

Kintbury & Woolton Hill Patient Participation Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th August 2025

7.00pm at Kintbury Surgery

Welcome – Peter Mason welcome to all members.

Present – Peter Mason (chair), Heather Howells, Gavin Smith, Sarah Garland, Betty Taylor, Alan Cox, Tony Garland and Mike Stapley

Apologies – Avril Cole, Anne and Alan Budd, Gillian Guy, Elaine Brichard, John Willmott and Simon Shaw (guest – Healthwatch West Berkshire).

1. **Minutes** - of meeting held at Woolton Hill Surgery on Tuesday 20th May 2025 (circulated).
2. **Matters arising – GS** confirmed that West Berks Rural PCN had now formally responded to Healthwatch on behalf of the GP Practices to express their concerns over the Healthwatch Bargee community report findings.
3. **PPG Vacancies – GS** explained that with Rosemary retiring from the PPG and Lorraine stepping down from the role of PPG secretary there were now two vacancies to be filled - Patient Panel representative and PPG secretary. **GS** hoped that he might be able to recruit a secretary from within the Practice. The group asked **GS** if he could find out about how often the Patient Panel meets, the dates of meetings for the rest of the year and whether the meetings are online via Zoom/Teams or whether they are in-person meetings. It was suggested that if the dates of meetings were known well in advance members of the PPG could perhaps share the role as PPG rep at these meeting.
4. **Staffing Updates – GS** updated the meeting on staffing changes. Rosie Jordan (receptionist), Morgan Barton (Dispensary) and Emma Kosy (Care Team) have all left the Practice to take up new jobs. Lorraine Cladingboel (reception) has retired but will still provide occasional cover at the surgery. Jane Chubb (Dispensary) has joined from another Practice. Jane Woodward (reception) has very recently joined the reception team and Lauren Wilson-Storey (reception) will be returning to work at the Practice. Lauren previously worked at the Practice up to Nov 2024. Florence Ezekwesili has joined as a second clinical pharmacist. Audrey Whittaker will be moving internally from the reception team to a new role as a medical secretary. **GS** explained that the Practice was in the process of recruiting additional reception and dispensary staff. **MS** asked **HH** whether pay levels played a part in the constant turnover of staff and whether it would be more cost effective to increase pay and reduce staff turnover and recruitment costs. **HH** agreed that pay was clearly a factor, but that increasing the pay of new recruits would also necessitate pay

increases for more experienced and more senior employees. The Practice had funded recommended pay rises this year. However, given the pressure on GP practice finances an additional pay rise to improve recruitment was not an option at present.

5. **Flu/Covid Autumn vaccination plan – GS** explained that the main annual Flu and Covid booster vaccination clinics would once again be held at Thorngrove School, Highclere. The Practice was looking at delivering clinics over the weekend of the 11th and 12th Oct. **GS** confirmed that additional clinics would be held at both surgery sites in the weeks following the 11th and 12th Oct for patients that were unable to attend the Thorngrove clinics. Arrangements would also be made for clinicians to visit patients in Care Homes and housebound patients to offer flu and Covid vaccinations. **HH** confirmed that local pharmacies would once again be offering flu vaccinations. **SG, MS, AC** and **TG** kindly offered to advertise details of the main flu clinics on Neighbourcare and Parish Council websites, **GS** will forward details to each of them.
6. **NHS 10-Year plan – HH** outlined the main features of the Governments NHS 10-Year plan. The plan aims to reinvent the NHS through 3 radical shifts: 1. Hospital to community, 2. Analogue to digital and 3. Sickness to prevention. **HH** explained that the plans could threaten the existence of the current GP Practice model and in particular could prove very problematic for smaller rural practices. **GS** advised members that the 10-year plan could be viewed in full on the Gov.UK website and that the Kings Fund had published a detailed response to the plan highlighting a number of concerns.
7. **GP Collective action – HH** explained that the BMA is no longer in dispute with the Government after provisionally accepting a new GP contract deal for 2025/2026. The BMA has now paused collective action but is still recommending that members continue to work safely. The BMA is still waiting for written assurances from the Government around the renegotiation of the National GP Practice contract.
8. **Housing / Planning – GS** Highlighted a report on the Housing Industry Leaders website which stated that following a successful appeal by Bewley Homes, construction at the Watermill Bridge site in Wash Water is expected to begin in autumn 2025. Detailed consent for 82 of the 270 new homes has been granted. **TG** reported that 4 new houses were being built in Newtown. Concerns were raised over a planning application by Zippos Circus for up to 40 units to house travelling showpeople in Enborne. The application is opposed by Hamstead Marshall and Enborne Parish councils and has gone to Judicial review. **TG** asked whether the Practice was impacted by the number

of borders at St Michaels Catholic School, Burghclere. **HH** agreed to make enquiries as to whether borders from the school were registered with the Practice.

- 9. Members reports / AOB – BT** was concerned that she had been sent from the Practice asking her to book a routine appointment whilst she was abroad on holiday. **GS** explained that it was fine to wait until she returned to the UK before contacting the Practice. **GS** advised the group that Healthwatch West Berkshire were running a short survey on Women's health needs in West Berkshire. **GS** reported that Simon Shaw from Healthwatch had forwarded information regarding a campaign being run by BOB Integrated Care Board to try and reduce medicines waste and details of local drop in 'Digital Cafes' being held at sites in Berks, Bucks and Oxon to provide patients with free support and advice on using the NHS app. The nearest café for patients covered by the Practice will be based at Newbury library. Sessions will be held there on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 09:30 and 13:30.

**Date of next meeting - Tuesday 11th November 2025 Woolton Hill
Surgery 7pm. Car sharing encouraged.**