

Minutes of the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** of the Swanage Town Council held at the Town Hall, Swanage on **MONDAY, 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017** at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Councillor S. Poultney – Chairman

Councillor J. Bishop

Councillor M.P. Bonfield

Councillor C. Finch

Councillor G. Green

Councillor A. Harris

Councillor A. Lejeune

Councillor G. Marsh

Councillor T. Morris

Councillor G. Suttle

Councillor W.S. Trite

Councillor M. Whitwam

In addition to Members of the Council and officers, 37 members of the public attended the Meeting.

Before opening the Meeting, the Chairman welcomed members of the public and made a short statement regarding the fire evacuation procedure, filming/audio recording etc. of the Meeting, and a summary of the procedure for Public Participation Time.

The Mayor also welcomed Dr David Haines (from the Swanage Medical Practice) to the meeting.

### **Public Participation Time**

The following concerns were raised in response to the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group proposals:-

- Serious concerns raised regarding the proposal to reduce the range of services currently provided by Poole Hospital and the transfer of the A&E and maternity services to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital.
- The distance of the Royal Bournemouth Hospital from Swanage, and the additional time that it would take to reach the facilities in an emergency.
- Concerns expressed that it is a difficult journey along congested roads all year round from Swanage to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. During the summer season both main routes into/out of Swanage are often gridlocked by the volume of traffic and the journey time to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital would be considerably increased at these busy times. The journey to Poole Hospital takes less time as it is closer to Swanage, and the route is generally less congested.
- Timing (the ‘Golden Hour’) is of paramount importance when accessing emergency medical treatment following a life-threatening incident.
- Concerns raised regarding the impact of increased travel times on expectant mothers who require urgent hospital care.

- Whilst acknowledging the scope and coverage of the ambulance service in Dorset, concerns were raised at the ambulance times taken to attend/pick-up patients in Swanage. More resources and improvements to the ambulance service were required.
- A petition objecting to the NHS Dorset CCG proposals had been signed by over 7,700 people.
- A welcome acknowledgment of the proposals to retain the Community Hospital in Swanage.
- Concerns at the loss of beds at Wareham Community Hospital and the impact this may have on resources in Swanage.
- A requirement for greater resources and re-structuring of the current social care services.
- A need to acknowledge, respect and address the needs of elderly patients.

Before opening the Council Meeting, the Chairman thanked Dr Haines for providing additional information on the NHS Dorset CCG proposals and addressing some of the issues raised by members of the public.

The Chairman opened the Council Meeting at 7.10 p.m.

1. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies to report for inability to attend the Meeting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interests and consider any requests for Grants of Dispensations in accordance with paragraphs 9 - 13 of the Council's Code of Conduct and regulations made under chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations to record on this occasion.

3. **NHS DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

Further to Minute No. 5 a) of the Planning and Consultation Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017, consideration was again given to the proposals contained in the NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group Consultation Document.

A detailed and lengthy discussion ensued, during which Members took into consideration matters raised by members of the public during Public Participation Time, and information provided by Dr David Haines.

Two of the greatest concerns related to the proposed reduction in the range of services currently provided by Poole Hospital, and their transfer to the Royal Bournemouth. The isolation of Swanage, which sits at the end of a 10-mile cul-de-sac from Wareham, was widely recognised, as was the high level of congestion on roads between Swanage and the conurbation. In these circumstances the preservation of both A&E and maternity services at Poole, rather than Bournemouth was of the utmost importance to residents in Swanage and Purbeck.

During the discussion, the concerns over the proximity of the services to Swanage were underpinned by serious doubts over the efficiency of the local ambulance service in reaching Swanage patients, and reference was made to a recent incident when an ambulance took 45 minutes to arrive and attend to an elderly lady who had collapsed in the main shopping street.

Members also considered proposals relating to services provided by the Community Hospitals in Swanage and Wareham. The proposal to retain the Community Hospital in Swanage was welcomed, which together with the medical

practice would constitute one of the county's seven community hubs with beds. However, concerns were raised at the loss of beds at Wareham Community Hospital and the possible impact that this would have on the resources available in Swanage.

In summary, Members felt that the consultation documents did not provide enough information to enable a detailed response to be made to each of the questions asked, and it was proposed by Councillor Suttle, seconded by Councillor Finch, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter detailing the above comments be composed, and forwarded with a request that it be treated as a formal consultation response.

It was **FURTHER PROPOSED** by Councillor Whitwam, seconded by Councillor Suttle, and **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:-**

That a letter be sent to South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust referring to the time taken for an ambulance to attend the recent incident referred to above, and expressing concerns over the proximity of the services to Swanage which are underpinned by serious doubts over the efficiency of the local ambulance service in reaching Swanage patients.

The meeting concluded at 8.25 p.m.

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