

HAYLE TOWN COUNCIL

**COUNCIL MEETING** **THURSDAY 15 MAY 2014**

Minutes of the Hayle Town Council Meeting held at the Hayle Community Centre, Hayle on Thursday 15 May 2014 commencing at 7.15pm with a **Public Participation Session**.

**PRESENT**

Councillor G Coad (Mayor)

Councillors J Bennett, B Capper, D Cocks, J Coombe, N Farrar, L Fox, R Lello, H Lyons, B Mims, J Ninnes, O Philp, C Polkinghorne, and J Pollard

Town Clerk Eleanor Giggal

**7.18PM PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION**

Pip Pool read out a statement he had prepared regarding his views of the proposed Linden Homes development off St George’s Road and “behind the scenes” involvement of Town and Cornwall Councillors. (A full copy of his statement is on file in the Clerk’s office.)

[7.19pm Councillor Capper joins the meeting.]

Councillors vigorously rebutted Mr Pool’s assertions that secret discussions had been had and deals had been made with Linden Homes.

Eileen Lewis, Treasurer of Friends of St Michael’s Hospital, asked to speak to the representatives of Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust (RCHT) who were attending the meeting. She said that she had heard news that St Michael’s might be closed and asked whether RCHT had thought differently or laterally how hospitals could work more efficiently together, for example with the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Treliske transferring its patients, who would otherwise have to stay at Treliske, despite specialist care no longer being required, to St Michael’s to be nursed back to health after the specialist treatment they required had been delivered. Eileen Lewis also asked if RCHT had assessed the impact loss of jobs on the local community would have if St Michael’s closed. Jo Gibbs, RCHT’s Chief Operating Officer answered that they were considering ideas for St Michael’s and its relationship with Treliske. She said that funding for hospitals was agreed at the national level and that there was a definite squeeze on Cornwall, although the trust was now in a relatively good financial position. She said that health and social care teams had to work together and added that she would cover the trust’s plans for St Michael’s Hospital in her presentation later in the meeting.

**7.42PM THE MEETING COMMENCED**

**1 CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Hayle Twinning Association’s letter was read out and Councillors were invited to participate in the forthcoming visit from the representatives from Pordic.

**2 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rance.

**3 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Councillors Coombe and Pollard declared an interest in agenda item 10a (Minute 10a refers) and made the following statement: - ‘In commenting on these applications I should make it clear that my comments are based on the information currently available and do not commit me to taking the same position if the matter is discussed at the Cornwall Council Planning Committee and full information is available.’

**4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FULL COUNCIL MEETING 1 MAY 2014**

**It was resolved** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting 1 May 2014 be taken as a true and accurate record, the Mayor signing each page before placing them in the record book.

**5 TO DISCUSS MATTERS RAISED DURING PUBLIC PARTICPATION 1 MAY 2014**

All matters were dealt with on the night.

**6 GUEST SPEAKERS – LEZLI BOSWELL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AND HER COLLEAGUE ETHNA MCCARTHY, DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND BUSINESS PLANNING, ROYAL CORNWALL HOSPITALS TRUST, TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THEIR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE FOR HOSPITALS IN WEST CORNWALL GENERALLY AND ST MICHAEL’S HOSPITAL IN PARTICULAR**

The Mayor invited representatives of RCHT to give their presentation.

Jo Gibbs, Chief Operating Officer, introduced her colleagues Richard Schofield, Company Secretary, and Garth Weaver, Acting Director of Estates, and apologised for the absence of Lezli Boswell and Ethna McCarthy, who had had to attend an urgent meeting out of county that day.

She then gave her Presentation on St Michael’s & West Cornwall Hospitals (see Appendix B).

In presenting her report and in answer to questions from Council the following details were given:

* Only planned orthopaedic surgery takes place at St Michael’s and patients must be fit enough to go to St Michael’s. There is a possibility that they might look at stepping down some younger, fitter orthopaedic trauma patients to Hayle, but these patients must not have infections or be at risk of falls or dementia as the hospital’s security is not suitable. For these reasons, and the lack of a high dependency unit, complex anaesthesia and out of hours consultant care at St Michael’s, free beds cannot be offered there when there is bed pressure at Treliske.
* 99% of patients in Cornwall who need breast surgery come to St Michael’s.
* There is a lot competition, especially for orthopaedic surgery, from Duchy Hospital, which is able to provide free parking, single rooms, better food and is more centrally located for patients from the east of the county.
* It was claimed that one consultant prefers to work at Duchy and patients choosing that consultant must have their surgery at Duchy. Jo Gibbs said that there were no data available on the proportion of consultants who do not want to work at St Michael’s, but that all surgeons who do hip, knee, foot and shoulder surgery do sessions at St Michael’s. Only complex revision and emergency surgery are not carried out there. She added that all consultants are required to sign a job plan and declare any private work that they do. If any consultants were compromising patient choice she would like to know so that it could be dealt with as it was not looked upon favourably.
* The NHS is more bound by waiting times (patients must be seen within 18 weeks) and Duchy is able to be more flexible. It was explained that Duchy Hospital is able to provide a ‘hotel-like service’ as this is a relatively small proportion of the full cost of care and it does not have the considerable costs that RCHT has in providing a full range of care for local people and visitors (for example emergency and elderly care).
* In response to a question regarding the difficulty of travelling to Treliske for hospital appointments, Jo Gibbs answered that she accepted it was a challenge, but that there was no money allocated for transport costs for patients.
* The recent capital investment in upgrading facilities and proposed investment in single room provision are NOT precursors to a rumoured sale of St Michael’s to Duchy (Ramsay Healthcare), but exist because of the need to update outdated facilities (eg to digital x-ray) and the availability of single en-suite rooms will attract patients and result in improved infection control. Jo Gibbs said that there had been no plans or discussions at Board level regarding the sale of any local hospital to Ramsay Healthcare (RH) and that RCHT had not been approached by RH regarding this issue.
* Jo Gibbs admitted that the £5m capital investment identified as being necessary for St Michael’s would only be spent if the business plan for the site proved it to be financially viable and she agreed that the Board had had conversations about closing hospitals (including St Michael’s) and units, but that there were no current plans for closures, although the hospitals would have to win back their market share from Duchy and other private healthcare providers to ensure that closures did not happen. She and her colleagues were working to reduce waiting times; working with GPs to kill myths and to get them to encourage patients to choose St Michael’s; and working with staff in St Michael’s and with clinicians to get them to encourage more patients to choose St Michael’s. She also admitted that there were no plans to invest in St Michael’s to enable the removal of the restrictions on taking certain types of patient.
* It was reported that RCHT’s debt to the national NHS now stood at £20m. It was added that they were now in final negotiations to agree re-profiling the loan to maximise the term and minimise the percentage interest.
* Ms Gibbs said that she took her responsibilities very seriously and in response to the question how Councillors and the people of Hayle could help St Michael’s win back its market share, she replied that there was nothing better than personal recommendation and asked everyone to recommend St Michael’s and to ask GPs and practice managers to contact RCHT for information regarding what was on offer to patients. Councillors and members of the public provided anecdotal evidence of not being encouraged to or even being informed that they could choose their local hospital for treatment/follow up treatment. Jo Gibbs said that she was surprised at the high number of incidents recalled and that she would deal with this issue. She also agreed that it was important that GPs were aware of what could not be done at a patient’s local hospital so that time was not wasted trying for the impossible.
* Jo Gibbs was informed that she needed to take action now to make best and full use of Hayle’s excellent hospital, which has received top reviews from the Care Quality Commission and patients. Councillors were in agreement that if RCHT decided to close St Michael’s it could be expected that 20,000 people would take to the streets again in protest.

The Mayor thanked Jo Gibbs and her colleagues for attending the meeting and giving the presentation.

**8.56PM It was agreed that there should be a short break in the meeting.**

**9.06PM The meeting re-commenced.**

**7 HAYLE HARBOUR - SOUTH QUAY UPDATE**

a) Simon Humphrey, Project Manager, Bowmer & Kirkland Ltd, to present his monthly status report to Council

No one attended to present a report.

Councillors said how much they appreciated offers of site tours and the photos of the work in progress that were forwarded by Julie Crowhurst, Site Secretary at Bowmer & Kirkland.

**8 HAYLE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

It was reported that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group were currently working on item 2 of 14. They were still at the early stage of consultation: a questionnaire was being tweaked and a letter had been sent to organisations in the town informing them of the Neighbourhood Plan and asking anyone interested to attend the next Steering Group meetings on Wednesdays 28 May and 11 June. These were to be formal meetings and it was hoped that members of the public would become members of the group at these meetings. It was anticipated that sub-committees would be formed.

It was reported that everything was on target. It was hoped that Councillors would look at and answer the questions in the consultant’s report – feedback by 20 May would be welcomed. A Facebook page for the Hayle Neighbourhood Plan had been set up and it was open for comments. A webpage had also been created, but more content needed to be added.

Councillor Capper gave his apologies for both meetings as he would be away on holiday. Councillor Fox said that she had sent an article to the Hayle Pump regarding the Neighbourhood Plan.

**9 CONSULTATION: TO CONSIDER THE DOCUMENTS FROM CORNWALL COUNCIL REGARDING THE KRESEN KERNOW PROJECT**

**It was resolved** that Councillors complete the questionnaire as individuals and to move next business.

**10 PLANNING MATTERS**

a) To consider Planning Applications: PA14/01971; PA14/03042; PA14/03309; PA14/03303; PA14/03535; PA14/03612; PA14/03408; PA14/02658 and PA14/03934

[9.37pm Councillor Capper leaves the meeting.]

[9.49pm Councillor Lello leaves the room while the comment regarding PA14/03612 is being resolved and re-enters at 9.51pm.]

**For the resolutions on individual planning applications see Appendix A attached.**

b) To note the results of previous applications

**It was resolved** to note the results of previous applications.

**11 FOOTPATHS**

a) Maintenance Update

It was reported that Cherry Trees would be commencing the first cut of the year next week.

With regard to the Jubilee Path it was reported that no complaints had been received regarding the path being shared between pedestrians and cyclists.

**It was resolved** to add an item regarding formal acceptance of the shared use of the Jubilee Path by both pedestrians and cyclists to the next agenda.

Regarding the Beach Access Route, Councillor Lello passed on the thanks of a neighbour who had been thrilled to drive his motorised wheelchair down the route to the beach. He had said that it had improved the quality of his life very much indeed.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Approved by the Council as a true record, at its meeting 5 June 2014

**Town Mayor……………………………… Date…………………………**