

**Patients Participation Group Meeting**  
**Minutes of Meeting held in the Memorial**

**Hall Annexe**

**Monday 09/06/2025**

**Chairperson:** Philippa Jones

**Minutes:** Michael Wright

**Present:** Mr. & Mrs. R, Adams, Mr. J. Blowers, Mr. & Mrs. J Cameron, Mr. J. Chaplin, Mrs. J. Gardiner, Mrs. B. Hanks, Mrs. G. Holloway, Mr. R. Knight, Mrs. R. LeViscount, Mr. D. McCausland, Mrs. D. Neilson, Mrs. P. Savage, , Mr. C. & Mrs. R. Sharp, Ms. K. Staff, Mr. & Mrs. Stafford, Mrs. E. Wood,

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

**Guest Speaker:** Clara Hebblethwaite – The Dementia Experience

**Apologies:** Mrs. P. Coe, Mr. & Mrs. A. Perks, Mr G Bedford, Mrs D Canham, Mrs W

Hookey, Mrs G McKay, Mr & Mrs Peel

**Chair's Welcome:**

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

**Minutes of Last meeting (17/02/2025)**

Accepted

**Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

**Clara Hebblethwaite – The Dementia Experience**

Clara explained that the organisation was set up to support and help relatives and carers of people affected by Dementia in all its forms. She explained how her personal connections had led her to devise and develop the organisation because there was a need for better education and training. The original training for 32 volunteers was carried out on the "Virtual Dementia" bus. The simulated experience left all the participants feeling shocked with a greater understanding of what Dementia sufferers go through. The Dementia Experience is activity based and looks to bring people together in fun and relaxed ways such

as Coffee Mornings, Choirs, etc. Clara outlined three basic guidelines for dealing with affected people

1. Do not ask direct questions.
2. Listen, watch & learn to be flexible
3. Have empathy and look for connections.

One very good piece of advice was that “if you think you may have Dementia, then you probably don’t!” since people affected are unaware of any symptoms that they may display. Also, it may be very useful keep a diary which may then show gradual changes. Please involve your GP since there may be other issues that are causing similar effects.

For further information and assistance please contact the organisation

email: [hello@dementia-experience.com](mailto:hello@dementia-experience.com)

or visit the website [www.dementia-experience.com](http://www.dementia-experience.com)

A book by Oliver James titled “Contented Dementia” is also very good reading.

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

Dr. Hickey updated the meeting on news from the surgery, confirming that Dr. Clare Smith will be retiring at the end of June and will be sorely missed by all. Two replacements have been found, one starting in June and one in August. In answer to a question from the floor, Dr. Hickey assured the meeting that the Surgery could cope with the increased patient list that the new housing development will bring. The expected increase from the Chilmington Green development has not been as high as first anticipated. There are allocated healthcare premises available at both Chilmington Green and Repton Park which are currently unoccupied.

### **AOB**

**None**

### **Next meeting:**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>. August, Speaker to be announced.

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

The meeting was closed at 7:05pm