

# **Patients Participation Group Meeting**

## **Minutes of Meeting held in the Memorial**

**Hall Annexe**

**Monday 11/08/2025**

**Chairperson:** Philippa Jones

**Minutes:** Michael Wright

**Present:** Mr. & Mrs. R, Adams, Mr. G. Bedford, Mrs. D. Canham, Mr. & Mrs. J Cameron, Mrs. J. Gardiner, Mrs. B. Hanks, Mrs. G. Holloway, Mrs. W. Hookey, Mr. F. Lawrence, Mrs. R. LeViscount, Mrs. D. Neilson, Mrs. P. Savage, , Mrs. J. Sienesi, Ms. K. Staff, Mr. & Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. E. Wood, Mrs. D. Wright

**Woodchurch Surgery:** Dr. J. Hickey, Mrs H. Fox

**Guest Speaker:** Mrs. Judy Keay, Co-Ordinator for Motor Neurone Disease Association

**Apologies:** Mrs. P. Coe, Mr & Mrs Sharp, Mrs Tribe, Mrs G McKay

**Chair's Welcome:**

Philippa welcomed everyone, introduced our guest speaker and outlined the Agenda for the meeting.

**Minutes of Last meeting (09/06/2025)**

Accepted

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Judy Keay – MNDA**

Judy gave a very moving and heartfelt talk on how her and her family dealt with her husbands diagnosis of Motor Neurone Disease. This is a condition that affects motor neurones in the brain and spinal cord, causing muscle weakness and wasting, first discovered in the 1870;s in France. There is no cure and Judy's husband did die from its affects, he was first diagnosed with Asthma due to breathing issues but after exhaustive tests ruling out all other possibilities, MND was arrived at as being the cause. Most cases of MND (about 90–95%) have no known cause, and are known as sporadic MND. However, both genetic and environmental factors are believed to be involved. The remaining 5–10% of cases have a genetic cause, often linked to a family history of the disease, and these are known as familial MND.

Judy explained that in her experience caring for someone with MND is very demanding and calls for Stamina, Determination and Focus. One of the keys is to ask for and accept help when it is needed and do not get angry but laugh whenever possible. As the Kent co-ordinator for the MNDA, Judy organises support functions and trips. If anyone wishes to donate to the MNDA then it can be done through their **JustGiving page: MNDA East Kent fundraising 22/23 or direct to Motor Neurone Disease Association, East Kent Group**

**Account Number: 03424528, Sort Code: 30-96-09**

A question from the floor was asked with regard to the condition being hereditary, the answer being that it is possible but with a very small chance.

### **Woodchurch Surgery update from Dr. Jack Hickey**

Dr. Hickey reinforced the fact that MND is very difficult to diagnose and thanked Judy for sharing her story. Both new staff and a new trainee have settled in well and making good progress. Dr. Claire Smith recently spent a day helping out at the Surgery.

The new program of COVID and Flu jabs will start in October. The surgery will be sending out text invitations to those that are eligible however bookings can also be made in person at the surgery.

### **AOB**

Philippa announced to the meeting that Michael is standing down as Vice-Chair and Secretary after the next meeting and that if anybody is interested in the role to contact her.

### **Next meeting:**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup>. November, Speaker to be announced.

Thanks to Liz Wood and Jean Gardiner of the “Heavenly Helpers” for providing refreshments.

The meeting was closed at 6.45pm