

**MINUTES OF THE WALNUT TREE PPG MEETING HELD AT WTHC ON**

**THE 5th August 2025 @ 11 a.m .**

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| **Attendees** | Jacqui Theobald (JT): Sabrina Kan (SK) Anne Burkle (AB): Steven Riggs (SR): Brian Maxwell (BM): Jean Robertson (JR) Anne Baggott (AB)Marion Stevenson- Hoare(MH)  Mary Charlewood(MC) : Mary McMahon(MM) |  |
| **Apologies** | Hiteshree Nathwani: Dilip Nathwani: Dhanraji Singh : Ian McColl: Stephanie Warren: Russell O’Brien. |  |
| **New Members** |  |  |
| **Chairperson** | Janet Smith ( JS) |  |
| **Practice Representatives** |  |  |

1. **Welcome and apologies**

JS welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Dilip Nathwani and Hiteshree Nathwani, Russell O’Brien, and Ian McColl

1. **Matters arising from the previous meeting**

None arising and thus the minutes taken as a true reflection.

1. **Meeting with area PPGs**

JS reported that to date she had not had any success in arranging a group PPG meeting. Healthwatch were interested but not able to assist. Several practices had agreed to meet but to date nothing had emerged. JS agreed to continue to engage with other PPGs

1. **Sponsorship progress.**

Discussions were held amongst the committee as to the need for a sponsorship sub committee versus an ad hoc raising of funds as and when the need arose. At the outset AB suggested that rather than all members voicing their ideas and concerns at the same time often creating confusion – members adopt a raising of hands prior to speaking allowing members to focus on the content. This approach was adopted wholeheartedly.

After much discussion the committee decided not to formulate an official fundraising subcommittee. JT agreed to approach the Walton Community Council (WCC) to clarify if they had funds to assist with purchasing equipment that would benefit the patient population – such as the proposed weighing machine. BM had investigated alternative pieces of equipment at more reasonable prices.

1. **Walking Group**

JS reported that the walking group was progressing well and would always welcome any new members.

1. **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

The PPG had successfully supported Macmillan Coffee morning event in previous years. However, concern had been expressed as to the practicality of holding a coffee morning on a normal surgery day. JS had discussed with the Practice and learnt that a vaccination day was planned for Saturday 4th October. The committee discussed the feasibility and agreed that a coffee morning would be supported on this day. JS would register the event with the Macmillan organisers.

1. **Newsletter**

Following discussions, it was agreed that the next Newsletter would focus on providing information on self help groups and the availability of early identification tests which patients could take advantage of : MH would forward details of The Mancave and Men in Sheds, etc. Information on vaccines available such as Shingles, and the pneumonia RSV vaccinations and relevant age restrictions. Also information on Mammograms, smear test and prostate blood tests. Patients are always advised to take responsibility and where possible take steps to maintain good health.

Noted that the last Newsletter had not been published on the FB page or web – JS to discuss with the Practice.

1. **Any Other**

With the recent changes at the WCC – JT agreed to discuss with Dan Preston – the WCC Engagement Officer - the continued representation of the WCC at the PPG meetings. Having a two-way channel of communication has proved beneficial to the patient community.

The surgery reported that due to circumstances beyond their control there had been a huge delay in the reporting on blood tests. The surgery had put in place management procedures and asked for patients patience.

Sadly the DNA figures remain high – several suggestions to improve these figures or penalise those who repeatedly miss appointments were discussed but NHS restrictions prevent most ideas.

With no further business JS thanked the members who had attended. The next meeting has been scheduled for the 9th September at 11 a.m.

