

## BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



### **Minutes of the Additional Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 27 August 2019**

Present:

Cllrs E Spear in the Chair, D Spear, M Shapland, R Shapland, A Bryant, E Wood, D Relph, Lord and V Cann.

T Lovell (Parish Clerk and RFO)  
A Corner (Senior Council Officer)

Jessica Newton (Head of Communications at Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust)

6 members of the public.

A member of the public addressed the Council regarding the Hospital Services in northern Devon Consultation. He expressed his concerns on behalf of Save our Hospital Services (SOHS) that there is an ongoing serious threat to services at North Devon District Hospital (NDDC).

In 2016, the new five-year plan for Devon's healthcare demanded a £557 million reduction in projected spend. Consequentially this has resulted in a significant deterioration in performance against national targets for patient waiting times. The four hour A&E and 62 day cancer treatment target have both fell well below there targets within the past three years. In areas such as neurology, cardiology and orthopaedics, patients are experiencing long waiting times. The situation is exacerbated by the longer-term failure to recruit and retain doctors and nurses, but also by the workforce imbalance between the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (RD&E) and NDDH. An example in the area of stroke and care of the elderly RD&E have 1 consultant for every 25,000 people compared with NDDH who have 1 consultant for every 91,000 people. More and more patients in North Devon are now compelled to travel to Exeter or beyond to access treatment.

This latest review describes eight service areas as facing challenges. The NHS Trust talks about “travel versus outcomes” which means would people be prepared to travel beyond North Devon if they got treated quicker. He urged the Parish Council to participate fully in the Trust’s current engagement and to speak up on behalf of the people of Braunton to save our hospital services in North Devon.

109/2019/20      **Apologies**      Receive and accept apologies from Cllrs A Bradford, Mrs J Chesters, B Bunyard and G Bell.

110/2019/20      **Items not on the agenda, which in the opinion of the Chair should be brought to the attention of Council.**      There were none.

111/2019/20      **Declarations of Interest**      Cllr E Spear declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 113/2019/20, as two of her close relatives are employed by the NHS.

Cllr D Spear declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 113/2019/20, as two of his close relatives are employed by the NHS.

Cllr A Bryant declared a non Pecuniary interest in Minute Ref: 113/2019/20, as his wife is employed by the NHS.

112/2019/20      **Finance: Accounts due for Payment**      RESOLVED: That the payments on the schedule attached to these minutes, be approved and drawn in the total sum of £4,548.95. (NC)

Cllrs E Spear, D Spear and A Bryant declared non Pecuniary interest.

113/2019/20      **Consultation: Hospital Services in Northern Devon**      The Chair welcomed Jessica Newton Head of Communications at Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to the meeting.

Jessica clarified that this latest public engagement being carried out by the Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust is not a formal consultation. A formal consultation will be held next summer regarding the partnership between RD&E and NDDH. She explained that Suzanne Tracey, Chief Executive of the RD&E and NDDH is keen to provide more opportunities for engagement.

The current review is to help develop plans for

hospital services in northern Devon and to ensure sustainability of these services in the future. The review will include eleven hospital services five essential to support A&E these are, as follows:

- A&E
- Intensive Care (ICU)
- Acute Surgery
- Acute Medicine
- Paediatrics (assessment)

Eight services facing challenges these are, as follows:

Care of the elderly

- Stroke
- Oncology
- Maternity (Obs and Gynae)
- Radiology
- Trauma and Orthopaedics
- Acute Medicine
- Paediatrics (wider service)

The NHS Trust have since March been engaging with the clinical teams leading these services to understand their vision and plans for the future, and what support they need to achieve them. Discussions have also taken place with a wide range of stakeholders including staff, patients and the community

The review will provide an opportunity to identify the challenges and how these challenges can be overcome. NDDH is the most remote hospital in mainland England. With a predicted decline in workforce numbers across the UK NDDH will need to consider how it will attract and retain staff in the future.

The current partnership between NDDH and RD&E will come to an end next summer. In December 2019 the Board will make its recommendation, taking into account the extensive public and patient engagement. The research is being conducted by an independent company. 400 telephone interviews with patients have already been carried out to find out what is important to them such as “travel versus outcomes”.

The Council requested if the responses to the consultation surveys would be available to the public? The NHS will be using an independent company to make the process as open and transparent as possible but it must protect the identity of individuals.

The Council requested how do we keep all key services at the NDDH? That is the purpose of the

consultation and the Executive and Board will make the decision following the consultation process.

The Council requested what the challenges are regarding recruitment and retaining staff? Salaries are not the issue; the main challenge is opportunity to further careers as NDDH is remote it does not get the same level of patient cases. This is one of the reasons why NDDH and RD&E formed a partnership and offer joint appointments. Consultants can rotate between the two the hospitals helping them to maintain their skill set. The RD&E provides specialist training opportunities.

The NHS are currently working with Petroc to offer a School of Nursing locally and attract staff. They have also been innovative by bringing over EU nurses and providing training, many of whom have remained in positions at the NDDH following their training. Recruiting staff is a national problem but it is exacerbated at the NDDH due to its remoteness. Cllr M Shapland explained that there are the same barriers as when she served on the Merger Committee, including limited or no public transport links.

With regards to the future structural model there are currently no suggestions to remove services. There will be time to discuss organisational form. Any suggestion of major service change would go out for full public consultation. This review is purely about understanding the challenges.

RESOLVED: That the Council

- a. the Council to write to the local MP to request that more financial assistance be given to NDDH due to the challenges it faces regarding its remoteness.
- b. the Council to publish on its website and social media sites to encourage people to engage and take part in the consultation.
- c. the Chair and Council thank Jessica Newton for attending the meeting.

114/2019/20      **Planning**

(a) 70186      Full application for erection of detached double garage together with outline application (some matters reserved) for the erection of one dwelling at The Presbytery, Frog Lane, Braunton. EX33 1BB.

Applicant:      Mr & Mrs Baxter

It was moved by Cllr P Lord, seconded by Cllr R Shapland

- Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend refusal due to safety concerns regarding access and egress on to the highway. (NC)
- (b) 70168 Extension to dwelling to create additional living space at 2 Goodgates Crescent, Braunton, Devon. EX33 1DD.
- Applicant: Ms Victoria Johnson
- It was moved by Cllr D Spear, seconded by Cllr P Lord
- Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend approval. (NC)
- (c) 70322 Single storey side extension to dwelling at Copper Quoin, Lower Park Road, Braunton, Devon. EX33 2HJ.
- Applicant: Mrs Barbara Triggs
- It was moved by Cllr D Spear, seconded by R Shapland
- Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend approval. (NC)
- (d) 70177 Single storey extension at 17 Mint Park Road, Braunton, Devon. EX33 1LE.
- Applicant: Mr Paul Lambert
- It was moved by Cllr R Shapland, seconded by L Wood
- Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend approval (NC)
- (e) 70312 Extension and alterations to the Lorna Doone building to provide additional accommodation (renewal of planning consent 60948) at Saunton Sands Hotel, Saunton, Braunton, EX33 1LQ
- Applicant: Percy R Brend & Sons (hoteliers) Ltd
- It was moved by Cllr M Shapland, seconded P Lord
- Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend approval. (NC)
- (f) 70270 Demolition of side extension, erection of two storey extension, creation of dormer windows & additional car parking spaces created at Silver Mill 4 Higher Park Road, Braunton. EX33 2LF
- Applicant: Mrs Argyle
- It was moved by R Shapland, seconded by D Spear
- Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend approval subject to Devon County Council's advice regarding suitable visibility regarding the access and egress to the site and a permeable material to be used when creating the additional car parking spaces. (NC)

(g) 70342 Single storey rear extension to dwelling, extension to side garage and workshop at 21 Saunton Road, Braunton, Devon. EX33 1HD

Applicant: Mr S Cronin & Mrs L Koch

It was moved by Cllr P Lord, seconded Cllr D Spear

Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend approval.

(NC)

(h) 66798 Creation of new access (amended plans and additional information) at Rhu House, Saunton, Braunton, Devon, EX33 1LG.

Applicant: Mr M Ijaz

It was moved by Cllr R Shapland, seconded by Cllr L Wood

Comment: RESOLVED: To recommend refusal and to reiterate its previous comments, as follows.

- The proposal will result in the loss of roadside bank together with the loss of a number of trees. It is considered that the loss of both the roadside bank and the trees will have a detrimental impact on the value and integrity of the natural character of this stretch of road.
- concerns that it will have a significant negative visual impact on the landscape area as it is surrounded by sensitive landscape within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), no landscape visual impact assessment has been provided to mitigate these concerns.

Braunton Parish Council wishes to express its deep concerns that it would appear that the applicant has commenced works to clear trees from the site prior to this application being considered which has resulted in a negative impact on the existing landscape.

If the Local Planning Authority are mindful to approve this application the Council would request that the North Devon Council Landscape and Countryside Officer provides advice regarding the suitability of the proposed trees to be planted.

(NC)

## **NOTICES OF DECISION**

### **APPROVALS**

66761 Relocation of Nursery Business to include: Erection of four polytunnels, erection of one workshop/storage shed, relocation of one storage container, creation of new vehicular access & yard, alterations to existing access & improvements to visibility splay at land to the north of Beechwood Cottage, Winsham, Braunton.

66797 Listed building consent at 41 East Street, Braunton.

65602 Works to tree in a conservation area: Ash-removal due to fungal infection at base & dangerous leaning towards property at Iron Mills, Butts Path, Braunton.

- 70136 Retrospective application for use of detached ancillary living accommodation as one unit of holiday accommodation at 5 The Terrace, Hills View, Braunton.
- 66951 Extension to dwelling together with enlargement of patio/terrace with garden store under at Wincot, Braunton.

**WITHDRAWN**

- 66892 Agricultural building works prior notification for erection of agricultural building for livestock at land off Sandy Lane, Braunton.

115/2019/20 **Devon Communities Together (DCT) Neighbourhood Planning Training**

Members considered the Clerk's report which had been sent out prior to the meeting. The Finance and Administration Committee had approved costs to send two councillors to the three Neighbourhood Planning courses being provided by DCT (Min Ref: FA/19/2019/20). Members of the Braunton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (BNPSG) had requested if the Council would pay for two members of the public who serve on the BNPSG to attend the three training courses at a cost of £365.98.

RESOLVED: That Council

- a. cancels its two places on the three training courses being provided by DCT.
- b. investigates providing Neighbourhood Planning training in Braunton to enable the entire BNPSG to benefit and those who serve on neighbourhood plan steering groups in the surrounding communities.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Signed by the Chair: .....  
(Cllr E Spear)

Date: .....