

Minutes of Mere Surgery PPG Meeting 12th February 2026

PPG Members present:

Lucy Woolley (**LW**) Chair, Judy McCulloch (**JM**) Secretary, Judy Stutchbury (**JS**), Sue Jeans (**SJ**), Geoff Knight (**GK**), Phil Paget (**PP**), Holly Baker (**HB**)

PPG Apologies:

Steve Porter, Ann Courtney.

Surgery representatives:

Dr Ed Halsey (**EH**), Michele Mason (**MM**), Rachel Harrison (**RH**)

Matters arising

MM said that the Mere Gardening Club had done a good job in the pond area and they were intending to come back again and do more work.

LW said the article regarding the presentation of the defibrillator by the PPG had been in Mere Matters.

Regarding the possibility of the PPG fundraising for a Dermatoscope for the surgery, **MM** said that as the practice belongs to a group of surgeries they are now going to share a Teledermatology machine. Three members of Mere Surgery staff are shortly going for training on how to use this.

Future Fundraising.

MM said that the one thing the surgery would really benefit from is automatic entrance doors, the existing entry door is really difficult for so many patients to negotiate. The PPG unanimously agreed that this is something they would like to endeavour to raise funds towards and it was agreed the Surgery would look into costings and if possible present them at the next meeting.

SJ said that the Gillingham Lions Club are on a recruitment drive, at present they do not have any members from Mere. They are interested in running an event in conjunction with the PPG in order that they can promote themselves as well as help PPG fundraising. It was decided that a quiz night would be a good idea, possible towards the end of April with the Lecture Hall being a suggested venue. **LW** said she will contact the Lions Club to get their views.

Surgery `News

MM said that as Mere Surgery is a training practice Dr Emily Brockbank has now left the surgery and gone to her new position, another two trainees will be coming shortly. Dr Halsey was asked whether the New Nursing Home that has recently opened in Mere was impacting on the pressure of work at the surgery. He said that ultimately the Nursing Home (which would have 70 beds when full) will not cause a problem as funding is available to cover any additional costs. At present Dr Gallagher has allocated hours to make a weekly visit to the Nursing Home.

AOB

LW said a patient had asked her to find out what the position was regarding the 24 hour heart monitor. **EH** said that the surgery had been funding it themselves but it was very costly, however

there are now cheaper options available and the plan is that a new machine will be obtained and shared with other surgeries.

LW said that she was in the Surgery on a very busy Monday morning, she said she was very impressed how Steph and Wendy (who were on reception) were handling all the phone calls and patients in such a friendly and helpful manner under such pressure.

The PPG could do with more members, it was agreed we would look at ideas as to how we could gain more recruits, hopefully through the medium of flyers, posters or advertising. The idea being that it would be really beneficial to get some younger members of the community on board.

Next meeting Thursday 23rd April at 2pm

I confirm this is a true copy of the above meeting.

Signed.....Date.....