for North Somerset NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, with Implementation Plan.” Issued on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012, that showed the new Clevedon Hospital still in the long term action

plan. The document talks about the way the CCG would communicate in an open, clear and transparent way the running of the service. Members felt that this needs to be done in practice starting with the decision on the hospital and more importantly the way forward with a strategic plan of health provision in North Somerset complete with clear understanding of the budgetary constraints and actions need to meet those constraints.

Members requested that once the survey of the current hospital building has been completed and the strategic Health Provision identified that the CCG should meet with the Council and explain in detail the role and future of Clevedon Hospital and other health services for Clevedon Residents; this is expected to be at the start of 2013

The Chairman thanked Mr Bennett for attending.

*Proposed by Cllr Middleton seconded by Cllr McNeill and **RESOLVED** to reinstate standing orders.*

Proposed by Cllr Watkins seconded by Cllr Shopland and **RESOLVED** unanimously that this Council:

- 1) pursues a commitment that an adequate NHS funded North Somerset area hospital facility, whether new or improved existing, be maintained in Clevedon.
- 2) to achieve the above the local MP (Dr Liam Fox) be asked to arrange a meeting between a delegation from this Council and the Secretary of State for Health (Currently Jeremy Hunt MP).
- 3) arrange a meeting to be held between a delegation from this Council and the North Somerset District Council Health Overview Scrutiny Panel (HOSP).
- 4) actively seeks support in this matter from other local councils

Meeting closed at 8.59pm

CHAIRMAN ..... DATE .....