

KINGS CLIFFE PARISH COUNCIL

The additional meeting of the Parish Council was held on **24th February 2021** at 8.00 pm to discuss the Doctors Surgery Poll Results. This was held by video conference due to the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020.

David Parkes requested to speak as Chairman of the PPG (Patients Participation Group, Communicare). He gave a brief outline of the role of the PPG which instituted in law and the role is to represent the patients within the practice and are independent of the practice. He raised two questions: firstly, how many people are on the KCPC Facebook and secondly, how many have responded.

We as a PPG and the Parish Council need to work with the Doctors Practice to mitigate those at risk due to these changes. He urges the Parish Council to be mindful of these changes which have been happening to GP Practices over the years, where they have coalesced to become bigger but not necessarily better and often lost the knowledge of and personal touch with individual patients. We would want to maintain the personal, professional and progressive GP Practice that we are privileged to have.

20/202 Declarations of Interest: None

20/203 Present: Chairman A Howard, R Brown, G Smid, D Balmer, R Brown, N Woore, R Meadows, J Atkinson, M Wharton, T Copeland and 7 members of the public attended.

20/204 Apologies for Absence: Vice-Chairman M Day, Cllr M Wharton & D Gilbert

20/205 Doctors Surgery – Poll Results

In answer to David Parkes questions: The community Facebook page has 1318 and the responses are below: 90/95% of village residents. 244 People Voted and a large proportion of these are residents of Kings Cliffe.

1. I would like a surgery to remain in Kings Cliffe = 228 Votes
I'm not too concerned about the Surgery in Kings Cliffe = 16 Votes
Total Answers 244
2. I didn't understand that the Kings Cliffe Surgery would be closed permanently = 104 Votes
I understand that the Kings Cliffe Survey would be closed permanently = 18 Votes
Total Answers 122
3. I didn't receive a consultation survey from the Doctors = 79 Votes
I received a consultation survey from the Doctors = 39 Votes
Total Answers 118
4. The Survey closure wouldn't prevent me accessing healthcare = 69 Votes
The Surgery closure would give me problems accessing healthcare = 15 Votes
Total Answers 84

The Parish Council would like to thank Rob Giddings the Community Facebook Admin in setting up the poll on our behalf.

One of the concerns are that a number of people didn't receive a survey and a limitation of the survey was that there was only one per household rather than per patient and secondly there may be that the survey wasn't received or completed by per person per household and they had not appreciated the consultation would result in the closure of the surgery.

Course of Action – It was decided to write to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) copying in the Partners Wansford & Kings Cliffe Surgery and Tom Pursglove MP.

Before the ‘Doctors’ Consultation and indeed since then we have had a several meetings with the Doctors to discuss their proposals and the results of the Consultation. However, the focus before the consultation was on the provision of health care services from Kings Cliffe Active, a community site within the Parish.

It was only after the Consultation was completed that we became aware of the Doctors decision to close the surgery, until that time we had understood it was a relocation of services from one site to another within the Parish.

We believe that the result of the Poll conducted by the Parish Council indicates that there is a strong desire in the community to retain a surgery within the Parish, it appears clear that Parishioners had not appreciated that the Doctors Consultation process could lead to the closure of the Village surgery.

The proposal to close the Surgery does not include any clear proposals, only ideas, as to how the issue of accessibility of the Surgery at Wansford would be achieved for those residents that have mobility issues Discussions.

As you will be aware Kings Cliffe is a ‘Hub Village’ servicing a large number of surrounding villages with Schools and a variety of shops and sports facilities. We see the continued provision of health care facilities within the parish as part of the role of a Hub Village.

We find the timing of the proposal to be unfortunate, as we are still within a ‘Pandemic’ when accessibility to healthcare is critical for all members of the community, especially the elderly and vulnerable groups - surely this should not be the time to close the Surgery.

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 11th March 2021 via Zoom Meeting ID 726 831 7160 Password: 046754.

Signed _____

Date _____