

St Stephens by Launceston Rural Parish Council

Minutes of Council meeting held on 19th June 2017 in Langore Village Hall immediately following Annual Parish Meeting

17/46 **Present:** Cllrs V Lindley, J Heaton, S Lindley, J Caudle, G Curzon, M Rimmer, K Langdon. Clerk in attendance

17/47 **Apologies:** None

17/48 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Caudle, aspects of the pond

17/49 **Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 17th May 2017 were agreed.

17/50 **Launceston Hospital;** Mr. P Confue had addressed the immediately preceding Annual Parish Meeting. This is the minute, he said;

There is much distrust around at present, however he could categorically state that there are no plans to close Launceston Hospital.

The building is now owned by NHS Property Services and they have plans to repair it. It may be necessary to temporarily decant staff and/or patients during repair works, BUT THEY WOULD RETURN on completion of repairs.

Launceston is relatively large by Cornish standards. Hospitals with less than 12 beds will struggle to be viable. It is not near other hospitals, with the nearest being Stratton. Stratton is not scheduled for closure. St Barnabus in Saltash may struggle to prove viability.

It is extremely difficult to make a case to close Launceston, so we need to consider how Launceston can be improved and services expanded.

There is no reason to travel to Derriford for some services such as infusions etc. Modern technology could enable a nurse to see a patient in Launceston with a video link to a consultant in Derriford, and the nurse performing basic tasks such as checking blood pressure as directed.

County wide, Accident and Emergency is struggling, as is the rest of the country. Urgent Care Centres could take some of the burden but where to site them?

Can Launceston make a good case to host one? Do we push for an upgrade?

Launceston is on the main A30 and close to the County border.

It is of a viable size

It is a long way from other hospitals

It has excellent links with Derriford, which is good for our community, most other Cornish hospitals link with Truro.

Launceston is well used and has a full and well motivated work force

Any patients treated from out of County would be paid for by their home NHS, thereby reducing Launceston's costs

The savings if every Cornish Community Hospital were closed would be only £10 - £20 million. The clinical damage would be far greater. There is no economic case for closure in Launceston.

To summarise there is no economic or clinical reason to close Launceston and every reason to keep it open.

Questions were asked, including requesting additional funding for Generic Support workers. Ambulance response times need addressing – new shift patterns should reduce queuing of ambulances at Derriford and Truro. Funding for Urgent

Care Unit – Launceston ideal place for one, need to lobby this year. The local GP'S are right behind this and would struggle to cope without it.

Mr Confue asked that we refer any rumours to him and he will give an honest appraisal of them.

He confirmed that not all Community hospitals would survive the next 5 or so years but was confident in Launceston's future

Immediately after Mr Confue left the following resolution was unanimously passed; That this Annual Parish Meeting instructs the Parish Council to Lobby for an Urgent Care Unit and improved facilities in Launceston Hospital

The Parish Council accepted the resolution above.

17/51 **Neighbourhood Plan;** Cllr Heaton has been working on parts of the draft. CRCC can recommend professional support, Zoe Burnard Johns will help with policy writing. The Council reaffirmed that earmarked funds could be used.

17/52 **Finance:**

A) Cheques for payment approved;
Chq 166 £45 AON Insurance

17/53 **Parish Pond;** As Parish Meeting

17/54 **Grass cutting, Junctions etc;** Junction splays have been cut but need redoing as vision still impaired.

17/55 **Planning Applications;** None

17/56 **Correspondence;** None

17/57 **Reports;** As Parish Meeting.

17/58 **Questions from Councillors;** Work on the entrance to Menheniot Crescent had left the grass verges in a state. Clerk will be advised who was responsible so he could pursue.

17/59 **Public comments;** none

17/60 **Date of next meeting:** 6th July

Meeting closed at 2140

