

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 28 MARCH 2012

Attendance:

The Mayor (Councillor Carter, C R) (P) (in the Chair);

The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Dickson) (P);

Councillors Allen (P), Mrs Bailey, Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (P), Bradley, Burgess (P), Carter C K (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Edgar (P), Edwards (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Foster-Reed, Geddes (P), Henshaw (P), Mrs Hook (P), Hook (P), Hylands (P), Jacobs (P), Jessop (P), Kimber (P), Lane (P), Langdon (P), Murphy (P), Philpott (P), Ronayne (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P), Smith (P), Miss West (P) and Wright (P).

Also in attendance: Honorary Aldermen Foster, Gill, O'Neill and Train.

ONE MINUTE'S SILENCE

In order to express their sympathy regarding the recent deaths of Miss Myrtle Latter, former Housing Officer, Mrs Margarete Killeen, former Committee Clerk and Secretary to the Royan Twinning Exchange and Mrs Rosemary Bartlett, former Mayoress of the Borough Council; Members of the Council stood in silent tribute for one minute.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillor Bradley and Honorary Alderman Lucas.

MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Ordinary and Extraordinary meetings of the Council held on 1 and 24 February 2012 be confirmed and signed.

MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(A) DR BOB PENNELLS

The Mayor introduced Dr Bob Pennells to the meeting. The Mayor was pleased to report to members the very substantial contribution that Dr Pennells had made to the work of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in this Municipal Year. His advice, knowledge and enthusiasm had been critical to the success of the two scrutinies into 'Gosport Medical Emergency Services' and 'Proposals for Changes to Vascular Surgery Services'. The Mayor concluded that the council was grateful for Dr Pennells' contributions and wished to recognise these by presenting him tonight with a commemorative Borough Plaque.

The Mayor accordingly presented Dr Pennells with a Borough Plaque. Dr Pennells briefly thanked the council for the presentation of the Plaque.

(B) GOSPORT OLDER PEOPLE'S FORUM

The Mayor introduced Mr Richard Strong, Chairman of Gosport's Older People's Forum to the meeting. Mr Strong was in attendance in order to give an address to members outlining the Forum's achievements during its first year and an indication of its plans and priorities for the future.

Mr Strong reported that there were over 600 Older People's Forums in the UK based on local authority boundaries and each is different. In Gosport the Forum was launched in March 2011. The Forum is an independent, information, campaigning and consultative group. Membership is free for Gosport residents over 55, who are added to a mailing list for news, details of activities and to be consulted about changes that may affect them. The Forum hold at least 2 open meetings a year.

Mr Strong highlighted the efficacy of the Forum as a channel of communication and the recent survey that had prioritised objectives. Activities since the launch of the Forum had included:

- Transport Issues
 - successful Open Meeting in November 2011, including briefings on the new BRT
 - production of a widely distributed guide to transport options to travel to QA Hospital
- Health and well-being
 - investigation of a possible fitness trail including specific consideration for older users
 - consultation with LINK to be involved with the "enter & view" scheme for care homes
- Local Older Persons well-being strategy and implementation
 - successful application to the Council for the appointment of Councillor Forder as an Older Persons' Champion

- GBC lobbied for a broad, inclusive older persons' strategy and resource allocation
- Consultation and information dissemination
 - a newsletter featuring articles and information of interest to older people
 - consultation by HCC on transport and equality and diversity topics and future County Council service priorities and older persons' strategy
- Future Intentions and Aspirations

Mr Strong concluded that in the coming year the Forum would be conducting a further priorities exercise among residents so that future projects would reflect residents' needs and interests. Residents' involvement would be expected in the following local initiatives:

 - Consultations regarding the new Holbrook Sports Centre and the Waterfront Development
 - In this European Year of Active Ageing the Forum would promote an image of the positive contribution activities, achievements and ambitions of older people within the community

Mr Strong thanked the council for the opportunity to give his presentation. The Mayor thanked Mr Strong for his informative presentation and reaffirmed the council's support for the Forum.

(C) MOTIV8

The Mayor informed the council that he and the Mayoress had attended this afternoon the opening of Motiv8's new premises at Unit 29, Toronto Place, Gosport. He was delighted that they had finally got a base and centre after 6 years in the Borough. He commended members to have a look at this excellent facility.

PART II MINUTES

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the following Part II Minutes be received.

Policy and Organisation Board: 14 March 2012 (Minute Nos. 48 – 53)

Economic Development Board: 22 February 2012 (Minute Nos. 49 –50) and 27 March 2012 (Minute Nos. 56 – 57)

Community Board: 12 March 2012 (Minute Nos. 49 –50)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Mayor reported that he would like to take first the Chairman's Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012. The sub headings related to the various activities throughout the year could then be considered separately and decided upon as necessary by council as they were raised in the Annual Report.

Chairman's Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012

Councillor Forder, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced his Annual Report under the following headings.

Dial-A-Ride

Councilor Forder advised that this topic had been demanding for the Scrutiny Working Group reviewing this area. He congratulated the Working Group's Chairman, Councillor Hylands and his colleagues and in particular the Financial Services Manager for his support. The Working Group had engaged in a positive way with County officers on this service.

The Working Group made a number of recommendations concerning ways in which the service could be more efficient and had been heartened that there is some evidence that these had been implemented to good effect. The Committee would continue to take an interest in this issue and hoped to be closely involved in the tendering process due to place in the next 12 months.

Review of Polling Places

This scrutiny concluded with the recommendation of a report to the Council meeting which was adopted at the meeting held on 23 November 2011.

Part 4 Constitutional Review

One element of the Scrutiny Working Group's review was a consultation with Members conducted electronically, although this yielded just two responses. The scrutiny concluded with the recommendation of a report to the Council meeting. The Working Group made two recommendations to council:

That:

- (i) approval be given to an amendment to standing order 4.11.8 as set out in appendix 5 of the Borough Solicitor's report; and
- (ii) Councillors be asked how they would like to be addressed.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the recommendations from the Constitution Review - Part 4 Working Group be approved.

Funding of Voluntary Organisations

It was reported that the purpose of this scrutiny was not to reduce the amount of funding given to voluntary organisations, but assess whether the funding should be re-appointed. The Working Group reviewing the funding of voluntary organisations had met four times.

The scrutiny concluded with a report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in November 2011, which advocated that funding remain the same for voluntary organisations and that more information be given to Members regarding Voluntary Organisations in Gosport. This latter point had been taken up by the Member Development Task Group.

Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services

This scrutiny was undertaken by a Working Group chaired by Councillor Forder. Dr Bob Pennells acted as advisor. There were four formal meetings, including one held at the Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) of the War Memorial Hospital. The Working Group's report was adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 16 January 2012.

The Working Group made a number of recommendations which were outlined in section 5 of its report as follows:

“5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee requests that Gosport Borough Council's Chief Executive implements the following measures to improve public understanding of the MIU located at the War Memorial Hospital:

- i) To liaise with the relevant medical authorities to encourage them to widely circulate in the Borough 'publicity cards' of the type issued in Portsmouth;
- ii) That the service offered by the MIU be promoted in three successive issues of Coastline in a form which residents can cut out and post in a prominent place in their homes;
- iii) In conjunction with recommendation (ii), we would ask that the a personalised feature be run on a Consultant Nurse in Emergency Care at the MIU, to promote understanding of the competencies these professionals have;
- iv) That information about the MIU should feature prominently and permanently on the Borough Council's website; and
- v) That wherever possible photographic images should be used to add to the effectiveness of the publicity material.

5.2 We would also encourage the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust to consider enhancing the service offered by the MIU at the War Memorial Hospital in the light of its current success, increasing popularity and cost effectiveness.”

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the report from the Gosport Medical Emergency and Accident Services Working Group be noted and the recommendations from the Working Group in section 5 be endorsed.

Vascular Surgery Services

It was reported that as the previous Health scrutiny was reaching its conclusion the Committee was made aware of an expected and imminent public consultation over vascular surgery services. The proposals caused concern because they seemed to represent a threat to the future of Queen Alexandra Hospital (QA). It was therefore decided to scrutinise the consultation process, supported by a resolution of the Council. An expanded Working Group was reconstituted with Councillor Forder as its Chairman. There were four formal meetings of the Working Group as well as many informal meetings, email, telephone and letter contacts. Councillor Forder expressed his gratitude and thanks to Dr Bob Pennells for his services as advisor to the Working Group.

The scrutiny was effectively ended with the decision by SHIP to abandon the consultation and suspend its current plans for reconfiguring vascular surgery services. This was a decision welcomed by the Working Group who nevertheless recognised that the issue would need to be revisited.

The Working Group agreed a number of conclusions which were outlined in section 6 of their initial report as follows:

- “6.1 We welcome the decision to abandon the planned consultation and are encouraged by PHT’s response which is to endeavour to develop and enhance its own ‘stand alone’ service.
- 6.2 We recognise the need to keep vascular surgery services under review but trust that any future review will recognise the vital importance of retaining a major service at QA whether ‘stand alone’ or ‘collaborative’. We believe that this is essential to the future of the Hospital in its widest sense.
- 6.3 We welcome the recognition by the Chief Executive of SHIP in her letter of 2 February 2012 that vascular surgery at QA is essential to the Hospital’s future. However we are concerned that the extent and scale of this service was not defined.
- 6.4 We hope that any future review will prove to be totally transparent at all stages and will fully involve elected members from councils with an interest in the future of QA.”

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the initial report from the Vascular Surgery Working Group be noted and the conclusions from the Working Group in section 6 be endorsed.

Councillor Forder concluded by thanking the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and officers for their hard work throughout the year. The Mayor echoed this sentiment and congratulated Councillor Forder for his successful chairmanship of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the last Municipal Year.

COUNCIL RESOLVED: That the Chairman’s Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year 2011 – 2012 be noted.

As this was the last council meeting of the Municipal Year the Leader of the Council wished to thank the Chief Executive and the Council Management Team for their hard work throughout the year. Similarly he wished to thank the Board Chairmen and Board members for their support during the last year.

In conclusion the Leader of the Council wished to thank the Mayor for the fair handed way he had chaired council meetings and the exemplary way that he and the Mayoress had carried out their duties during their Mayoral year. They had been a credit to Gosport.

The Mayor thanked the Leader of the Council for his kind comments and made reference to the following events for councillors' to note in their diaries.

- Sat, 14 April at 10.00am – Mayoress hosting a coffee morning for St John Ambulance at the Discovery Centre
- Fri, 20 April – for the Mayor's Charities a Tennis Tournament at the Alverstoke Tennis Club
- 2-14 April – Edge Project: show casing art for young people
- Members were informed that it was 100 years since the RMS Titanic disaster. A number of people in Gosport had researched those that had died on RMS Titanic and prints/photographs were available for a display in the Discovery Centre on 5 April
- The Discovery Centre would be commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Falklands Conflict with displays; related events would be shown from 7 May to 9 June
- 9 May - there would be a 'Ghosts Revisited' showing photographs of what happened on the Falklands Islands at the Study Centre
- Starting on 15 May there would be a monthly event 'Down Memory Lane' with photographs of involvement with the Falklands Islands over 30 years
- 16 May – Lecture on SS Uganda and its involvement in the Falklands War

The meeting ended at 7.04pm