

MINUTES OF STAPLEHURST PPG MEETING

Held on Monday, 17th July 2023

In the Staplehurst Health Centre

Present:	Andrew Watson	Chair & Acting Secretary
	Fiona Edwards	Director of Primary Care, Malling Health
	Lucy Page	Practice Manager
	And 7 further members	

Welcome: AW welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Fiona Edwards who, in turn, introduced us to Lucy Page, who was starting her third week as the new practice manager. Lucy has recently moved to Maidstone, having been practice manager at Crayford (10,500 patients) – starting as a receptionist, she has 34 years’ experience.

He also welcomed Joan Buller, who has recently retired from the Parish Council, after 40 years of service.

Apologies: Cllr Adele Sharp, Alaine & Brian Summers, and Christine Kenworthy. AW took the opportunity to mention the sad passing of two members of the PPG: Robin Kenworthy, who had served for many years on the SECAM Committee, and had always kept us informed about changes which would affect us all, the Lloyds pharmacy in particular – and Andrew Wilson, another long-serving member.

Minutes of the last Meeting: It was assumed that the minutes had been read. The minutes of the AGM held on 24th October were agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Health Centre News:

- Fiona had been standing in as part-time manager since the departure of Gillie Osbourne since April.
- There is still a vacancy of one doctor – doctors Rumfield and Poonam Verma remain with us.
- Ella Spilling the Phlebotomist/Nurse Associate has left and is to be replaced.
- Installation of the new telephone system has been delivered, but has still to be installed.
- The opening of the Health Centre on Saturdays for specialist treatment such as physiotherapy has moved to other surgeries. These can be booked through Staplehurst's reception.
- After the difficulties this year with COVID vaccinations, they will be coordinated with flu jabs this autumn.
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Any Other Business:

- In the future, the eConsultation process will be triaged, leading to options such as prescriptions
- It was reported that the Lloyds Pharmacy in the village is to be taken over at the end of the month. It was not known by whom.

- The free (to OAPs) on-line prescription service provided by Pharmacy2U is used by several patients very satisfactorily, which has the benefit of cutting out the paperwork in the Health Centre.
- AW reported that since the meeting with Craig Brown and Katy MacMillan from the Weald Primary Care, both had moved on and AW was having difficulty contacting their replacements. He planned to contact the PPG Chair at Marden to see if he could solve the problem, and discuss the success/otherwise of their big poster in the surgery.
- AW apologised for failing to avoid the date of the meeting clashing with the Parish Cllrs' meetings – he did not realise that the Planning Meetings were now held on a different night, but always on a Monday, from the Full Council Meetings.

Date of Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Monday 23rd October at 7.15pm in the Health Centre.