

# **Patients Participation Group Meeting**

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

**Hall Annexe Monday 25/11/24**

**Chairperson:** Philippa Jones

**Minutes:** Michael Wright

**Present:** Mr. & Mrs. R, Adams, Mrs. L. Baker, Mr. G. Bedford, Mrs. D. Canham, Mrs. P. Coe, Mr. & Mrs. K. Graves, Mrs. B. Hanks, Mrs. G. Holloway, Mrs. W. Hookey, Mr. F. Lawrence, Mrs. R. Le Viscount, Mrs. M. McKenna, Mrs. J. Mathews, Mrs. J. Rubie, Mr. P. Ruddick, Mr. C. & Mrs. R. Sharp, Mrs. E. Wood, Mrs. W. Hookey

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

**Guest Speaker:** Alison Faiers on behalf of DEBRA

**Apologies:** Mr. & Mrs. T. Perks, Mrs. D. Neilson

### **Chair's Welcome:**

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

### **Minutes of Last meeting (19/08/24):**

Accepted

### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

### **Alison Faiers – DEBRA UK**

- Alison introduced the meeting to DEBRA which is a national charity helping people deal with Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) also known as “butterfly skin”. This is a rare skin blistering condition which is extremely painful and there are around 5,000 sufferers in the UK. There is no cure and there are 4 main types
- Epidermolysis bullosa simplex:
- Junctional epidermolysis bullosa:
- Dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa:
- Kindler syndrome:
- Alison explained that her connection with the charity was because her Granddaughter was born with the condition. Alison gave a very moving and detailed

account of the traumatic events that her Granddaughter has had to go through due to the condition. This of course also impacted greatly on the rest of the family.

- DEBRA is a very small charity that is committed to both supporting people with the condition and front lining research into possible cure and on-going treatment. The charity survives through both cash donations, the work of their charity shops and a lottery scheme. There is a very well run shop in Ashford town centre (2-6 High St. Tel 01233 630091). Further information on both the condition and the charity can be found on the website [www.debra.org.uk](http://www.debra.org.uk).
- Gillian will be organising a charity coffee morning on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025, 10-12 in the Memorial Hall, hosted and supported by Woodchurch WI, to help raise awareness and funds for DEBRA.

### **Woodchurch Surgery update from Mrs. Helen Fox:**

Dr. Hickey updated the meeting about the computer system changes which affect the dispensary which have taken effect from November. The practice is now fully subscribed to the Electronic Prescription Service (EPS) which means non-dispensing patients can nominate a pharmacy and not need to collect a green script. The new IT will enhance patient safety as it scans for accurate dispensing. As with all change there is a period of learning for all parties; GPs, dispensers and patients. The system's default is not to print a repeat slip but one can be printed by dispensary on request. This is because the technology supports the NHS's aim to increase the use of the NHS app and to be green reducing paper and ink usage.

The Covid and Flu vaccination programme is finished but appointments can still be made for the RSV vaccination. There are some personnel changes due to happen with GP trainees leaving and being replaced.

### **AOB**

Philippa presented a cash donation of £40 to the Surgery which has been raised from refreshment sales through the year.

Philippa also proposed a vote of thanks to the Surgery on behalf of the meeting for the wonderful service it brings to the village and emphasised how lucky we were to have such service in this day and age.

### **Next meeting:**

Dates and speakers for the coming year to be advised

Thanks to Liz Wood and Linda Baker of the "Heavenly Helpers" for providing refreshments.

The meeting was closed at 7:10pm