



**MINUTES OF THE WALNUT TREE PPG MEETING HELD AT WTHC ON
THE 22nd November 2024 @ 11 a.m**

Attendees	Anne Burkle (AB):Ian McColl (IM):Mary McMahon(MM) : Mary Charlewood (MC): Sabrina Kan (SK) : Stephanie Warren (SW)	
Apologies	Hiteshree Nathwani: Dilip Nathwani : Dhanraji Singh: Marion Stevenson Hoare: Councillor Russell O'Brien:	
New Members		
Chairperson	Janet Smith (JS)	
Practice Representatives	Claire Briars (CB)	

1. Welcome and apologies

JS welcomed the members to the meeting – apologies received from Dhanraji Singh: Hiteshree and Dilip Nathwani: Marion Stevenson-Hoare: Counsellor Russell O'Brien. JS informed the committee that she had sadly received a resignation from Robert Seaman. Robert had been a valuable and wise member of the committee whose input will be sadly missed.

2. Matters arising from the previous meeting

None voiced and so minutes accepted

3. Report from the Surgery

The surgery was pleased to inform they had employed five new administrative staff. The administrative staff are the backbone of the surgery – and the committee acknowledged with thanks, the works completed and wished the new staff well. The surgery had also employed the services of a locum paramedic – Tom. Discussions were again held as to possible ways to reduce the numbers of DNAs. Recently the Minister of Health, Wes Streeting announced that 8,000,000 appointments were missed annually and Government were looking into preventions that could be used. IM asked if it was possible to analyse the data further to assess patterns of behaviour.

JS suggested we investigate if patients could have blood tests conducted on the day requested by the Dr, instead of having to book for future availability. The DNA numbers could be affected by patients having to wait long periods for appointments. CB would investigate and report back.

JS reported that she had contacted Walton High School with a view to including a young adult on the PPG. Important that the PPG represents the Walnut Tree diverse population. IM suggested that we could discuss with the school and encourage them to set up Junior PPG and we could work together. The pupils of today are the independent patients of tomorrow.

CB reported on the new Golden Rule instruction from the NHS which stated that patients must be offered an appointment or advice within two weeks of the first contact.

4. Macmillan Coffee Morning

JS reported that we had raised £170 from the coffee morning. Whilst the donations were important it was clear that social events such as a coffee morning helped in many ways – e.g talking to the patients in a happy environment. All present felt that continuing with such events would be beneficial. CB agreed that we could consider tying up the coffee morning with one of the regular clinics eg COPD, and Asthma. IM suggested that we contact the Prostate Testing group and offer to host them and combine with a coffee morning.

5. Reviewing 2024

The PPG have met regularly throughout 2024 and have continued to have good working relationships with the surgery.

We have run two successful coffee mornings – raising funds for Willen Hospice and Macmillan Cancer Support. We aided the practice with vaccination days.

The PPG has worked closely with Peak Pharmacy to help improve lead times for patients prescriptions.

We recommended the confidential area in the waiting room and the installation of a camera in the waiting room.

The PPG are actively involved with other surgery PPGs to collaborate for the benefit of all patients.

The PPG has presented several newsletters to keep patients abreast of current surgery changes.

6. Plans for the future.

CB reported that the surgery would be actively encouraging patients to consider environmental factors such as recycle batteries, and spectacles etc and suggested the PPG publish in the next newsletter.

The surgery had plans to clear the courtyard in the centre of the building and requested that once clear, the PPG help in sprucing this up.

The PPG had been in contact with Paul O’Grady of Healthwatch. Mr O’Grady had requested to attend the WTHC PPG meetings – CB agreed this would be beneficial. The PPG would continue to liaise with the local Community Council and the MK Council with regards the parking repainting.

Plans would continue for more coffee mornings and other social and health promotion events for patients.

The PPG plan to provide a bi-annual newsletter.

7. Lobby Group Report

The group continued to liaise with Healthwatch, and the MK Council with regards infrastructure.

8. Walking Group

The walking group continued to function well and was now able to welcome some new members.

9. Newsletter

CB suggested that the newsletter focus on the available health promotion offered by the NHS and also to advise readers about recycling. JS agreed and would start the New Year letter.

10. Any Other Business

CB reported that whilst the surgery planned to grow – space was a problem. IM suggested that she could investigate putting a ready made and equipped room like a ‘ porta cabin’ in the central courtyard area once it was cleared. IM and CB to investigate

With no further business JS thanked the members who had attended. The next meeting scheduled for the 21st January 2025 @11 am.

