

MINUTES
Of
A Meeting of New Romney Town Council's
Health & Wellbeing Committee
Held in the Assembly Rooms, New Romney
on Tuesday 11th February 2025
Commencing at 10.00am

PRESENT: Councillors J Rivers, J Hiscock, J Davies, P Coe,
Rev Cn S McLachlan, P Carey
NHS Representatives: 5

In the Chair: Councillor J Rivers

In Attendance: Town Clerk - Mrs C Newcombe

539/2024-25 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and noted, as follows:

L Barclay (NHS Representative) - For personal reasons
C Cooper (NHS Representative) - For personal reasons

540/2024-25 **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBER**

Having duly considered a request from Councillor P Carey to be elected onto the Health and Wellbeing Committee, it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan
SECONDED BY: Councillor Hiscock

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY – that Councillor Carey be hereby elected onto the Health and Wellbeing Committee.

Having been duly elected onto the Committee, Councillor Carey joined the meeting.

541/2024-25 **DISPENSATION TO PARTICIPATE**

No new requests for Dispensation to Participate had been processed by the Town Clerk.

542/2024-25 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

543/2024-25 **MINUTES**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 19th November 2024, which were duly received and noted and it was:

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Rev Cn McLachlan

SECONDED BY: Councillor Davies

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Committee meeting held on 19th November 2024 be hereby approved as a true and correct record.

One NHS representative abstained from voting as they had not been present at the afore-mentioned meeting.

544/2024-25 **NEW ROMNEY NHS PROVISION**

@10.05AM Dr N Poplett (NHS) joined the meeting.

The Committee Chairman provided an update regarding the Council's proposal for use of land in Church Road for the provision of a new purpose-built, multi-disciplinary healthcare facility for Romney Marsh. It was reported that the Chairman had met with the local MP about the proposal and that the MP was very supportive. It was further reported that it had been indicated that there were funds available with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) for such a facility and that the ICB was still looking to improve healthcare provision for Romney Marsh.

The MP had requested a 3-way meeting with the Chairman of the ICB and the Chairman of New Romney Town Council; a meeting date was currently awaited.

Discussion ensued regarding the potential to bring a range of services to a new facility if realised.

The Chairman highlighted the recent funding of a similar new medical centre in Greenhithe, comparing need in that area to need in Romney Marsh.

A question was put as to how much money the District Council is holding in terms of s106 funding and whether an element of this could be utilised to help fund a proposed health centre for Romney Marsh and it was agreed that this was likely a question that the District Councillors for New Romney could look into.

The Chairman advised that the next stage in respect of maintaining momentum for such a project would be to assume success and develop a schedule of services required for Romney Marsh, together with details of the estimated number of rooms required to facilitate provision of those services.

Dr Poplett (NHS) was to draft this information for review at the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Committee and it was noted that

next steps would then be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

545/2024-25 **LOCAL HEALTH & WELLBEING ISSUES**

It was reported that emergency dental services used to be provided at the NHS clinic in Station Road but that this service was no longer available locally, with residents now having to travel to Canterbury or Dover for emergency dental treatment.

It was noted that there was potential to add emergency dental provision to the schedule of health services that are required for Romney Marsh and which could be accommodated at a new, purpose built health centre.

It was further noted that, currently, local residents requiring emergency dental treatment who did not have the means to get to Canterbury or Dover could sign up to the Marsh Bee Community Transport Service to travel for treatment if needed.

It was suggested that the CEO of Lighthouse on the Marsh be invited to give a presentation at a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Committee to highlight the wide range of wellbeing services that they provide.

The Invicta group of surgeries reported that the recruitment of doctors has been much more successful more recently. It was also reported that a planning application had been submitted for the extension of Orchard House Surgery in Lydd at some point in the future subject to funding.

546/2024-25 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS:**

Not applicable

547/2024-25 **CONCLUSION OF PRIVATE SESSION:**

Not applicable

The Chairman thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting concluded **@10.48AM**

NB: All documents referred to herein are available for perusal on request, except for those documents of a sensitive / legal nature discussed in private session, including documents relating to staff matters which remain Private and Confidential in accordance with Data Protection legislation.

Minutes prepared by the Town Clerk