

QUANTOCK MEDICAL CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT NETHER STOWEY LIBRARY Wednesday 16th May 2018

PRESENT

Diane Faris (Chair), Helen Stacey (Practice Manager), Alison Hoare (Village Agent), Kate Lyness, Bruce Roper, Mary Reece, Terry Binding, Jo Forest, Elizabeth Woolcock, Maggie Harlow, John Friend, Sally Friend, Ian Faris (Minutes)

APOLOGIES

None recorded.

INTRODUCTIONS

All present introduced themselves for the benefit of John and Sally.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (February 2018)

Taken as read and accepted.

MATTERS ARISING

Health Walks

Elizabeth reported that at present there are currently only two levels of walk; 1 boot (basic) and 2 boots (bit more strenuous). 2 completed so far of about 1 hour duration each. 6 people attended the latest walk yesterday. 2 people from the Walkers Are Welcome group are expected to help out in future. Although one walk per week is intended Elizabeth will be on holiday for two weeks from next week so there may be a gap. Helen may be able to help but her knowledge of the countryside is not as extensive as Elizabeth. Helen explained to John what is required of a group leader. In response to Mary's question, Elizabeth explained that, although she trained with the Bridgwater group, she didn't have any contacts there that could provide reciprocal cover arrangements for holidays, sickness etc..

Singing Groups

Helen reported that between 11-15 people had been attending the singing groups so far with a pool of 70 – 80 songs. All very positive so far. The only difficulty has been in trying to rein in some people so that the rest can keep up!

Gardening group

Kate reported that only 3-4 people so far have shown an interest. Helen suggested setting a date when she, Kate and Bruce could be at the allotment to try to progress the idea. Terry said she'd advertise it at the W.I..

Arts and Crafts

Helen reported that some materials have been bought for the group with the £60 raised at the last coffee morning. Meetings will collect a contribution towards the cost of the venue and materials. Alison offered to help Diane lead the group. Two hours duration was thought best. John also offered to help in winter. Christine Cook may also be able to help.

John offered to set up a walking football group which got an enthusiastic reception.

Terry reported that the W.I. is setting up a walking netball group but, whereas the football will be open to all, the netball will be open only to W.I. members.

UPDATE FROM QUANTOCK MEDICAL CENTRE

The new receptionist, Grace, seems to be settling in well. The centre is still used occasionally as an alternative to A&E but it's not encouraged. Requests for a water machine are also being resisted but water can be provided if required.

Helen explained to Elizabeth how the defibrillator works. It's located in the Medical Centre. She noted that some machines located in villages (e.g. Stolford) are not well maintained. If the machines are not connected to the main electricity supply the batteries will fail after a time. They cost about £2000 per unit plus connection charges.

On 5th June, a Healthy Lifestyle Day will be held at Westfield Church. All Bridgwater Bay areas are invited.

Health drop-ins are being held at the Arts Centre in Bridgwater on Thursday mornings.

There was some discussion about setting up some sort of "befriender" network of people who could help people in distress e.g. by providing access to the village, hospitals etc. in times of bad weather. Di suggested establishing a call list of people who might be called upon to visit/sit with people in appropriate circumstances. It was agreed that further thought was required.

The "life after death" issue was aired again but all agreed it is a difficult subject to broach and tackle.

Kate will be selling cup cakes and fairy cakes on 4th June: donations welcome.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a question raised by Mary, Helen advised that there is no problem with anybody wishing to change the doctor with whom they are registered.

She also outlined the roles of the Practice Nurse. Jackie is being sent on courses to enable her to become a Nurse Prescriber like Helen.

Bruce and Helen alerted the group to the recent "dodgy" activities (concerning generators, scrap, garden thefts etc.) in the area of a transit-type van registered SK17VCE thought to be operated by travellers. It's currently parked in Mount Street Bridgwater.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 12th September at the library.

The final meeting of the year, also at the library, will be on Wednesday 12th December.

Additional meetings (e.g. singing group, art group, gardening group) as required.