

# **Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group**

## **Minutes of Annual General Meeting followed by the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 22 May 2024**

### **At the Guilsborough Surgery**

**18:30 hrs to 19:45 hrs**

**Attending** Dr Julia Railson, Dr Julia Boon, Sarah Berry ( Practice Manager), Sarah Payne (Ass. Practice Manager) Ken Attwood, Sue Brady (Vice Chair), Michael Brady (Treasurer), Keith Dobell (Chair), Sarah Farrell, Ann Gray, Maggie Goodwin, Sarah Hart, Barbara Hogg (Secretary), Sue Marshall, Michael Parsons, Barrie Sollars, Paul Jacobs, Rosemary Ward

**Apologies** Dorothy Hill, Jenny Theairs, Juliette Keeping

### **Annual Report of SSPPG Activities to 31 December 2023**

Secretary Barbara reported that our first Meeting of 2023 was held in February at the Guilsborough Surgery.

At this meeting there was discussion about the SSPPG's (hereafter referred to as the Group) membership of the National Association of Patient Participation (NAPP). It was felt that the benefits of membership were minimal and with limited funds available in the Group's bank account, we should not renew our membership this year.

The Group's support of the monthly Carers Drop-In continued with some of our members attending to support the meetings. The New Year saw a venue change from Dobbies Café at Harlestone to the Brixworth Community Hall on Spratton Road. This proved to a popular venue and the number of carers and cared for increased. Kay Giles arranged talks and activities at each meeting.

At our AGM in April, Graham Wood, the Group's Treasurer for the past 13 years, stood down from his post. He was warmly thanked for his hard work keeping the

accounts in order. Michael Brady was duly elected in his place. Keith Dobell was elected as the new Chair and Sue Brady became his Vice Chair. Barbara Hogg continued as Secretary.

After the AGM our new Treasurer was tasked with changing the signatories on the group bank account. This proved to be a prolonged and frustrating exercise, which culminated in a letter of complaint to the Chief Executive of Nat West Bank. The outcome was that the Group received a compensation payment to our account of £150.

It was agreed at the AGM that the Group's Constitution needed updating to reflect modern banking practices.

Those attending the meeting were asked for ideas for future projects for the Group. After the meeting our new Chairman, Keith, produced a Project List detailing the suggestions. The ideas included a Menopause Group, Men's' Wellbeing Group and Scamming Prevention Advice.

In May, the Practice undertook a survey to find out how patients felt about access to appointments. The Group's members formed a rota to attend morning and afternoon surgery sessions at Guilsborough and Brixworth. They invited patients to fill in a questionnaire while they waited for their appointments. Almost 500 questionnaires were completed and showed that 80% of patients were either satisfied or very satisfied with appointment availability. 80% would be happy to see a Clinical Specialist rather than a GP and 90% would recommend the Practice to family or friends. It was a positive result for the Practice.

In the summer, one of the items on the Group's Project List took place at the Guilsborough Surgery. Dr Boon and Dr Fletcher hosted a Q&A session about the Menopause. This proved to be very popular with around 50 people attending. It is hoped that the session will be repeated in the future.

Dr Nayar was contacted by Northamptonshire Sport about the Practice supporting a Get Up and Go Exercise Group locally. This was an anti falls class that improves balance, increases strength and promotes mobility. Taster Sessions were held at Brixworth Surgery. Interest in the classes was sufficient for it to continue and classes were moved to Brixworth Cricket Club. A new class also followed at

Naseby Village Hall. These classes were promoted by the group on their Facebook page, in village newsletters and with posters around the villages.

In the autumn, the Practice produced a new information leaflet for patients, giving details of their growing team of health professionals. These include physiotherapists, podiatrists and clinical pharmacists.

The Group also updated its information leaflet. Both are available at Guilsborough and Brixworth Surgeries.

In September, Mick Wright retired as Walk Leader of the monthly Health Walks. He had been recruited by the group about 16 years ago to lead walks in the Practice area. He undertook training by Daventry District Council and became a familiar figure to the regular walkers who joined him each month. The walkers organised a collection and he was presented with a £100 Garden Voucher as thanks for his work. It is hoped that we can recruit a new Leader so the walks can continue.

Sadly this year, we lost two of our longest serving members. Pam Bates, our Minutes Secretary died in May and, in December, we lost Anne Strudwicke, who was one of the founder members of the Group in 2007.

They will be remembered as hard working and willing volunteers.

## **Annual Financial Report**

Michael then presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31 December 2023:

During the year, the Group did not fundraise due to the current economic climate and, therefore, the activity passing through the bank account was minimal.

Income totalled £245.00, which comprised of the £150 compensation payment from Nat West Bank and a further £95.00 collected for Michael Wright's leaving gift.

Expenditure totalled £206.95, which comprised of a payment of £100.00 to the Practice for a blood pressure monitor and £106.95 in respect of Michael's Wright's gift.

The opening balance of the account on 1 January 2023 was £194.65 credit and the closing balance on 31 December 2023 was £232.70 credit.

These figures will be shown in more detail in the Minutes that will be circulated in due course:

<b>B/F from 31 December 2022</b>		<b>194.65</b>
<b><u>Receipts</u></b>	<b>£</b>	
19 July: NatWest Bank compensation	150.00	
4-24 October: Six donations, totalling £95.00, Michael Wright's gift	95.00	<b>245.00</b>
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<i>Sub Total</i>		<b>439.65</b>
<b><u>Expenditure (all by BACS)</u></b>	<b>£</b>	
27 February: BP Monitor for the Practice	100.00	
10 November: Payment to Barbara Hogg re Michael Wright gift (inc. p&p)	106.95	
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<i>Less Sub Total</i>		<b>206.95</b>
<b>FUNDS AS AT 31 December 2023</b>		<b>232.70</b>

**Balances:**                      **Patient Group**                      **£232.70**  
**Election of Officers**

All officers had agreed to remain in post if required and as no others were put forward they were duly elected:

Chair - Keith Dobell

Vice Chair - Sue Brady

Secretary - Barbara Hogg

Treasurer - Michael Brady

Mike Parsons also agreed to be the minutes/notes taker

### **Change to the Constitution:**

One amendment put forward for a change to “ Four meetings per year” was carried.

## **Ordinary Meeting**

**Present** Dr Julia Railson, Dr Julia Boon, Sarah Berry ( Practice Manager), Sarah Payne (Ass. Practice Manager) Ken Attwood, Sue Brady (Vice Chair), Michael Brady (Treasurer), Keith Dobell (Chair), Sarah Farrell, Ann Gray, Maggie Goodwin, Sarah Hart, Barbara Hogg (Secretary), Sue Marshall, Michael Parsons, Barrie Sollars, Paul Jacobs, Rosemary Ward

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### **Matters arising from the minutes**

None

### **Practice News**

Sarah Berry said that 1300 patients had now had the Spring Covid booster and advised that all should look forward to the Autumn round. The Man-o-Pause quiz had apparently been well received and there was scope for a repeat in 12months or more likely 18 months time. A new partner had been appointed - Dr Neil Roberts - who will carry out six sessions per week. Carers Drop In attendance was going up as were the Health Walks.

On a more serious note, Sarah urged discretion when information was shared with the group. The recent scare over the possible withdrawal of the blood tests taking service had led to their nurses being quizzed if they were about to lose their jobs.

Dr Julia Railson followed up with more of the background as the funding for the service was provided separately via a County wide scheme and money paid to the

practice was less than half of the actual cost. This is a dilemma for the practice as the current agreement lasts only until next April and therefore the continuing to offer this is impossible to guarantee. She said that Northamptonshire seems to receive generally less funding than surrounding counties. Through her various attendances she reported that some GP's are considering industrial action, particularly as more work is pushed down to GP's from hospitals without being allowed for increased funding. It was agreed that as this was a political issue the candidates for the Daventry Parliamentary election should be canvassed.

There were queries from the floor on the following

- NHS app - some patients having difficulty as it is a condition that only one person per email address is permitted after the age of 13. Proxy access needs to be opened to enable them to use the app but patients need to contact their GP to have it authorized.
- Brixworth residents unable to get batteries for hearing aids at the Practice in Brixworth - this is due to Guilsborough being a pharmacy while Brixworth is dispensary due to the rules of having a pharmacy locally. However, Well Pharmacy who currently charge for batteries could join the scheme where funds are re-imbursed to the pharmacy. The practice recommends following up so that patients are not charged. KD will visit Well to determine the position and advise them of the NHS reimbursement scheme
- New residents - the practice receives funding based on per capita, but new residents don't always register with them until they need medical assistance. This creates issues with the practice including not receiving the income. A campaign is needed to encourage newcomers to register their families with the Practice
- After the success of the Man-o-Pause quiz other possibilities include Bereavement; Menopause awareness, Breast cancer awareness. Scamming awareness was also raised due to the impact on anxiety, mental health issues. It was agreed that this again is a police and political issue and should be raised with the Candidates for the coming election to enquire strategy from the new Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

- The group will have a presence at the Guilsborough Village Showcase on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June. A table will feature enlargements of the SSPPG leaflet pages and a variety of literature that the Practice will provide. Barbara and Maggie will be present on the day
- Another project is to encourage ‘befriending’ of the elderly/vulnerable, who may be becoming detached from IT and social media. Ian Topham is prepared to help on this project.
- Vegetation at the exit to Brixworth Surgery needs trimming to improve the view of oncoming traffic when leaving the car park. This is a Highways responsibility.
- SSPPG Facebook page should be utilized to broadcast Patients’ Registration, Carer’s Registration and NHS App.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

A further £127 had now been added as proceeds from the Man-o-Pause quiz.

### **Any Other Business**

- New members Sue Marshall and Paul Jacobs were welcomed to the Group.
- The statistics attending behind the first three Health Walks are 31 (14 new), 20 (1 new) 32 (10 new)
- Get up and Go in both of Brixworth and Naseby 10 to 12 attending
- Macular degeneration - as it important for early diagnosis, there is a need to increase awareness. Practice happy to have leaflets and posters.

### **Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> August – Brixworth Surgery at 6.30pm.