

Ambrose Avenue PPG

Minutes of April 9, 2018, meeting

Present Roly Buss (chair), Ray Hardisty (secretary), Linda Meredith, Clive Swift, Irene Swift, Marilyn Rivett, Mary Russell, Mavis Knight, Pam Robertson, Paul Murthwaite and Elaine Hippisley

2 Apologies: Gwen Standen (currently in hospital) and Andrea Anderson.

3 Move to Reserve List: Ray reported that, due to personal circumstances, Andrea had requested a temporary move to the reserve list.

4 Minutes: The record of the meeting on February 12 was agreed, after one figure was amended, as a true record.

The AGM minutes from March 12 were also agreed after a tweak to Paul's title So they could be uploaded to the surgery web site.

5 Matters Arising:

a) Diabetes blood sugar monitoring (February minutes) Roly queried if there had been any progress with the NEECCG over the group's request for a rethink over non-funding of new monitoring procedures. Ray replied that the North East Essex Health Forum had asked the CCG for its reasons for non-funding and whether there could be a rethink. Replies were awaited.

b) Colchester Hospital merger (AGM minutes) Marilyn expressed her surprise that the speaker updating everyone on the Ipswich Hospital; merger plans had appeared to be hazy on financial; issues which could impede benefits to patients from the merger. Ray said he would raise her concerns at the next meeting of the hospital's Merger Patient Advisory Group.

6 Practice Report: Elaine reported:

a) A lot of work was currently taking place in discussing a number of different procedures aimed at providing surgery services to patients in easier ways. Each avenue seemed to have its own benefits and pitfalls. Care Navigation would likely play a large part in any future scheme but no decisions had yet been made on what form it would take at Ambrose.

b) Dr Chris Hall had finished with the practice on March 31. Members noted that regional TV had covered the event. It was also noted that he intended to assist the out of hours service.

c) Nurse Practitioner Jo Irons had also left the practice and the practice was advertising for a replacement.

d) The rear corridor at the Ambrose surgery had been redecorated.

Members queried what progress had been made over the group's suggestion for changes to the Ambrose reception area that had been made before Elaine arrived but she knew of no progress.

e) 2018 Flu vaccinations. Possible vaccine delays meant no decision had yet been made on when to hold the usual practice flu jab morning this year.

7 PPG Membership: Ray reported:

Active 16, Reserve 14, Supporters 262. Total 298. Increase of 6.

8 Newsletter:

Ray said the May Newsletter would be a general report on the speakers at the AGM and a note on Dr Hall leaving.

9 Suggestion boxes

No comments this month.

10 Outreach.

Ray tabled the list of dates for the rest of 2018 and early 2019.

The next date was Monday April 30 which Mavis and Linda offered to part cover.

Pam offered to staff the morning at Tollgate on Tuesday May 22.

Ray said he would contact reserve list members to see if any could assist but warned the outreach may have to stop if volunteers did not step forward to talk to patients.

11 Surgery Coffee Mornings

Mavis queried progress on the planned practice coffee mornings now that one of their main instigators, Jo Irons, had left. Consent had been given by two local churches for patients to be involved in existing arrangements. Elaine said she would make inquiries.

12 North East Essex Health Forum.

a) The agenda for the April Local Health Matters public meeting was tabled.

b) Members were reminded of the current forum elections and call for candidates.

c) Ray mentioned topics to be discussed at the April Colchester PPG liaison meeting.

13 Newsbreaks

Ray tabled details of press releases from the NEECCG and CHUFT available from him if members wanted.

14 Outcomes

a) Positive feedback from the AGM on the value of having speakers on current topics as well as the chance to air issues and concerns.

b) Hopeful progress towards surgery coffee mornings.

c) Another increase in group membership.

15 Next meeting

Monday May 14 at 6pm in Tollgate Surgery meeting room.

.