

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Llanwrtyd Wells Town Council held on Thursday 5th March in the Council Chambers of the War Memorial Institute

Update on Llanwrtyd Wells Branch Surgery

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss developments in the negotiations taking place between the Local Teaching Health Board and Builth Practice Managers .

Present : Cllrs. P Lambkin, R Thomas, S Jones, J Rowlands, P. James, N. Price, T. Van Rees, A. Jones

Observers: There was one observer

Apologies for Absence: Cllr P. Tonks

Cllr James welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Roger Williams joined the meeting at 7.10pm as an observer.

1. Update on Developments

- 1.1 Cllr James informed members that Dr Walters had been invited to the meeting but was unable to attend but the practice manager had sent and e-mail outlining their position.

“Our website details the meeting we had with the health board last Friday and there has been another meeting arranged for this Friday (same people) to follow up. Depending on the outcome there would be a follow up meeting with the same audience and members of parliament.

There has been a very supportive letter gone to Mr Mark Drakeford from Builth Wells Town Council, this is also on the website.

We are hoping to come to a solution over the next couple of weeks but if this is not the case the GPs will attend a public meeting, currently it is too early in the process and we have no more information to give at this stage.”

1.2 Update from Builth Website

The Clerk read the latest surgery update which can be found on www.builthsurgery.co.uk which gives an update from the practice regarding the meetings that have taken place and those that will take place in the future.

- 1.3 Letter from the Cluster of Town and Community Councils to Mr M Drakeford-this letter, outlining support for retaining the Llanwrtyd branch Surgery was explained to members by Cllr Van Rees who had attended a meeting of the Cluster Councils.
He informed the meeting that the Drs themselves could not close the Surgery without consent of the Health Board and that there was a process that needed to be followed before any closure could occur.

The issue of petitions was raised and what was going to happen to them. The Clerk reported that all petitions would be collected at the end of next week (i.e. by the

13th of March) . It was proposed that the petitions be sent to Mr M. Drakeford and copies sent to all relevant bodies.

Positive comments have been made regarding the prompt action of the Town Council with regard to highlighting this issue and gaining Community support. This was seconded by Cllr Van Rees who had attended a meeting where this was voiced.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Lambkin and Cllr Tonks for their part in disseminating information about the original meeting at the surgery.

2. **Findings from Councillors**

Cllr Van Rees reported that he had put a motion forward to the full Powys County Council deploring any action to close the surgery and called for The Local teaching Health Board to work closely with the Primary Health Care team. He has spoken to Mr A . Lawrie and a meeting has been arranged with him and the Chief executive of Powys County Council to discuss progress on the 17th March.

Cllr Van Rees also reported that he has spoken to Dr Hegedus of Builth Practice who expressed guarded optimism with the ways things were moving forward.

Cllr P. Lambkin reported that she had received queries regarding the ownership of the Land from residents. Discussion ensued as to who owned the land originally and how it came to be allocated for a surgery , though no conclusions were arrived at.

Cllr J Rowlands expressed that there seemed to be a great deal of confusion amongst the community with regard to the lease and MPIG payments and the question was raised as to why rural communities are suffering while others are not.

The issue of paying for prescriptions has also been raised by the public with an acknowledgement that this would be insufficient to save the surgery.

3. **Future Plans**

Dr Walters will hopefully attend the next Town Council meeting on the 18th March(though this is yet to be confirmed).He will give The Town Council further updates and decisions made at any meetings. At this Council meeting, after discussions with Dr Walters, it will be decided if a Public meeting is necessary.

The question was raised as to how we keep the public informed and the following were suggested:

- For those with computers access to the Town Council website and the Builth Wells Surgery web site are excellent ways to keep up to date with proceedings.
- For those who have not got access to a computer the minutes of the Council meetings are available on the notice board in the War Memorial Institute and in the Library.

Should a public meeting be necessary notice will be published with times and dates on the Llanwrtyd Web site and on notices around Town and the relevant bodies will be requested to attend.

Cllr James closed the Meeting at 7.45pm

Amendments:

Cllr Rowlands-item 2-Findings from Councillors

1. "there seemed to be a great deal of confusion abroad with regard to the lease and the MPIG monies

Changed to "there seemed to be a great deal of confusion amongst the community with regard to the lease and MPIG payments

2. The issue of paying for prescriptions has also been raised by the public with an acknowledgement if it meant saving the surgery then it could be a possible option.

Changed to:

The issue of paying for prescriptions has also been raised by the public with an acknowledgement that this would be insufficient to save the surgery.

Cllr A Jones

Inclusion of her name on the list of those present.