

**HOLYHEAD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2019 7.00 p.m.**

**Councillors present:-** Alan Williams (Mayor), Richard Parry (Deputy Mayor), Glyn Haynes, T Lloyd Hughes MBE, Mrs Ann Kennedy, Adrienne Edwards, Mrs Beryl Warner BEM, Mrs Ailia Lewis MBE, Vaughan Williams, Hywel Williams, W J Chorlton, Jennifer Saboor, Keith Thomas, Keith R Roberts and Ken Tatlock

**In attendance:**

Robert Henderson (Town Clerk/Financial Officer)  
Mrs P R Scott (Clerk/Typist)

The Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting and stated that as this was a Council Meeting that only Councillors could ask questions of representatives of the Betsi Cadwaladr UHB who were in attendance.

1. Apologise for absence were received by Councillor Raymond Jones.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST BY ANY COUNCILLOR OR OFFICER:**

Cllr T Lloyd Hughes MBE represents the Anglesey County Council on the Ynys Mon Community Health Council

Cllr W J Chorlton is a member of the Anglesey Community Health Council

Cllr Glyn Haynes is a member of the Anglesey Community Health Council

The members of the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board were Keith Amos (Head of GP recruitment), Wyn Thomas, Assistant Director for Primary Care for Gwynedd and Anglesey, Dr Bethan Jones, Area Director for Gwynedd and Ynys Môn, Fion Johnson, (Primary Care – Community Services and GP Dr ap Dafydd.

Mr Wyn Thomas informed all present that they were aware that there were continuing problems in the recruitment of GPs to Holyhead and that the Betsi Cadwaladr UHB were doing their best to try and recruit more Doctors into the area by offering them an attractive employment offer to include re-location expenses. He stated that the Cambria Surgery and the Longford Road Surgery especially were experiencing difficulties and that the local Health Board was now running these two surgeries. The Victoria surgery was a stand-alone surgery as it was a training Practice.

One of the reasons why Doctors did not want to join a Practice was that they did not want the responsibility of financial implications in relation to the building they would be working in and that the recruitment of Doctors was now a national problem and not just in west Wales.

Councillors were informed that the hours of opening at the minor injury unit at the Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley would be increased and the treatment room at the Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley was well used by patients from the local area and further afield.

Several Councillors did voice their concerns and asked the following questions and each of the representatives of the Betsi Cadwaladr UHB answered questions in turn:-

**Councillor Ken Tatlock** : The general public want to know if you are going to do a public meeting as they are concerned with what is going on?

Answer – Yes, we are happy to arrange a public meeting.

**Councillor Richard Parry** : Do you have the finances to employ more GPs when you recruit?

Answer - Yes, the finances are not a problem.

**Councillor Keith Roberts** : You have a duty of care, what are you going to do now?

Answer – We will arrange for doctors to come in from other areas in the short term.

**Councillor Adrienne Edwards** : There are two sites that the locals know of that would be ideal as a medical centre, could these be looked at? (Park School site and Revd. Thomas Ellis School site)

Answer – We are speaking to the Isle of Anglesey County Council and have a meeting with them in the next few weeks to look at possible sites for a new centre.

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**Councillor Mrs Ann Kennedy** : We are not criticising the service that you are providing, but I would like to read from your business plan published in 2018. In your plan it mentions that you were looking for a medical centre then. It's 2019 now and are you still looking?

**Answer** – We are actively looking, we admit the process has taken longer than expected.

**Councillor John Chorlton** : Do the Health Board think it's acceptable for a patient to have to call the surgery 200 times to try and get an appointment, and then when you do get through there are no appointments available. And can't they merge two surgeries into one?

**Answer** – No, obviously this is not acceptable, we are working on this as a matter of urgency. They would only be able to merge two surgeries into one if they found a big enough building.

**Councillor Keith Thomas** : Councillor Keith Thomas admitted that there were big problems in trying to make GP appointments and suggested that more triage nurses should be trained and recruited.

**Answer** – Also, patients need to be more educated when trying to make GP appointments as in some cases pharmacists or nursing staff could assist patients without the need to always see a GP.

**Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes MBE** : Councillor Hughes stated that he had worked in the health service for over 34 years. He stated that he was 100% behind merging the three Doctors' surgeries into one location and he asked how long it would take to build a new medical centre. He added that there would not be enough parking spaces at the Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley Hospital if that building was used.

**Answer** – It would take approx. 3 years from start to finish to finalise everything from planning regulations etc to being opened.

**Councillor Jennifer Saboor** : What advice can we give to the general public as this is a national issue.

**Answer** – Favourable employment packages are being offered to those applying for vacant posts, including re-location fees paid for and they are actively trying to improve telephone access at surgeries and also making improvements to on-line information services offered by GPs. Also, a training academy is now being developed.

**Councillor Vaughan Williams** : He agreed that there were problems as members of his Ward had informed him of their frustrations in trying to make appointments and waiting for prescriptions to be signed by a doctor and in some cases having to wait a few days for this to be done.

**Answer** – Some GP posts are offered not for a full week as some doctors wish to carry out other duties and some GPs want to have more flexible working hours.

**Councillor Mrs Beryl Warner BEM** : She asked if the Barnett formula was a fair way to calculate the cost of services provided for each person?

**No answer** was given to this question as unaware of the background information on this.

The Mayor, Councillor Alan Williams thanked the representatives of Betsi Cadwaladr UH Board for attending the meeting and for the information that they provided. He looked forward to a public meeting being arranged in the future.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 p.m.

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**Minutes Extra meeting 13 11 2019**