

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OTTERY ST MARY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT APPROX 2.30PM AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE OLD CONVENT, 8 BROAD STREET, OTTERY ST MARY

PRESENT Mayor

Councillor Bartlett (North Ward)

Councillors

Dobson, *Edwards, Holmes, *Giles, Pang Carter and Faithfull** (Town Ward)
Gori (Deputy Mayor) (North Ward)
****Pratt and Harding** (Tipton St John Ward)
Together with the Clerk

Other Persons Present

One member of the Press and approx. twenty Members of the Public

*Cllr Giles left at the meeting early as he found the room uncomfortable due to the heat

**Cllr Pratt left the meeting early as he had another engagement. He had advised the Mayor in advance

***Cllr Edwards left the meeting early as she had another engagement

The Mayor provided an explanation as to why the meeting was being held at this time. At the request of Cllr Giles Item 11 (following receipt of a rescission motion notice (in accordance with the council's standing orders) the following matters to be considered and voted upon :- *to re-examine the decision 18/11/09 taken at the full council meeting on 6th November 2018 (to form a hospital working group) and *to make a decision to either support or rescind the motion) was brought forward as the first item to be discussed at the Meeting

PRAYER

The Clerk read the Council Prayer

18/11/28

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none

18/11/29

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA AND RECEIPT OF REQUESTS FOR NEW DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPIS) DISPENSATIONS FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Pang declared an interest in Item 11 as she was the Chair of the Ottery St Mary and District Health and Care Forum. Cllr Faithfull declared an interest in item 11 as he was a member of the same forum as well as being a member of the Ottery St Mary & District Hospital League of Friends. Cllr Edwards also declared an interest as she was .also a member of the Forum

18/11/30

IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (PUBLICITY WOULD BE PREJUDICIAL TO THE PUBLIC INTEREST BY REASON OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED): TO AGREE ANY ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRESS HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED

There were no items to discuss in Confidential Session

18/11/31

TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT, TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

(THIS THEN FOLLOWED ON WITH AGENDA ITEM 11 (FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A RESCISSION MOTION NOTICE (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S STANDING ORDERS) THE FOLLOWING MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED AND VOTED UPON :-

- TO RE-EXAMINE THE DECISION 18/11/09 TAKEN AT THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2018 (TO FORM A HOSPITAL WORKING GROUP) AND
- TO MAKE A DECISION TO EITHER SUPPORT OR RESCIND THE MOTION)

Mayor`s Initials.....

Representations/comments and views were expressed by the following persons who were invited to speak:-

Philip Algar
Angela Glanville
Yvonne Palfrey
Emily Davis
Stewart Lucas
Ian Dowler

Various points were made which included the perceived lack of support to save the hospital by the Council; a hospital working group was required to add weight to saving the hospital; the benefit (or not) of setting up a working group had not been properly explored; many people in the Parish felt unrepresented regarding their concerns and fears over any proposed closure of the hospital; that the closure of the hospital would have serious implications for all age groups; bafflement as to why there was a need for the decision to set up a working group, to be revisited; saving the hospital should be at the top of the Council's priorities; the Council should be to protecting and saving the hospital; the Council wasn't listening to the views of the electorate; there should be full transparency by the Council which was considered to be lacking; there should be more services provided in hospital in view of the growing population in Ottery; the Coleridge Medical Centre was at bursting point thus the Hospital could be used as an overspill surgery; to retain and increase hospital services would take the pressure of the RD & E

Ian Dowler advised that he was lodging a statement with the Council later and requested that the item, (the subject of his statement) be included on the Council's Full Council Meeting agenda of 3rd December. His statement contained his assessment of the four councillors, namely Holmes, Dobson, Gori and Edwards who had signed the rescission notice. He believed they considered themselves to be omnipotent and infallible and that he viewed their actions as utterly selfish by calling the Extraordinary Meeting in an attempt to rescind the previous decision. He believed that they were failing to be accountable and transparent in their actions. He advised that he along with five other residents proposed that there should be a vote of no confidence in the aforementioned councillors

The Clerk in response to Mr Dowler's requirements to have his request as an item on the December agenda, advised that the item could not be included, as the agenda had already been sent out in accordance with statutory timelines. Further, the Council's agendas did not provide for 'Any Other Business' at which Mr Dowler requested this item could be considered.

Cllr Faithfull then proposed the following:- 'That Item 11 be deferred to the February 2019 Full Council Meeting which would allow an opportunity for the various organisations involved in trying to save the hospital, to get together and collate all the relevant information and thus the Council would be better placed to make a decision as to rescind (or not) the previous decision made at the 6th November 2018 Full Council Meeting to form a Hospital Working Party

There followed, was a right of reply by several Councillors to a number of comments/views etc made by members of the public. Reasons given by some of the councillors who had abstained at the 6th November meeting was due to the lack of information they had received about the benefits of having a working group particularly as the Ottery St Mary and District Health and Care Forum already had town council representation, thus ensuring the Council's views were conveyed to the relevant parties etc. Therefore several councillors considered that the Forum was carrying out all necessary work and that its progress to date was commendable. It was therefore questioned as to why a working party was necessary and hence the decision by some members to seek a rescission of the 6th November decision.

Cllr Pratt then read out the contents of some earlier e-mails (dated prior to the working group being set up) which had been exchanged between himself and Cllr Pang and which implied that it would be beneficial for another group to be set up which would have the expertise to negotiate with NPS Property Services, rather than the Health Care Forum. It was understood that Cllr Pang was not adverse to the idea of another group being set up.

Mayor's Initials.....

Cllr Giles then proposed:- That the Council recognises that OSM Hospital is a vitally important health facility which the Council wishes to see used to the maximum extent for the people of OSM and surrounding catchment areas. To achieve this, the Council seeks to enlist the support of well meaning people and organisations including surrounding town and parish councils within the Ottery hospital catchment area and the Council reaffirms its decision to set up a working group at its meeting of 6th November. No seconder was sought at this point.

After substantial discussion and debate Cllr Faithfull's initial proposal was re-considered and seconded by Cllr Dobson. The motion was carried by a majority vote . No further action was taken in respect of Cllr Giles` proposal

18/11/32

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF 6TH NOVEMBER 2018 (MINUTE REFS 18/011/01 – 18/11/27), AND TO APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE MAYOR AS A CORRECT RECORD

The Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of 6TH November 2018 (**MINUTE REFS 18/11/01 – 18/11/27**) were presented, approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record subject to the following words being amended in Minute 18/11/09 - `She then walked out of the meeting in disgust` to be amended to `She then left the meeting abruptly in disgust`

18/11/33

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE PROPERTY AND LAND COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14TH NOVEMBER 2018 AND APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE MAYOR AS A CORRECT RECORD

The Minutes of the Property and Land Committee Meeting of 14TH November 2018 (**MINUTE REFS PL18/11/01 – PL18/11/10**) were presented, approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record

18/11/34

TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROPERTY AND COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14TH NOVEMBER 2018 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

- i. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Plan of the proposed demise of part of the Station premises to the Station Charity (the tenant), and to approve the amendments to the proposed Heads of Terms which included the term of lease not exceeding 21 years and the rental to be set at £100 per annum, with the tenant being responsible for internal decoration and the services. It was **RESOLVED** that Prydis Legal carry out the work on behalf of the Council. However, the Clerk warned that their fee of £950 would only be applicable if `the matter proceeds smoothly`. If the Tenant was not intending to instruct lawyers (which it was understood there was a possibility) then this may complicate the transaction and the fees payable by the Council could be higher than the £950 quoted. It was **RESOLVED** that if there were delays or other problems created by the Tenant's actions (resulting in the Council's legal costs exceeding the amount quoted of £950), then these should be paid by the Tenant
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Escot and Alfington village halls, Kings School Leisure Centre and playing fields be re-considered for listing as Community Assets at the Full Council Meeting in March 2019. In addition that the hospital site be reconsidered as a re-submission application to EDDC
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** that the cost of the cycle rack and associated works be carried out at a cost not exceeding £750 either by the Council's handyperson or a local tradesman
- iv. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk set up a meeting with Graham Hughes, the Police Estate Management & Development Surveyor to determine as to the Police's future intentions regarding their occupancy of part of the Council Offices. The Clerk, together with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be present at this meeting

18/11/35

TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14TH NOVEMBER 2018 AND APPROVE THE SIGNING OF THE MINUTES BY THE MAYOR AS A CORRECT RECORD

The Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting of 14TH November 2018 (**MINUTE REFS F18/11/01 – F18/11/14**) were presented, approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record

Mayor`s Initials.....

18/11/36

TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14TH NOVEMBER 2018 NOT CONSIDERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA

- i. It was **RESOLVED** that the final decision regarding the recommended grant amounts for each organisation be deferred until the January Full Council Meeting, when information would be known about the S106 funding available to the Council, which may have a bearing on the request made by the OSM Netball Club
- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Cllrs Dobson, Holmes and Faithfull meet with Mesdames Tallack and Buckley on the 14th December to obtain an update on S106/CIL monies.
- iii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council accept the increase in costs for 2019/20 proposed by Sloan Walker to carry out the Council's book keeping/accountancy work
- iv. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council accept the increase in fees of the Council's Internal Auditor for 2019/20
- v. It was **RESOLVED** that that the Council enter into a further sub-contract with Idverde for grounds maintenance work for 2019/20

18/11/37

TO CONSIDER (AND AGREE IF APPLICABLE) TO THE PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS TREES FOR THE TOWN

Cllrs Dobson and Holmes advised that monies had been donated towards the cost of Christmas decorations. They were investigating the cost of either solar powered or battery operated artificial Christmas trees for the town. However initial findings indicated that they were cost prohibitive. The matter was on-going

18/11/38

TO RECEIVE COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

There were none

The Meeting ended at 16.06pm

Mayor's signature: Date:.....

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING: MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2018 AT 7PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE OLD CONVENT, 8 BROAD STREET, OTTERY ST MARY

Mayor's Initials.....