



MINUTES OF THE GREAT BENTLEY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

MEETING HELD ON Wednesday 18th January 2023

AT 2.00 PM IN THE MICHAEL WRIGHT ROOM, GREAT BENTLEY VILLAGE HALL

Chaired by: Diane Miles.

Present: Charles Brown: Secretary & Treasurer.

Guest speaker: Ken Reed Essex Air Ambulance.

Surgery Guest: Apologies given - no updates received.

+ 22 Members.

1. Welcome, Introductions & apologies for absence:

The Chairman, Diane Miles introduced the committee.

Apologies received were read out: Judy & Derrick Ward; Diane Miles read out the email from Dr Bhatti, Great Bentley Surgery: "I am afraid no Drs will be able to attend this meeting as the timing is difficult in view of afternoon surgeries and visits. As you know the NHS is in a serious crisis and we too are affected with a huge increase in demand. We will not be able to attend afternoon meetings either on this date or future dates unless the demand reduces significantly, which I cannot see happening even after winter has passed. The effect on the NHS is not just seasonal but a chronic underfunding by Government over the last 12 years. Please accept my apologies on behalf of the Partners and do send Sue Mitson the minutes for us to circulate. Best wishes Dr Freda Bhatti"

The Chairperson asked those present for a show of hands to request a representative from the Great Bentley Surgery to attend the PPG meetings. Fifteen (15) out of the twenty-two (22) elected for a representative to attend. We were in contact with the surgery for an update on surgery news but have had no feedback.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting: Thursday, 17th November 2022 No points were raised and approval for the minutes was given.

3. Essex Air Ambulance: Ken Reed gave a very interesting lecture stating that Essex Air Ambulance is not part of the NHS and receives limited Government funding. The Essex Air Ambulance is a charity and relies on the money you donate. Your support provides a free life-saving Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) for the critically ill and injured of Essex, Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. Our pre-hospital care doctors and critical care paramedics provide advanced medical care on-site, which is normally only found in the Emergency Department. Once stabilised, patients are rushed to the most appropriate hospital for their needs. This early intervention makes a dramatic difference to each patient's survival. Our history 1997 Essex Air Ambulance was established and began fundraising. 1998 our first helicopter was launched in July from Boreham. In 1999 in July, we began flying 7 days a week. In 2007 we commissioned a Euro copter in May. Also, in 2007

Herts Air Ambulance was established and we merged the services to become Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Trust. 2008 the Herts Air Ambulance was launched, and we introduced Pre-hospital Care Doctors to work alongside trained Critical Care Paramedics. We also added Rapid Response vehicles to our fleet. 2011 our Charity HQ moved from Boreham to Earls Cone Airfield. 2016 we decided to purchase one helicopter and continue to lease the other. Ken spoke about the "Flight For Life Lottery" (hotline 0345 2417688), and the charity events to raise cash and sponsorships for the Essex Air Ambulance. Kern Reed then took questions from the floor. A round of applause was given in appreciation of a very interesting and enlightening talk.

4. Refreshment Break Arranged by Judy Bishop

5. Surgery news: None Received

6. Any Other Business:

The Treasurer spoke about the difficulties that he was having with the Co-Operative PPG bank account. I telephoned them on 26 November 2022 to arrange a replacement Security Pocket Token as the battery had failed and was promised a replacement within 10 days. Nothing has been received 53 days later. The other problem with our bank account is that I am the only signatory remaining as Melvyn Cox, Barry Spake, and Kathy Chilvers can no longer act as signatories. So, if those present would agree to me being the sole signatory The Co-Operative Bank will eventually resume the cheque clearance system. Meanwhile, I continue making payments from Kathy's and my personal account. Update from the Co-Op Bank 16 January 2023 apologies and will be sending out a security token. Agreed

Chairperson's Summary, date, and time of the next meeting.

If anybody has questions that they would like to ask a GP, Jock will Minute them and as the Minutes are sent to the surgery, we will expect some sort of reply.

Q: Why does it take up to 4 weeks to get an appointment?

Q: Can the Surgery introduce a Wellman Check-up Examination?

Q: Why are Colonoscopies not recommended after the age of 75?

Diane Miles asked those present if they had any ideas for future speakers and if so to let her know.

Date and Time of the Next Meeting: Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 2:00 pm in the Michael Wright Room will have Malcolm Taylor a volunteer from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People with Jackie and Fidget.

The meeting closed at 15:45 hours.

Charles C. Brown
Secretary

Dates for your diary: **WEDNESDAY at 2:00 pm** on 15 March, 17 May {AGM}, 19 July, 20 September, and 15 November 2023 all in the Michael Wright Room.