

PULBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual Parish Meeting was held at the Village Hall on Friday 23 May 2003 at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr D Jolliffe (Chairman)
Mrs J Botting (Chairman of Planning & Services)
Mrs C Barnett Mrs H Black
Mrs N Hompstead Dr A Tilbrook

District Councillors

Mr B Donnelly
Mr R Paterson

In Attendance: Dr Michael Shillingford Pulborough Medical Group
Mrs E Coulthard Pulborough Medical Group
45 members of the public

1 INTRODUCTION BY CHAIRMAN

Mr Jolliffe welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Dr Shillingford and Ms Coulthard for attending to speak about the proposed primary care centre.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mrs P Arculus (County Councillor)

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 May 2002 were approved and signed as a correct record.

3.1 Matters Arising

None

4 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON ACTIVITIES 2002/03

Mr Jolliffe said that he had provided a written report on activities to allow plenty of time for discussion of the proposed medical and care centre. He would be happy to answer questions but did not intend to reiterate items in the report.

Mr Jolliffe said that the Parish Council was having a difficult time. There were currently 11 vacancies and the two District Councillors – Brian Donnelly and Roger Paterson - had been appointed as Parish Councillors to enable the Parish Council to function. He thanked Mr Donnelly and Mr Paterson for taking on additional responsibilities in addition to their duties as District Councillors.

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Mr Jolliffe invited anyone interested in the vacancies for Parish Councillors to speak to the Clerk. He said that there would be an Election on 10 July and exhorted everyone to vote. The Notice of Election would be published on 5 June and Polling cards would be sent to all households.

As the retiring Chairman, Mr Jolliffe thanked all Parish, District and County Councillors for their help and support and the Clerk and all staff for their hard work. He introduced Mrs Janet Botting as the new Chairman of the Parish Council.

5 RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr Jolliffe drew attention to the written report on income and expenditure during 2002/03 and said that the Clerk would be happy to answer any questions.

6 EXCITING PLANS FOR PULBOROUGH – New Medical and Care Centre for 2005

Mr Jolliffe welcomed Dr Shillingford and Mrs Coulthard to the Meeting and invited them to present the plans for the medical and care centre.

Dr Shillingford said that he had delivered the plans to Horsham District Council that day. He thanked Council officers, particularly Martin Pearson and Tony Stevens, for helping in the process. The current position was that Pulborough Medical Group had acquired 4 acres of the old Spiro Gills site and Tesco had retained 3 acres.

Dr Shillingford outlined the plans.

Primary Care Centre

The primary care centre would occupy 1 acre and provide a General Practice and Diagnostic and Treatment Centre. There would be 7 or 8 General Practitioners and probably 2 Nurse Practitioners. The Centre would accommodate the Health Visitors, District Nurses, Midwives and a Mental Health Team.

There would also be a Pharmacy, Child Health Services, a Dental Suite, Optical Services, an Ambulance Service with an immediate response vehicle, an NHS Direct out of hours service and a Social Services office and Day Centre.

The Centre would house a number of other services including the Mary How Trust; Physiotherapy; Hydrotherapy; Xray, Pathology and Ultrasound through a St Richard's Suite site and a Consultant Outreach facility. Minor surgery not requiring a general anaesthetic, such as endoscopies, could be undertaken at the Centre.

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The Centre would include the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Counselling, a Psychologist, an Osteopath, an Acupuncture/Chiropractic, a Third Age Resource and a Teaching Centre/Community Resource. Additional features would include InHealth UK – mobile MRI etc, an IT Hub, One Stop Care for 10 major conditions and a Community resource to surrounding practices. There would be 55 people working in the building.

Dr Shillingford said that the proposals would offer considerable benefits to patients with many more services available locally and faster and more accessible services. There was an opportunity for patients to be involved through a Patient Practice Group but all suggestions would be welcome.

Members of the public generally welcomed the proposals but had some questions and concerns about points of detail. These included

- the effect of moving the pharmacy on other shops in Lower Street. Mr Paterson said that the Pulborough Healthcheck project was considering what to do about the shops in Lower Street. The traders were now getting together to consider how to revitalise the centre of the Village.
- the need for parking restrictions in the car park
- the need for transport from the centre of the Village
- what would happen to the Medical Group's current premises: Dr Shillingford had no idea.
- whether any of the proposed retirement flats would be available for rent: Dr Shillingford said that this was a commercial decision.

Dr Shillingford said that Tesco and Pulborough Medical Group hoped that their joint planning application would be considered in July. Site clearance would take about three months and, if all went well, building would start at the end of the year with a target opening date of mid 2005. He thanked Mike Pritchard and Liz Coulthard for their hard work in developing the proposals.

Mr Jolliffe thanked Dr Shillingford for an excellent presentation. He said that Pulborough would be privileged to have these facilities and he wished the Group well with its proposals.

8 CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

Mr Jolliffe thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm. Those present were invited to join the Parish Council for refreshments. Mr Williams thanked Mr Jolliffe for being an excellent Parish Council Chairman.

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