

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT TO CANNOCK CHASE HOSPITAL
MONDAY 11 MARCH, 2013
IN THE CIVIC CENTRE, BEECROFT ROAD, CANNOCK

PART 1

PRESENT:

Councillors

Gamble, B. (Chairman)
Bennett, C. (Vice-Chairman)

Ball, G.D. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Freeman, Miss. M.

Also present: Ms. H. Parsons, LINK

41. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. A.F. Bernard and Staffordshire County Council, Councillor G. Martin.

42. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members

There were no interests declared.

43. Minutes

Councillor C. Bennett referred to Minute 39. Update – Catering arrangements at Cannock Chase Hospital and the recent situation where the meal service was affected due to inclement weather. He was keen to know how much stock was held at Cannock Chase Hospital if a similar situation occurred in the future.

Dave Prosser-Davies, Food and Safety Manager reported that the hospital held 3 days worth of stock however he suggested that whilst thanking the hospital for the visit to view the catering facilities today, it may be worth asking about a continuity plan in the event that food supplies ran out after the third day. Members of the Committee concurred with this.

With regard to the visit undertaken today to view the catering facilities at Cannock Chase Hospital, Members appeared impressed with how the

service was running and how well it was organised.

Councillor Ms. Freeman reported that food waste appeared to be an issue and the Hospital was considering implementing a voucher scheme for staff in order that hot meals were not wasted. There was a variation in wastage on a day to day basis and the number of plates untouched was the measure used to calculate this.

The Food and Safety Manager reported on the nutrition element of food being re-heated and advised that the hospitals worked closely with nutritionists. There was very minimal impact on the nutrition content although some vitamins contained in food could be destroyed through re-heating.

AGREED:

- (A) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February, 2013 be approved as a correct record.
- (B) That a letter be forwarded to Mid Staffs NHS Trust expressing the Committee's thanks for the visit undertaken to view the catering facilities at Cannock Hospital, and to seek clarification with regard to food wastage, summary of customer satisfaction survey and what continuity plan was in place should stocks of food be used after 3 days.

44. Items Arising from Staffordshire County Council's Health Select Committee

Cabinet Member – Health and Social Care

The Chairman reported that Scrutiny sessions at the County were regularly held where Cabinet Members who held portfolios were subject to being scrutinised by other Members. He reported that at the last meeting the Cabinet Portfolio for Adult Wellbeing was scrutinised. A request would be made that the Minutes from the meeting were circulated to all Members of the Committee.

Scrutiny

It was reported that in light of the Francis Report and the future of Scrutiny, a consultation would be undertaken which would involve County Scrutiny Members.

A&E North Staffs University Hospital NHS Trust

The Chairman reported on a tour of the new A&E system at North Staffs University Hospital NHS Trust.

It was reported that there would be no further meetings of the Health Select

Committee until after the County Council elections in May.

Councillor C. Bennett was concerned with the timescale in between the last Health Select Committee and the next and asked what arrangements were in place should any issues arise.

The Chairman explained that any current issues would be dealt with, however he would liaise with the County on this issue.

45. Update – LINK

The Chairman welcomed Hester Parsons, LINK.

Hester Parsons reported that the first of the 'Conversation with Stafford' events had been held last week in Cannock. Unfortunately, the turnout to the event was poor and approximately 25 local people attended. It was hoped that by promoting the event the Clinical Commissioning Group would be able to engage with regard to services around health and social care.

The second event would be held on 12 March, 2013 at the Baptist Church, Rising Brook, Rugeley.

It was reported that those who had attended had all been asked to complete a survey and asked to rate Healthwatch priorities which included:-

- Review of GP appointments
- Personal budgets
- Domiciliary care
- Support for carers
- Children and young people
- Outpatients experiences and hospital organisation

In response to a question raised by a Member, Hester Parsons advised that she was attending most of the Council's Community Forums to raise awareness of Healthwatch apart from Cannock on 19 March but hoped to attend the next one in June.

Councillor C. Bennett explained that he was concerned with regard to the community needing to rely on hospital services which were not local and the problem people faced with transportation services.

The Chairman reported that this issue was ongoing and further discussions would be held in the future.

Councillor Bennett also appeared concerned with funding cuts leading to patients suffering and asked if the Chief Executive of Mid Staffs NHS Foundation Trust should be invited to attend the next meeting to discuss this with the Committee.

The Chairman reported that in light of the current situation at Stafford

Hospital it was unlikely that any information would be provided to the Committee. In view of this the Chairman expressed that in his opinion the Committee should wait to see what the final outcome was in May.

46. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted the date of the next meeting scheduled for Monday 22 April, 2013.

CHAIRMAN

(The meeting closed at 1.55 p.m.).