

BARGOOSE

(Dr Sulakshana & Partners – Patient Participation Group)

Minutes of Meeting on 02 February 2022

Present:

Gareth Jones, Rita Winters, Sue O’Neill, Carol Bond, Christina Rathbone,
Sonia Sentonaris, Richard Brown, Dudley Beck, Susan Turner
Gill Hiscox, Dr Ahmed

Apologies:

Roger Bannister, Andrew Cooper (new member)
Gill welcomed the new members, Dudley and Sonia. It was noted that Paul Rich had indicated that he would like to continue as a virtual member of the committee. This was agreed.

Minutes of Meeting of 10 November 2021

Accepted.

Minutes of AGM of 10 November 2021

Accepted.

Gill advised that the accounts for 2020 had not yet been audited. As this was a requirement for a registered charity Dudley offered to attend to this as he knew someone who could sign as auditor. Gill would check on the current signatories.

Appointments

The following officers were proposed, seconded and agreed by the committee

Chairman – Gareth Jones

Treasurer – Richard Brown

Secretary – Rita Winters

Editor of Bargoose magazine – Roger Bannister

Terms of Reference

Gill gave a brief summary of the draft Terms of Reference. The only new item was the Code of Conduct. The Terms of Reference were accepted by the meeting.

Newsletter

Christina raised the question of recycling and in particular recycling of inhalers. It was noted that old medicines should be taken back to the pharmacist. Gill would check on the situation regarding inhalers. This could be mentioned in the newsletter.

Following the retirement of Dr Hughes and the appointment of Dr Ahmed it was suggested that an article confirming the names of the new partners and other staff might be useful as most patients were not familiar with the “setup” at the surgery.

[Several other items came up during the meeting for insertion into the newsletter, i.e.]

Update from Committee

Several members asked for an update on the Covid situation. Gill advised that there had been no major change. Telephone appointments would continue and mask wearing in the surgery was compulsory. Most patients accepted the current rules although there were still incidents with difficult members of the public. There were still some delays in getting appointments. The question of numbers of patients per doctor was raised. Dr Ahmed advised that the recommended patients per doctor was 2100 patients to each full time doctor.

There was some discussion on the lack of NHS dentists. Gareth advised on a new private dentist in Silsoe who he could recommend. It was noted there was an NHS dentist in the village.

There were still complaints regarding the service provided by the MSK clinic. Dr Ahmed advised that the contract for providing physiotherapy was due for renewal in April and it was hoped that a new supplier would be found.

It was agreed that it would be helpful if some new members could be found for the Bargoose group and in particular members from Luton who attended the Gooseberry Hill surgery.

Update from Practice

Gill advised that the practice was a registered training practice which meant that they had trainees working with the doctors from time to time. Last year there had been six trainees but this was now down to one. Dr Vijn had moved on to a hospital post but will be back at the surgery in April. Dr Sage would be at the surgery until August. It was suggested that this information might be mentioned in the newsletter.

The 24 hour blood pressure monitoring system was now being dealt with by C&H chemist. The surgery was loaning them one of the required monitoring machines.

The proposed patient access to records program had been delayed until April. There was some discussion on how this would work. Dr Ahmed explained that all old paper records were summarised onto the electronic record.

Gill advised of some new staff, employed by Hillton PCN (Primary Care Network) that would be joining the practice. At present the surgery had one physiotherapist (First Contact Practitioner – FCP) but would shortly be taking on a second. There would also be a Clinical Pharmacist who was due to start on 01 March. One of her tasks would be to assist with medication reviews which would ease the burden on the doctors. A Care Co-Ordinator has also been employed and she will be looking at patient discharges from hospital initially.

It was noted that the “extended access” service provided by Beddoc was being transferred to Bedford. They would also be carrying out face to face diabetic reviews starting from 05 February. It was suggested this might also be mentioned in the next Bargoose newsletter.

Gill gave a brief update on the Primary Care Network (PCN) for new members of the PPG. Hillton PCN (Primary Care Network) is a group of 3 practices – ourselves, Greensands Surgery Ampthill and Houghton Close Surgery, Ampthill (approx. 36,000 population in total) who are working together to provide services to patients. Gill circulated some papers that explained some of the terms and jargon used by the NHS.

There is a PCN PPG with two members from each of the practices. This PPG has Dr Michelle Saint from Ampthill as the Patient Champion and Gill is the Chair. Gareth and Susan are our representatives. There had been no meeting during December.

The PCN have funding for practices to have more appointments available during the winter period which could be used for employing locums. The next meeting of the PCN patient participation group would be held on 03 March.

Any Other Business

Gareth asked if the surgery would be affected by the increase in costs for gas and electricity. Gill advised that they had a fixed price contract in place at present. She mentioned that the Barton surgery was well covered as it was owned by the partners, but the Gooseberry Hill surgery was only leasehold and there were some problems with the landlord (NHS Property). For example the building was in need of some redecoration and modernisation but this could not be proceeded with at present.

Date of Next Meeting

16th March 2022 at 6.30