

**Minutes of the PPG Meeting 18 August 2025**

The Chair opened the Meeting at 4.30 pm. She welcomed all to the meeting.

**The invited speaker Cheryl Brading from Groundwork, Northamptonshire spoke to the Group.**

Cheryl explained her role and also informed us that Groundwork is funded by British Gas and Cadent. There is no criteria and anyone is eligible to contact them. They help with advice on how to save money on energy bills, and in many other ways. Energy light bulbs, radiator backing, shower heads that reduce limescale, and swirl gel (for plants) are among ideas to help reduce energy use and save money. They also give advice on condensation and mould problems. General behaviour changes are also advised and Cheryl explained these to the Group – for example reducing time spent in the shower, lowering heating by one degree and using the economy setting on a washing machine/dishwasher can all save money. Cheryl said that there are many ways to reduce energy consumption. There is also an App available to apply to be added to the priority register. There were some questions from the Group that Cheryl answered. Cheryl left some leaflets and said to contact Groundwork for any further advice and information.

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**The Speaker left and the Meeting continued.**

There were 13 members attending and 5 apologies noted on the attendance sheet.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the last meeting on 23 June 2025 were accepted.

**Matters arising**

There were none.

**Chair’ Report**

Eileen reported that she had called into the surgery on 15 July with the £258 payment for the two ECG machines that the PPG have raised funds for.  She thanked all who helped with the fundraising events.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Eileen reported on behalf of Bob:

21/5/25          Tombola and plant sale                  £239.45
2/7/25          Book Receipts                                    £30.94

                        Total Cash available            £823.16
15/7/25          Purchase of 2 x ECG Machines         £258.00
                **Total Cash available on 1st Aug 2025      £565.16**

Eileen added that since the report was prepared, £36 had been given to Bob from the book box and this will be in the next Treasurers Report.

**ENPA Report**

Hector reported that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) Community Forum and issues at Rushden Medical Centre (RMC) continue to be predominant topics at ENPA.

SERVE very generously allowed ENPA to share their space at the Rushden Party in the Park on 12 July and even provided us with an ENPA banner. A number of ENPA members attended and were canvassing passersby on their satisfaction (or otherwise) with local health services. I am pleased to report that those who spoke to us who are patients of Harborough Field Surgery (HFS) were, on the whole, very satisfied. A few people expressed dissatisfaction with blood tests, which is an issue for the whole area. The vast majority of people who raised issues were the patients of RMC, one of whom agreed to speak to the ENPA chair detailing her complaints so that ENPA can include these at our next meeting of the ICB Community Forum. Those from RMC who voiced complaints were given our contact details and asked to give us information that we could raise at the forum.

ENPA has also met with some RMC patients, gathering information from them that we can raise at the ICB forum. This meeting will take place online on 14 August (I will update this at the PPG meeting).

Hector reported that the meeting of the Community Forum, when an RMC representative spoke for most of the 20 minutes allocated, thus preventing many questions and no discussion. ENPA will continue to seek answers to the many questions raised.

**Secretaries Report**

Annie and Lynne reported that they had drafted the following letter in July to the Surgery Landlords. Sophie had arranged for it to be sent to the Landlords via email.

*Dear Sir/Madam*

*We are contacting you in connection with parking spaces at Harborough Field Surgery.*

*A significant number of parents have raised the issue of the availability of larger parking bays for cars where children are brought to the Surgery.*

*We understand that the car parking bay lines are due to be repainted, and wonder if there is a possibility that a larger parking bay (or bays) could be provided (and marked accordingly) for parents attending the Surgery with children.*

*We would be very grateful if you would kindly look into this matter to see if anything could be done to facilitate this.*

*Many thanks*

*Yours faithfully*

*Lynne Cheshire and Anne Drake*

*Secretaries to Harborough Field Patient Participation Group (PPG)*

Sophie said that she had had a face-to-face meeting with the Landlords, and quotes have been requested for repainting the lines in the car park. Sophie asked if they would consider our request. Three quotes have now been sent to them. The cost should be shared between the Surgery, the Pharmacy and the Dentist, and the cost is not the responsibility of the Landlords.

**Practice Managers Report**

Sophie’s reported that a new GP has been appointed to replace Dr Khan. Dr Bamiduro is newly qualified and is currently at Luton and Dunstable. He will be working all day on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. We will have a period of being short of staff until Dr Bamiduro arrives. Sophie said the Surgery was inundated with applications for the post.

Sophie also said that we are pausing taking new patients at the moment, but that Parklands were currently taking on new patients. New patients at HFS require a medication review, and the GPs are now helping with this to speed things up.

Call reporting – in August 2024 the Surgery had 6000 calls monthly. Since Anima this has reduced to 3000 calls. Sophie asked if anyone had used Anima since the changes to make use easier had come in. The response was very favourable from the Group. The Surgery has received less complaints generally.

It was noted that there is a long waiting list for blood tests at Nene Park.

**Care Coordinators Report**

Linzi reported that the gentleman who makes items for the Surgery has made some woodwork animals. Linzi is collecting for Cransley Hospice and there is currently a raffle for ‘name the sheep’, £1 per ticket. There are two donkeys - one with a green hat for the Macmillan Coffee Morning raffle, and one with a yellow hat for Marie Curie.

The Macmillan Coffee Morning will be held on Friday 26 September from 12 – 1.30pm. There will be a raffle, and donations will be welcome for this. Donations of cakes will also be welcome. Volunteers to help out from the PPG will be needed.

Ishbel commented that she felt the PPG seem to be more about raising money, and we should be raising the profile of the PPG more. This could be done at various events at the Surgery throughout the year. A general discussion followed with various ideas put forward. It was agreed to put all ideas together and discuss these at the next meeting.

Linzi asked if we could all check at home, as there are two lanyards missing.

**Fund Raising Working Party**

This has been covered in previous points.

**Any other business**

Eileen reported that Bob had sent us all his good wishes but unfortunately has heath issues which will mean that he cannot attend future meetings. Eileen proposed that:

 We should send him a card thanking him for all he has done as Treasurer.

 Send a floral gift (from the PPG Funds).

This was agreed by the Group.

Interim Treasurer – Anna has volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer until the next AGM where she would be formally appointed. A vote was held, proposed by Graham N and seconded by Lynne. This was carried unanimously. Ishbel volunteered to audit in Anna’s place.

Sophie said there is a fault with the screen calling patients in to the consulting rooms. This is a software glitch and will be rectified as soon as possible. (The GPs are themselves calling patients in the interim).

Flu Clinics will be held on Saturday 4 October and Saturday 11 October (two full days). Texts will be sent out soon, and there will be marshals for the car park.

Hector informed the Group that a man who had recently been attacked by a dog on Newton Road had been treated at HFS. The gentleman had huge praise for the care he had received at the Surgery.

**Conclusion**

The Chair thanked the members for attending and indicated that the next meeting would be on **Monday 20 October 2025 at 4.30pm**.

The Meeting closed at 5.40pm