

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING
HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 06 MARCH 2019 at 7.28PM**

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr E Townsend, and Cllr A Richardson for planning application items

Clerks: Parish Clerk B Bell FSLCC, Administration Clerk Louise Glazier

There were 93 members of the public at the meeting including Parish Councillors: E Townsend (Chairman), A Richardson (Vice Chairman), R Cole, K Fernandes, B Freeston, S Jeacock, D Nicholas, R Tyler, G Worthington.

INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Council Chairman, E Townsend welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting, apologised for the delay in booking everyone in and explained that six parishioners had called a meeting to ask questions regarding the Cranleigh Village Hospital Trust (CVHT).

The Chairman explained that if the Chairman of the Parish Council is present at a Parish Meeting they have to Chair the meeting. The Chairman then introduced the Council Vice Chairman, A Richardson, the Clerk to the Council Beverley Bell and the Administration Clerk to the Council Louise.

The Parish Council will be running the meeting in accordance with the LGA 1972, only electors are entitled to ask questions. Being aware of the sensitive nature and to insure all electors are able to speak, the Chairman will accept one question per elector, no statements and there to be no question and speech longer than three minutes.

Unfortunately, CVHT will not be in attendance this evening as they said the meeting was at such short notice, although there are a few members in the audience they are under no obligation to answer any questions posed.

Please avoid naming people, when reading questions, you are not obliged to say your name when asking questions.

The Parish Clerk will give a presentation, the questions given in advance will be answered first please indicate if you would like me to read the question for you. Once these questions have been read, we will move to the floor, so please raise your yellow slip if you wish to ask a question. All questions are to be directed through the Chair, a microphone will be brought to those who have questions.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Clerk only joined the Council in 2016 and has compiled her presentation by looking through the minutes and file notes.

The Parish Clerk gave a presentation to the meeting on the history of the CVHT project from the opening of the cottage hospital until present day. This presentation will be added to the Parish Council's website, it is also attached to these minutes.

The Chairman opened the public question session.

QUESTIONS FROM ELECTORS

How many other care homes are there within a 10-mile radius of Cranleigh with empty beds? What is the up to date information?

The Chairman explained the Parish Council does not hold this information and cannot answer this as it would need further investigation.

Can the Parish Council explain why no public consultation took place before it sold the land for £1?

The Chairman did not know the answer so asked the Clerk to respond. It was explained that the land swap arrangement was agreed through Parish Council meetings which would have been open for the public to attend. The Clerk would need to look back through the minutes, to say whether there had been any form of consultation.

I understand the Parish Council Planning Committee approved the application and the Parish Council had two meetings behind closed doors and did not approve the application? Why did the Parish Council change its mind?

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council's roles in relation to the planning application had been explained in the Clerk's presentation. The discussions were held in public and the Council only resolved to enter confidential session to consider legal advice.

Were the Parish Council's decisions made public?

All responses to the planning application are logged on the Waverley Borough Council (WBC) Planning Portal.

Cranleigh Lions make many donations within the community for example they paid for a washing machine for an elderly gentleman and donated money to a lady for her two children to have school dinners, this is typical of what they do. On Monday this week they found a large cheque for £45,000 that had been presented to CVHT. This is the biggest single donation Cranleigh Lions have ever made and it took two years to raise the funds. Normally a large donation would be anything over £500. He is speaking on his own behalf as he had not had the opportunity to speak with all 48 Cranleigh Lions. Since Cranleigh Lion presented this cheque to CVHT in 2004, CVHT have changed its articles of association from providing a community owned local hospital to helping a shareholder owned company set up a private care home. The Lions remit is to raise funds for local good charitable causes and they are not allowed to raise money to give to a commercial company. HC One Ltd are based in County Durham and their last years accounts showed a £9.4m gross profit on a £309m turnover and a net asset value of £14.2m, with 170 care homes averaging 8,400 private residents, so they are a commercial company. Cranleigh Lions spent two years raising funds for a local hospital facility, which will now not happen. As CVHT no longer need this money to fund a community hospital, please could they return it to Cranleigh Lions so that it can instead be used for local good causes?

The Chairman said that is something that only CVHT can answer.

Having worked in the NHS for 20 years, with years of fighting and saving every last penny, I have two questions. Why does the Parish Council see it has the right to block and not listen to the wishes of residents? Are Councillors views being squashed?

The Chairman explained the three roles of the Parish Council were outlined in the presentation, consultee, public interest and adjacent land owner. All Councillors have a vote and have equal rights to speak and vote.

The proposal needs to be explained in more detail, does it provide community benefit. The rights of the Parish Council as land owner should be secondary to the public interest. When is the Parish Council going to make a sensible decision?

The Vice Chairman explained that representations have been made to WBC as outlined in the presentation and it is now for WBC to make a decision on the application.

Thank you for your presentation and I appreciate that Members were not on the Council at the time and there is a lot due to hear say. What are the proposals?

The Vice Chairman explained the application as outlined in the December planning application WA/2018/1966. It is for an 80-bed care home facility with 60 private bed and 20 community beds, the application does not provide a care plan. There is also a 26 bed accommodation block for key workers but the application does not specify who the key workers are.

They propose a private facility, how many private beds are free within a 10-mile radius of Cranleigh?

The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council does not have an answer to the current bed availability of the local care homes.

We are told there are 20 community beds, the Clinical Commissioning Group will have 10 and WBC will have access to the beds, we may only get on or two beds for Cranleigh. Will it be bed blockers or for convalescence?

The Vice Chairman said this would be a question for CVHT as we do not know how the beds will be apportioned or the geography.

I do not understand why CVHT are not here?

The Chairman explained that they have stated they had not been given enough time to prepare for the meeting.

Can you summarise the Parish Councils objection to the accommodation block?

The Parish Clerk explained that the current planning application will be determined against the latest planning policy which is the National Planning Policy Framework. She referred to the definition of essential workers and local workers, and explained that as the planning application stands a Police Officer from Farnham would be eligible for the accommodation block. The Parish Council has asked for more details of the contractual terms for the accommodation block.

Would the Parish Council be happy to host a public event to promote the health and care needs for a centre of excellence in Cranleigh?

The Chairman said this would be a decision of the Council and invited the member of the public to write to the Clerk.

Could the Parish Council support the principle of the care home/hospital, but say these are our conditions? For example, the Police Officer from Farnham scenario or a list of requirements that the Parish Council will vote in favour of?

The Vice Chairman explained that the Parish Council has to consider what is in front of them and cannot presume. They can only consider the information available at the time of the meeting but could re-visit if new information becomes available.

The planning objections did not seem to be a problem when all the houses were built?

The Chairman said these objections are regularly brought up, you can find them in the minutes on our website. The Planning Committee considered the application and voted in support of the application via the Planning Committee Vice-Chairman's (standing in for the Planning Committee Chairman who was not in attendance) casting vote.

Does the Parish Council view the hospital as an asset to community value?

The Vice Chairman said as an individual Councillor I can not answer this question on behalf of the Council, but it could be brought to a Parish Council meeting to discuss.

The member of the public asked the question again demanding a yes or no answer.

The Clerk explained that this would need to be a decision of the Council as this is a democracy and no one Councillor can answer this question.

One member of the public clarified that this is not a hospital, it is a private care home with 20 community beds for the whole of Waverley and some parts of Surrey. Asset to the community how? As the costs will be the same as other local care homes. The money was for a hospital, then the NHS was let down and now it will be a care home, this is not what the money was raised for.

Thank you for your presentation, but could we have a show of hands for who is in favour of the accommodation block and who is not, but also the care home?

The Vice Chairman explained that any vote would not be legally binding, it would only be for the benefit of the people in the room.

The Vice Chairman facilitated the vote.

A show of hands for the care home? 27

Against the care home? 15

A show of hands for the accommodation block? 27

Against the accommodation block? 22

The Chairman of the League of Friends outlined the work of the League of Friends including new X-Ray department, and confirmed that they have never received any funding from CVHT. From previous research of the four nursing homes in Cranleigh, their use figures from 2012 show there is an overprovision of beds in Cranleigh.

From reading the internet there will be consulting rooms like in the existing village hospital and there will be no long-term care with people there for 6-8 weeks only.

The Vice Chairman replied that there are no rooms proposed in the planning application, if there are they have not been published in the planning application.

When will bricks and mortar be installed as this has been going on for 18 years? Where has all the money gone?

The Vice Chairman explained the planning application is still live on WBC planning portal and being considered, the Parish Council have submitted their comments. The Parish Council does not know what the results will be and cannot give a timeline for this.

It is a shame CVHT did not turn up. HC-One are the only company, why are there not more, they are getting a lot handed to them, they want to be careful of the Competitions Act, there are other care home providers out there.

The Vice Chairman said this is a question for CVHT and suggested speaking to the Charity Commission.

The Rutland Group gave £140,000 to CVHT. CVHT should publish a list of all of the money that they have received and money passed to HC-One. HC-One should be asked to return the money to local good causes.

The Chairman said this is a question for CVHT to answer.

Can the Parish Council re-convene another meeting that CVHT and HC-One will attend, for them to listen to what Cranleigh wants?

The Chairman said the Parish Council cannot force people to attend a meeting and on the 22 March 2019, the Parish Council will enter the purdah pre-election period. The Parish Clerk said this is a matter for the new Council to be elected on 02 May 2019.

Can the Parish Council write to CVHT to express how unhelpful it is they are not here?

The Chairman said the next Parish Council meeting is 21 March 2019, and suggested putting this in writing to the Clerk for the Parish Council to make a decision.

Can we have a conversation on the wider heath issues?

The Chairman asked if this could be put in writing to the Parish Clerk.

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What would Cranleigh do if they were given £3 million tomorrow?

The members of public in attendance answered that they wish to re-furbish our existing hospital.

SUMMARY

The Chairman said the Parish Council has presented the information it has in relation to the Cranleigh Village Hospital Project and the land swap details, bearing in mind the current Councillors were not involved in the Cranleigh Village Hospital project from the beginning.

Please submit any questions you may have to CVHT and any questions for the Parish Council direct to us by email via the Clerk.

We hope you leave this meeting a bit more educated on the Parish Council's involvement.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.59pm.

Signed

Date.....