



## **HOLBEACH MEDICAL CENTRE** **PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP**

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### ***Minutes of the PPG meeting 26 April 2017***

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1. **Present:** Bruce Abel (Practice Manager), Mike Brett, Trevor Cook, Alan Piggins, Sue Scorthorne, Graham Scorthorne, Heather Whitehead and Councillor Nick Worth.
2. **Apologies:** Alan Meekings, Jackie Sheldrake and Joyce Waterfall.
3. **Presentation:** Betty Lewis, a governor of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Kings Lynn, addressed the group and explained that members of the public can become members of The Hospital's Foundation Trust and as such can be elected to the Board of Governors. Betty explained that she represents North and West Norfolk, South Cambridgeshire and part of Breckland as a Governor and that she is currently serving her third and final three year term of office. She wanted, she said, to make a connection with Lincolnshire and hoped in the future to be able to introduce the Lincolnshire representative who lives in Holbeach!

Betty pointed out that QE Hospital had been in special measures but was now classified as requiring improvement. A new Chief Executive starts on the first of May she explained. She went on to inform us that governors carry out inspections at the hospital, usually prior to visits by CQC, and that the findings are acted upon. Going on to talk about improvements to the hospital she stated that two theatres had been updated, a lecture theatre had been linked to one of the theatres so that students could learn by observing a live operation and priorities within the hospital; included infection control and care of the elderly. When asked Betty stated that beds were at a premium and recruitment and staff retention was a major concern. Doctors had been successfully recruited recently she said along with twelve international nurses. Overall too few nurses are trained in the UK she said which is as a result of government policy some time ago and the desire to ensure an all graduate profession. Two new CT scanners were

about to be installed at QE she reported and lost property trays have been introduced to reduce the number of lost hearing aids and false teeth, along with other personal items. A bereavement group which meets fortnightly has been established and portable x-ray machines have been purchased.

Some specialisms have been transferred to Norwich Hospital such as vascular surgery whilst head injuries are dealt with at Addenbrooks and Heart issues at Papworth.

Betty stated that she would like to visit our PPG quarterly and would liaise with Bruce on this issue. In addition she said she would leave forms for anyone wishing to be a QE trust member to complete and would notify Bruce of an event regarding heart conditions, which is to be held at the hospital in the near future.

On behalf of the group Graham thanked Betty for talking to the PPG and invited her to stay and observe the rest of the meeting, which she chose to do.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** Graham gave a resume of the minutes and they were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **Matters arising:** Graham commented on the role that Sarah Fletcher had played in getting Littlebury and Holbeach Medical Centre's together to consider options for the future, in conjunction with the CCG's of South and East Lincolnshire. He went on to point out that it looked as though John Turner, current chair of the South's CCG, was likely to become chair of a unified Lincolnshire CCG. It was agreed that the major issue was funding to create a new health centre for the whole of Holbeach as it grows over the next twenty years. Councillor Worth stated that he would be speaking to both Sarah and John Turner about the issues affecting Holbeach and hoped to see developments. He urged our PPG to monitor the situation and to ensure that the CCG's did not allow the issue to "go off the boil".
6. **Chair's and Secretary's Report:** Graham praised and thanked all who were involved in making the raffle a success. A profit of over £300 had been achieved thanks to those who donated prizes including cash prizes, those who sold tickets and all who bought tickets. Two prizes had yet to be claimed including one of £25. It was agreed that if they were not claimed by 30th April they would be given back to the PP

7. **Treasurer's report:** In Jackie's absence it was reported that the missing paying in book had been found in a very safe place. The current balance in the accounts was disclosed as being £388.79.
8. **News Correspondent's Report:** Citizen's Advice have asked to speak to the group at the next meeting and may well seek to include information in the next newsletter. In addition Bruce stated that a bus focusing on Sexual Health would be in the car park from 17th May to 21st June to provide information and advice.
9. **Practice Manager's Report:** Bruce reported that Dr Bell is to semi-retire in August. Dr "Selby" will start on 4th May and will cover Thursdays and Fridays initially. Dr Bell will continue to cover Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning. Littlebury have also appointed a new doctor. Bruce went on to explain that the two Holbeach practices had met to discuss issues affecting them both. A very good meeting took place involving Healthwatch and the CCG. The idea of a super surgery is proposed but where the funding would come from is the major concern which has yet to be addressed. Nick stated that he would be involved in seeking opportunities to address this issue.

Graham stated that he had met with the chair of the Littlebury practice and that they shared the same concerns. They planned to meet again in the near future.

10. **Future Programme:** It was agreed that we would continue to meet monthly with no meetings in August and December. The next meeting will take place on 31 May at 6.00 pm. Further meetings for 2017 will be as follows: 28 June; 26 July; 27 September; 25 October; and 29 November. All meetings will commence at 6.00 p.m.
11. **AOB:** Nick stated that he would be organising a Holbeach Food Festival in Carters Park (1st July) and that should we wish to be involved we would be welcomed. It was agreed that we should have a stall promoting health issues and possibly raising some funds at the same time. To be discussed at the next meeting

Mike pointed out that joint replacement operations are being promoted by a surgery in Chesterfield. Clearly Patient Choice in action.

12. **AGM:** All officers were elected unopposed! Chair - Graham; Secretary - Graham; Treasurer - Jackie; News Correspondent - Sue.

Date of next AGM to be 31st January 2017.

12. **Closure:** The meeting closed at 7.10pm.

**The next meeting is scheduled for WEDNESDAY 31st MAY 2017 AT 6.0PM. Speaker, A representative from CAB.**