

WINGERWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12 April 2007

Present: Cllr Mrs A Sainty (Chair)
Cllr SJ Ellis
Cllr T Fisher
Cllr CE Hutchings
Cllr K Moore
Cllr J Ollis
Cllr Mrs M Parker
Cllr W Pickford
Cllr T Snowdon
Cllr R Stafford
(minutes taken by Cllr T Snowdon)

087/2007 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs RAC Scothern, PW O'Neill and K Walker.

088/2007 Confirmation of Minutes

The Chair welcomed David Sharp and William Jones from the Derbyshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and then introduced the Members of the Council. She opened proceedings by stating that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for a new purpose built surgery in Clay Cross, the development of the branch facility in Tupton, and the closure of the branch facility in Wingerworth.

David Sharp explained that a consultation on these plans had started last November with a public meeting. The Clay Cross practice had been working with the District Council for some time on a plan to transfer one practice nurse and three afternoon GP sessions out of Wingerworth, and to improve the provision of services in Tupton and at the High Street surgery in Clay Cross. Another consultation meeting with Natasha Engel was due to be held the following day to discuss the same issues.

The GP practice had made a business proposal to the PCT for the changes outlined to the Parish Council and although no decision had yet been made, David Sharp did indicate that the PCT was inclined to support the proposal. The practice in Clay Cross would consist of Dr Jackson, Dr Green and a newly appointed doctor.

Concern was expressed as to the reasons behind the proposals when Wingerworth was so much larger than Tupton. The PCT's view was that the overall quality of service would be improved once they were consolidated in Tupton and Clay Cross. The Chair pointed out that there was only an hourly bus service to Clay Cross and one every 30 minutes to Tupton and that this would create problems for patients without their own transport and especially for those with small children and the elderly. It was estimated that over 1,000 current patients would have to travel out of Wingerworth for their GP service if the proposal was implemented.

The main issue for the members of the Parish Council was the withdrawal of the service to Wingerworth residents and the PCT's representatives were questioned as to why the facilities in Wingerworth have not been refurbished or upgraded. The representatives of the PCT stressed that this was a business decision for the GP practice and a business decision for the PCT. The proposal had been made because the practice wanted to work from modern premises, and this proposition was supported by the officers of the PCT. In response to a question, the PCT's representatives confirmed that only one option had been put forward for consideration, and that there were no alternative proposals on offer.

The PCT's representatives stated that Wingerworth residents used over 10 different surgeries, all but two of which located outside the village. The practice in question had between 7,500 and 8,000 patients, just over 1,000 of whom were Wingerworth patients.

It was pointed out that several patients had not received a letter from the practice outlining the proposed changes. The PCT's representatives said that if letters had not been sent out in time, the consultation period would have to be extended. It was also suggested that another practice might take over the Wingerworth facility, but the PCT's view was that this was extremely unlikely to happen.

The PCT's representatives confirmed that no capital funding was proposed for the new Clay Cross facility above the normal level of funding and reimbursement of rental costs and that the Trust was

obliged to take account of views expressed during the required 12 week consultation before a final decision was taken by the Derbyshire PCT Board.

Following the departure of the PCT's representatives, Members discussed the proposal and its likely impact on residents of Wingerworth. After careful consideration it was proposed that the Council should oppose the proposal to close the GP practise branch facility in Wingerworth as outlined by the PCT. The proposal to oppose the closure was voted upon and carried unanimously.

Resolved: that the Clerk writes to the Derbyshire PCT expressing the Council's opposition to the proposed changes to the provision of GP services in Wingerworth; that the Clerk seeks clarification from the Derbyshire PCT on the dates of the consultation procedure and raises concerns over the apparent failure to consult with a number of patients who would be affected by the proposed change.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.