

**MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017  
AT 6.30PM IN THE MITCHELL ROOM, GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL**

Chaired by Melvyn Cox  
Present: Barry Spake Communications Officer  
Charles Brown, Vice Chair/Treasurer  
Kathy Chilvers, Secretary  
Surgery Guest Richard Miller (Practice Manager)  
+ 12Members

**1. Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and our Surgery Guest Richard Miller and gave apologies that there was no speaker for this meeting as initially expected.

**2. Minutes of Last Meeting:**

No points were raised and approval for the minutes 19<sup>th</sup> October was given.

**3. PPG Liaison Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

The cost of wasted medicines (300 million pounds per year) was discussed. It is reckoned that half of this could be saved with only small changes, this could pay for more urgent prescriptions. It was recognised that it is mainly older patients who are hoarders of medicines for a variety of reasons.

One person who received free prescriptions mentioned that they would like to be able to pay something towards their medicines but there is no facility for that to happen.

It was asked at the Liaison Meeting whether a surgery received payment for having a PPG. Richard Miller told our meeting that they are not exactly paid separately for having a PPG as they were in the past. In reality it doesn't really happen as it is now part of their main budget which, as we know, has been cut from what it previously was.

It was also asked about growing PPGs as some would like their surgeries to contact all their patients to get them to join their PPG. Surgeries could do this but they don't always. One PPG had received a surprise visit from the CQC (Care Quality Commission)

The next meeting of the PPG Liaison group is on the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

**4. Hollies Surgery News – Richard Miller**

Richard has provided the surgery news as follows: - (quote)

“As you all know we had the projection initiation document back from the CCG last month stating that it was not approved for the main reason that we had not considered working with Arlesford Surgery and Thorpe Le Soken surgery. As well as this, the other main point implied that the CCG would prefer a new surgery to be located in Weeley.

Dr Bhatti and I met with the CCG on Tuesday this week to discuss this feedback.

The CCG recognised that the mention of Arlesford was not appropriate, being a branch surgery of Brightlingsea Surgery who were not mentioned at all, however they are still very keen for us to talk to other local surgeries with a view to being located in the same much larger building. The rationale behind this is that it would be cheaper for the CCG who pay the monthly premises costs if 2 or 3 practices worked from the same building, rather than in 3 separate buildings. However, we have asked for and the CCG have agreed to work through these figures in detail to prove this to be correct. Most surgeries in the area will need new premises within the next 5-10 years, so the CCG are trying to think ahead to keep costs down due to the ever limited NHS funding.

We agreed that we would at least speak to a couple of neighbouring practices about this possibility, but made it very clear that the site in Bentley has been gifted, planning permission has been granted and that we have a developer willing to completely finance the build based on providing what this practice alone needs.

As such, we have to be careful that this opportunity is not missed. We do not have any offer of land elsewhere and no other developers expressing any interest in working with us to date. Dr Bhatti and I will follow the process set out by the CCG which we hope will lead to a conclusion that will enable us to proceed with the current plans.

As I previously said, it's a long road, but we are now travelling along it towards our destination." (end quote)

#### **5. NHS NEWS ITEMS:**

Further information on STP's is that over 50% of GP's do not want to lose autonomy and did not want new contracts.

The Care Quality Commission is concerned about online doctors and chemists. Some of these concerns are that they could be private doctors and may not have access to a person's medical record also that people could be accessing opiates from them when they have been denied them by their GP. The CQC would like more control over these online services.

Richard Miller added to this saying that many only treat relatively fit patients. If they received a NHS contract (which one company already has) this takes the funding away from local GPs where the funding for the relatively fit helps balance the costs of treating those with more needs.

#### **6. AGM:**

a) Chairman's Report:

There have been 10 meetings this year and the Chairman thanked the committee for their work.

b) Membership Report

5 active members has been lost – 2 of these have transferred to virtual membership and the others have left due to moving or other personal reasons. 1 or 2 of the virtual members have moved. The overall membership of active and virtual combined is about 295 to 300 members. Attendance at meetings have been a bit low this year compared with last year.

c) Financial Report

A spreadsheet was provided giving details of the current financial position which basically showed one amount being paid in and 10 amounts being paid out for renting the meeting room.

d) Approval and Adoption of 2017 accounts.

These were approved and adopted. John Leggett nominated approval seconded by Alan Bishop

e) Nomination and Voting for Committee positions

There were no nominations for the positions therefore a vote for the existing committee to continue was made and passed by the majority.

#### **7. Open Forum:**

The effect of Brexit on approval of drugs was discussed. At present approvals are made by the EU and leaving the EU may mean that the UK might have to get it's own approval for drugs so there are serious concerns should this happen and it is not being discussed in the talks at the moment. Medical devices at present are made with approval linked to the EU. There are also ongoing NHS staffing concerns which have been mentioned in our previous meetings.

#### **8: Any Other Business**

The Committee wished everyone a Merry Christmas

**9. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The meeting closed at 19:30 hours.

Kathy Chilvers - Secretary