

Saxon Spires Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting followed by the Ordinary Meeting held on Wednesday, 20th May 2026

At the Guilsborough Surgery

18:30 hrs to 19:30 hrs

Attending

Ann Bennett, Sarah Berry (Practice Manager), Paul Bold, Sue Brady (Vice Chair), Michael Brady (Treasurer), Keith Dobell (Chair), Ann Gray, Barbara Hogg (Secretary), Sian Iles, Sue Marshall, Mike Parsons, Dr Julia Railson.

Apologies

Helen Blackburn, Marie Borrill, Maggie Goodwin, Dorothy Hill, Barrie Sollars, Angela Tilston, Rosemary Ward.

Annual Report of SSPPG Activities to 31 December 2025

Presented by the Secretary, Barbara Hogg:

At our February meeting, we heard how the Practice was supporting a 5K Park Run in Brixworth Country Park on Saturday 22nd March that was titled ‘Walk the Doc’. It was launching a fundraising event for Cancer Research UK, to support Dr Susie Northover. Members of the SSPPG assembled in the park on a cool but fine morning, to man a cake stall. We would provide drinks and cakes for the runners. Our appeal for cakes was so successful that our stand was overflowing with delicious offerings. Large numbers of walkers and runners attended, and the morning was a huge success with people giving generously to Cancer Research UK. Donations for the refreshments were collected in the official Cancer Research tins. As the runners returned from completing their circuit the cakes rapidly disappeared. We raised the grand total of £490.32.

The fundraising continued online and the final total exceeded £6,000.

The ‘Police Beat Bus visited Brixworth Surgery in March and PPG Members went along to talk to patients who attended.

Problems about the quality of service provided by Well Pharmacy in Brixworth were reported by several patients. Regular closures occurred when a pharmacist was unavailable to issue prescriptions and there were also drug shortages. Our Chairman wrote to the Regional Operations Manager of Well about the problems. In response they acknowledged the issues and highlighted their problems with providing locum pharmacists.

In March the SSPPG purchased Wall Clocks for the waiting rooms at Guilsborough and Brixworth Surgeries.

At the May meeting Dr Julia Boon told us about a fundraising event she was holding in a paddock at her home. There would be exhibitions of vintage cars and motorbikes, crafting and cakes stalls. PPG members would go along to assist with parking arrangement and traffic management. The total raised was around £1,000. This will go towards the purchase of a system which will allow patients to collect drugs and medicines, out of hours. i.e like a cash machine.

The monthly Health Walks, led by SSPPG member Rosemary Ward, continue to attract between 20 and 30 walkers, each time. Rosemary researches the walking routes and makes the arrangements for lunch. The walkers enjoy the fresh air and exercise followed by a sociable lunch at a nearby pub.

PPG Members continue to support the monthly meeting held by Northamptonshire Carers in Brixworth. The number of Carers attending is steadily increasing and they are well supported by the Northamptonshire Carers Staff. A different speaker comes along each month.

At the last meeting of the year in November, SSPPG member, Louise Smart, spoke about her involvement with the Cinnamon Trust. The charity offers to look after patient's pets, should they be admitted to hospital. Patients sometimes may refuse treatment because they have no one to care for their pets. Louise wanted to make the surgery staff aware of the Trust, should they come across a patient in this situation.

Treasurer's Report – Year end 31 December 2025

Presented by the Treasurer, Michael Brady

During the financial year, which ended on 31 December 2025, the Group did not fundraise due to the ongoing financial climate and, therefore, the activity passing through the Group's NatWest bank account was minimal.

There was no income and expenditure totalled £54.75 and this related to the purchase of two clocks, one for each Practice's waiting rooms.

The opening balance of the bank account on 1 January 2025 was £338.92 credit and the closing balance on 31 December 2025 was £284.17 credit.

Election of Officers

Barbara indicated that she would like to carry on this year and will step down at the AGM in 2027. She will then have completed 20 years since the start of the SSPPG. All others were prepared to continue.

Chairman : Keith Dobell

Vice Chair : Sue Brady

Secretary : Barbara Hogg

Treasurer : Michael Brady

Mike Parsons also agreed to continue as minutes/notes taker and Rosemary Ward (in her absence) will carry on as co-ordinator of the fitness walks.

Ordinary Meeting

Matters arising from the minutes

None.

Practice News

- Thanks had been expressed from Dr Susie Northover for the fund raising efforts towards the brain cancer appeal, funds are still coming in.
- Dr Catti Moss has now fully retired and left at the end of March. Although some patients had wanted to mark her final retirement, she was insistent that no collections or presents should be made. However, she was persuaded to accept a rose called "The Doctor".

- The final Covid booster injections are available up to the end of May only. The RSV respiratory virus injections can still be done for the vulnerable and those from 75 to over 80. Please ring the surgery to arrange.
- The Practice continues to recommend the health walks and the “get up and go classes” both which are gaining in popularity.
- The Social Prescriber Helen Blackburn has now retired but will join the SSPPG. The Practice is looking at recruitment and alternative ways to continue social prescribing and linking with neighbouring practices.
- The fund awarded to improve the Guilsborough site will be used to create an additional nurses room and the work will commence in June.
- Saxon Spires Practice is a research active practice and Dr Railson explained that they and other bodies they support will be seeking volunteers to participate in various research activities. This could be in the form of questionnaires in various subjects such as social frailty, isolation etc and will be confidential over several practices.
- A meeting has been arranged with Jonathan Harris to discuss the possibility of creating a “repair shop” or “men’s shed” so as to encourage participation after retirement.

Treasurers Report

As shown in the AGM section earlier.

WNC Housing Proposals Update

The consultation on the proposed numbers of additional numbers of housing in West Northamptonshire has now closed. The Brixworth Parish council and its Strategic Planning working group have challenged the numbers for Brixworth are too high and not justified. A recent Housing Needs Survey suggested that 32 affordable or social dwellings were needed which together with levels of market housing the true level should be 60 to 80 and not 242. Several landowners around Brixworth have submitted their land for consideration for development, but they will not all be classed as suitable. Brixworth is not opposed to all development but

the levels proposed in the WNC plan will put considerable pressure on the primary school as there is not sufficient space to expand on this already constrained site.

At a meeting with the Practice recently when the possible wider development within the Practice's area was considered, it was felt that they are duty bound to refer to the Integrated Care Board who will decide where best to spend developer contributions. At this stage however, as the final plan numbers are not yet published it may be best to wait and see if and how the Practice will be affected.

Carers Meetings

Still working well.

Walks

Again, working and supported well.

Succession Planning

The Practice is comfortable with the SSPPG and appreciative of its work. There does not appear to be any need or urgency in any funds raising but do understand the concern over the average age of the group members. However, note two new younger members are very welcome. The Practice advises that minutes are continued to be circulated to all interested parties, whether they attend or not.

Any Other Business

- The Brixworth cricket club, together with a charitable organisation - the Steelbacks Foundation - has successfully bought the land that the cricket club is occupying. The club will continue to be able to host the "get up and go" exercise classes.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Not yet decided, but it will be in August at Brixworth.