

CINDERFORD TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Cinderford Town Council held at The Council Chamber, Cinderford on Tuesday, 28th November 2017 commencing at 6.30 p.m.

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS; Mrs L.I. Sterry (Chair), R.A Sterry (Mayor), Mrs K. Brown, T.R. Holder, Mrs J. Johnson, Mrs E.D. Martin, G.L. Morgan, R. Pritchard, M. Turner.

Town Clerk - Mrs L.L. Thomas

APOLOGIES for Absence were received from Cllrs. M.M. Coborn, Mrs L. Bent, C. Witham.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

Cllr. Mrs Sterry welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded them that the meeting was being live streamed, in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Town Council, and as contained in the openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014.

126. NHS CONSULTATION FOR THE FUTURE OF COMMUNITY HOSPITALS IN THE FOREST OF DEAN

Each Member spoke in turn regarding feedback they had received from attending various events and speaking with members of the public.

It appeared that in general, older people were passionate about the existing hospitals, but that younger people saw the benefit of having a new modern facility with enhanced medical services.

Whilst it was appreciated that it was a very emotive issue, concern was raised regarding the ability to continue to provide improving medical services at the existing sites. If the outcome of the consultation was to provide one hospital, then Members agreed they would wish to see enhanced medical care for the Forest, with sufficient beds, for what is an aging population and in a central position with access for all. Also, if a central site was identified and donated to the NHS which meant no capital receipt was needed from the disposal of the existing sites, could the Dilke then be utilised for extended social care. Cllr Turner thought money should be spent on maintenance of the existing facilities and also suggested that the Dilke be registered as a Community Asset. However, the majority considered that new investment was needed to provide better care for everyone. The old Miners had been forward thinking in planning for their future health, but with buildings over 100 years old, new facilities were now required for the health of future generations.

It was therefore agreed that the Town Council would support the preferred option for a new hospital, providing adequate investment was made to ensure a new hospital was fit for purpose to serve the whole of the Forest with an adequate number of beds, located in a central site within the Forest with good access for all. Cinderford Town Council would also propose that the new hospital be located at the former Northern United site, which would retain the mining heritage, but have excellent access for the whole of the Forest. If the site could be donated, then Cinderford Town Council also proposed that the Dilke be retained for social care with community investment.

RESOLVED accordingly and the
Clerk to register the Dilke as an
Asset of Community Value.

With regard to the Public Meeting being held the following night by HOLD. the Town/District Members would be attending mandatory planning training, so gave their apologies. Noted.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank all the staff for their work with the Christmas light switch on, the work done to produce the poppy display and for the Town Council Christmas tree at the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Stephens Church.

127. CLOSURE.

The meeting closed at 7.10p.m.