

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group
Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 21 February 2024
at the Brixworth Surgery
17:10 hrs to 18:15 hrs

Present

Keith Dobell (Chair), Sue Brady (Vice-Chair), Barbara Hogg (Secretary), Michael Brady (Treasurer and Note-Taker), Sarah Berry (Practice Manager) Dr Neal Kennedy, Helen Blackburn (Social Prescriber), Rosemary Ward, Mike Parsons, Maggie Goodwin, Ken Attwood, Sarah Hart, Ann Gray.

Apologies

Dr Julia Railson, Dr Susie Northover, Louise Smart, Sarah Farrell, Jenny Theairs, Dorothy Hill.

Matters Arising

No matters arising.

At the start of the meeting, Keith extended a warm welcome to two new members namely Rosemary Ward and Maggie Goodwin.

There was then a short silence to remember Anne Strudwicke who passed away in December. Anne had been one of the founder members of the PPG and her work for the Practice had been invaluable over many years – she will be sadly missed.

Practice News

Sarah Berry added her sadness at Anne's passing and she advised the attendees that:

- Dr Michael Ghisel would be leaving the Practice soon as he and his family were moving abroad.

- Dr Joanne Williams, who had been providing locum cover, would be retiring at the end of March.
- Hafiz Akmal has now joined the Practice as a Physiotherapist.
- The TV screens at both sites have been blank recently but it is hoped that they will be “up and running by the end of this week”.
- The Covid booster programme will commence at the start of April and those patients who are eligible for the booster injection will be contacted and invited to attend one of the sessions that will be arranged.
- Leaflets are available at both Practice sites, which provide information about the Practice and the services that it offers.
- The Receptionists have been asked to request triage information from patients when they telephone for an appointment so as to ensure that the patients are referred to the most appropriate clinician. Sarah added that if patients do not want to answer the questions, there is no requirement for them to do so.
- There is a two/three week wait for routine blood tests at both sites but urgent appointments are available, if required.
- She will see whether the successful question and answer session about the Menopause, which was facilitated by Dr Boon and Dr Fletcher last year, can become an annual event.
- The Carers Group should contact her to let her know when the next meeting will be held and she will arrange to send out a text reminder to patients who have been identified as carers within the Practice.

Treasurer’s Report

Michael reported that the balance of The PPG’s Nat West bank account was £232.70 credit. The main activity since last October was the collection of £95.00 for Michael ‘Mick’ Wright’s standing down present after 18 years as the Walk Leader. The PPG added a further £5.00 to “round up” the total to £100.00; a gardening voucher was purchased with the donated money.

There were no other financial matters to report.

Future Projects

Rosemary confirmed that:

- She had handed over the gardening gift voucher to Mick Wright and that he was delighted with the gift.
- She was taking over the role as Walks Leader from Mick Wright who had undertaken the role for the last 18 years.
- The walks would take place on the third Monday of every month and that there had been a good response from people who wanted to take part. The first walk would be on Monday, 18 March.
- She was looking forward to organising the Health Walks and she was pleased to be working with Mick and Ken Attwood.

Keith confirmed that the Men's Wellbeing Group plan was progressing and that he would be speaking to Dr Lovatt in the not too distant future regarding the questions for the quiz. He added that the venue for the quiz had been arranged and that it would take place on a Tuesday evening at the George Public House in Brixworth; the dates would be advised in due course.

Maggie suggested that the Scamming Prevention talks should be delivered by a detective from Northamptonshire's Fraud Department rather than the local PCSO. Keith clarified that a PCSO is not involved and that PC Stevens will arrange an official presentation. Landlines were now being targeted as well as home computers and mobile telephones and elderly people were becoming more vulnerable. The advice is never give out personal information to anyone that you do not know i.e. bank account details and passwords and do not allow third parties to take control of your devices e.g. laptops or home computers even though a call or email purports to originate from a trusted source i.e. your bank or a police officer.

Maggie asked how she could get in touch with Brixworth's British Legion and get them involved in her Legion welfare activities.

Frequency and Time of Meetings

Keith proposed that:

- There are four meetings a year, February; May, August and November.
- The summer meetings would return to an 18:30 hrs start before changing to a 17:00 hrs start in the winter months.

Sarah said that she would look at the proposals in due course.

Supporting Surgery Services

We should utilise Facebook pages, the Brixworth Bulletin, the Spratton Newsletter and the Village Link to promote specific issues on behalf of the Practice. Sarah Berry to advise on imminent topics/campaigns ahead of their dates.

Any topics to be looked at in the future.

Planning Application Update

Mike Parsons reported that:

- Dr Burston's application to develop the land north of the cricket club had been submitted 41 times since 2011 in various forms. He added that planning applications have to be re-submitted every three years otherwise they will lapse.
- The latest application includes the building of a 60-bed care home to which Pytchley Court Care Home management has objected because staff in the local care home sector is very scarce.

Any Other Business

Primary Care Network umbrella group is due to meet next on 2 July.

Brixworth Cricket Club is monitoring closely the cost of heating the clubhouse for the "Get Up and Go" group.

Following the allotment holders having been issued with a notice to quit by the landowners (the Cross family), Brixworth Parish Council have set up a working party with the allotment holders to monitor the situation.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the Guilsborough Surgery on 22 May 2024 starting at 18:30 hrs. The meeting will be followed by the PPG's routine meeting.

Meetings Closed

The meeting closed at 18:15 hrs.