

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

**THE 9th September 2025 @ 11 a.m .**

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| **Attendees** | Jacqui Theobald (JT): Sabrina Kan (SK) Anne Burkle (AB): Steven Riggs (SR): Brian Maxwell (BM): (AB)Marion Stevenson- Hoare(MH):Mary Charlewood(MC) : Ian McColl (IM) Dilip Nathwani (DN) |  |
| **Apologies** | Hiteshree Nathwani: Stephanie Warren: Russell O’Brien. Jean Robertson: Anne Baggott: Mary McMahon |  |
| **New Members** | Dan Preston Deputy - Council Manager and Community Engagements Officer (DP) |  |
| **Chairperson** | Janet Smith ( JS) |  |
| **Practice Representatives** | Clare Briars(CB) |  |

1. **Welcome and apologies**

JS welcomed all present to the meeting. JS extended a special welcome to Dan Preston recently appointed to be the liaison between the Walton Community Council and Walnut Tree Health Centre PPG.

Apologies had been received from Hiteshree Nathwani, Russell O’Brien, Mary McMahon, Anne Baggott, Jean Robinson.

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

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

1. **Report from the surgery.**

CB reported that staffing remained an issue and that the surgery was again looking for another receptionist. Pleasingly CB reported that WTHC had employed a nursing associate, and a pharmacy technician.

CB did acknowledge that the surgery was experiencing difficulties – not of their making – managing the new MKGH policy on blood sample testing. Several delays had been scheduled by the MKGH laboratory which had a huge impact on the patients who required blood tests. To date whilst improving, it was far from smooth. Still no samples could be taken on a Saturday which would impact those surgeries that offered Saturday clinics.

The DNA numbers sadly remained high but at this stage there was no national policy that the surgery could employ to discipline non-attendees.

The surgery was planning to offer a flu/ combined Covid vaccination to those over 75 years on 4th October 2025. The selected patients would be contacted.

CB reported that the call back system for patients was working well – it saved patients waiting for long periods to speak to a member of staff. This was confirmed by many members of the committee.

1. **WCC Representation.**

With the recent changes at WCC and the resignation of several Councillors it became necessary to review the status of our continued relationship. Thanks must go out to Russell O’Brien who joined the PPG in his capacity as a WCC Councillor. It is hoped he will continue in his private capacity. However, following discussions with WCC it was agreed that Dan Preston the Deputy Council Manager and Community Engagements Officer would become the new liaison between the WCC and the PPG. Mr Preston knows the surgery well which pleasingly will ensure an easy transfer.

JS asked DP for clarification on the PPG obtaining a grant to obtain certain apparatus

that could be used and benefit the patients. The WCC is able to provide small grants

for community projects, requested by an Incorporated Association. CB would

investigate as to whether our membership of the National PPG Association continued

and if so, would that constitution allow the WTHC PPG to obtain such a benefit.

1. **Meeting with area PPGs**

JS reported that to date she had not had any success in arranging a group PPG meeting but would continue to pursue.

1. **Macmillan Coffee Morning.**

Agreed that this would be held on Saturday 4th October during the surgeries vaccination day. JS had approached Tescos who had agreed to donate cakes etc.

JS gave CB the Macmillan data and decoration that could be used to advertise the event and agreed to help with arranging on the evening of Friday 3rd.

All members were requested to kindly donate a cake and where possible assist with

hosting the event on the day.

1. **Walking Group**

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

1. **Newsletter**

JS thanked those members who had sent details through for the next Newsletter.

Discussions were again held as to the circulation of the Newsletter. DP agreed that he could add a link on the WCC page and access to the community noticeboards.

BM and SR suggested that the PPG started its own FB page – this could be used to publish the newsletter and also to promote positivity. Many negative comments ran unquestioned on FB which is is not a viable situation. BM and SR would investigate.

CB agreed to investigate why the Newsletter had not been published on the Walnut Tree website.

1. **Any Other**

JT Recommended that the group consider starting a WhatsApp group to enable an efficient way to disseminate information without waiting for either the next meeting or placing extra admin on the chairperson. This was unanimously agreed and JT trusted with the task.

With no further business JS thanked the members who had attended. The next meeting has been scheduled for the 4th of November at 11 a.m.

