

## PPG/Medical Centre Meeting

### MINUTES

Held on Friday 13 February 2026, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm, at Fressingfield Medical Centre

Attended by: Clare Good [CG], Practice Manager; Dr Henry Johnson [HJ];

Members of the PPG: , Penny Alborough [PA], Tracey Holder [TH], Kamal Ivory [KI], \*Judith Lilley (Acting PPG Chair) [JL]; Bryan Threadgall [BT]; Linda Webb [LW]

NB:\* Judith Lilley has agreed to act as Acting PPG Chair until further notice (*jlilley544@gmail.com*)

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence :

- (a) **Apologies for absence:** John Alborough [JA], Liz Stolls [LS], Nick Stolls [NS].
- (b) **New Practice GP Dr Henry Johnson [HJ] was welcomed to the meeting.**
- (c) **Minutes of last meetings** held on 9 December 2025. There were no amendment or additions, and the Minutes were therefore duly approved.
- (d) **Any matters arising from the Minutes:** Item 2c(v) "Be Well Bus" JL advised there is nothing on the timetable until after end March 2026.

#### 2. PPG Chair items

##### a) **Hartismere Hospital update**

Barry Gibson's presentation has not yet been received. JL requested JA to again request an updated (latest) version.

##### **ACTION: JA**

b) Updates on clubs and meetings in the area (for full list , see 9 Dec 25 Minutes):

(i) "**Families together Suffolk**" CG was actioned to send contact info to JL. No update available.

(ii) Collating info on **what's on at Stradbroke Community Centre and Library.**

KI had been asked to collate information. KI had supplied a list on 3 February.

(iii) **INT (Integrated Neighbourhood Team)** . CG was to advise organiser of JA's details with a view to attending a meeting. It was advised that PCNs are going and it is going to be more localised.

HJ attended the meeting on 12 February and is awaiting a copy of the Minutes. **To be reported on at next meeting**

(iv) JL advised she had visited Wingfield Barns to see how the "Rural Caravan" service worked. It is a monthly service, where various welfare associations are represented. Attendance was approximately 40 people. This event had been advertised in the Stradbroke Village Voice.

TH advised that Withersdale/Mendham are thinking of doing something similar, like an over 60s club. JL requested contact details.

##### **ACTION: JH**

JL advised that information on local groups and events is being collated with a view to having a listing on the Practice's website and to signpost in the newsletter to direct people to the website and possibly on village notice boards that cover the Practice group's area. There was a discussion on how to list the events, eg by event or location.

JL suggested asking editors of local village newsletters for a few spare copies that could be held in the Practice waiting rooms and updated when a new issue is available. (a job for a PPG member at each Practice location?).

**3. PPG Members' Items** . No specific items.

**4. Practice Items**

- a) **'Flu and Covid vaccination clinics 2025 review**. No action until later in the year for next clinics.
- b) **RSV vaccination clinics 2025**. No further news.
- c) **GP+ Scheme**. CG advise the Practice would "like to withdraw from the GP+ scheme offered by Suffolk GP Federation – these are the evening and weekend appointments offered at Eye, Wickham Market, Stowmarket etc. This is for a number of reasons, including continuity of care and from what we can tell, patient preference. We are not reducing any appointments or services as we contractually have to offer Extended Access hours, so are looking to do them in-house ourselves in various ways, using our own clinicians that our patients know and prefer. We have a combination of hours suggested, including 3 evening GP hours a week, one paramedic, one clinical pharmacist and a few early morning nursing appointments, to capture those who start work early. The early morning appointments do require a bit more evidence, and I would love to have a chat through with the PPG about our potential offering and what you all consider may work best for our patients? We feel it is important to have a spread of clinicians to suit as many potential patients as possible, but would love your thoughts on this please." CG advised that this service was discontinued wef 2 February 2026.
- d) **Discussion on the charging rates for private work**. Work such as firearm licences and HGV licences are currently charged at a comparatively small amount and some are very time consuming. Having researched a few local practices and the Practice's rates are quite a way under our closest neighbours, so the Practice is considering raising its rates a little.  
No update
- e) **Practice Newsletter**. CG No update
- f) **Publicising Christmas period dispensing hours**. CG. CG advised it all went well.
- g) **Practice Group catchment area** to not allow patients who move to Harleston to stay using the Practice. No update.  
There was a discussion on new housing happening or schedule for the Practice's catchment area. CG advised this covers 115 sq miles.  
JL mentioned that Caroline Stebbings, PC Chair of Stradbroke, had spoken on the expansion of nearby villages and commented that in 5-10 years' time, there will be 1000 new patients, and she would like to get involved with Practices on ways GP practices can expand to cope with this figure.  
**ACTION: CG will speak with the Partners and also with NS regarding Fressingfield's projected expansion over the same period.**
- h) **Road closures around Fressingfield**. None known at the present time.

Item 4 contd....

i) **Slipper Swap.** Update report from JA

**Slipper Event and other initiatives:** I have had two meetings with Kimberly Roberts, *Integrated Neighbourhood Team Project Lead, South Rural, Eye & Northwest, Central Suffolk* (as you can see another zippy little NHS-style title). Kimberly remains keen that we do still work with her to organise a Slipper Event. I have explained to Kimberley that although it would appear the Stradbroke Community Centre is ideally placed for such an event, we just don't have the capacity within the practice and within the PPG to organise such an event. This will require a considerable input from the management at the Community Centre as well and I'm not sure that there are strong enough links for them to take a leading role in this. Personally, I do feel that, as a concept, the event is a good idea – but are the likely number of participants worth the considerable effort? That is for the PPG to decide. Once again, we are in the shadow of "Golden Boys at Debenham", who seem to undertake all such things with ease.

**This is Kimberly's pitch to me:** *The groups that we had come to the slipper swap in Debenham were – social prescribing, Care UK (they have care homes and offer some free events for carers), Debenham Sports and Leisure for their strength and balance classes, Centres for Warmth (they offer energy advice), Moving Well Debenham (an exercise and social group at Debenham Sports and Leisure), Feel Good Suffolk (they provide stop smoking, weight management and exercise support), Love to Move (they run a class for older people), Wellbeing Suffolk, Cassius (digital care technology) and Healthwatch.*

*We don't necessarily need to get that many groups in if we do a slipper swap in Stradbroke! I've attached the poster that was used to promote the slipper swap. What we really need is local knowledge on how to make this work – where to go, who to link up with, how to get people to even know it's happening. In Debenham the GP sent an SMS to people over 65 who had some degree of frailty, so that would be very helpful. But even then we had a lot of people from parish magazines, Facebook and word of mouth from letting groups know. So you have to hit them from all angles!*

I do feel that Clare's response to me summed it up pretty well as follows: "Thanks for this. Absolutely we would love to be a part of this but feel our local knowledge would not be up to much either. We tend to hear about things by accident or if someone shoves a poster through our door but something we have discussed before about before, there seems a lack of a central point for local information. Who might be best for local knowledge? LW seems to be quite involved in the Stradbroke community? I very much think the INT should organise it if we give them the tools and the contacts to do so? I imagine the usual players of the Be Well Bus, Care UK etc can all be contacted by the INT. I have just spoken with the manager at the leisure centre and she would love to be involved, but wouldn't be able to organise it. They would be happy to help advertise as well and agree that the community centre would be a great spot, suggestion of late April to allow time to sort it out. We can send texts and this is very effective for something like a flu clinic or for information. As always though, there is a cost implication, so the use has to be carefully considered. As you're aware we do have quite a few over 65s (1928 currently), so there may be quite a lot of texts but it certainly is an effective way of handling it. Is the best way forward to ask a PPG member if they have local knowledge? Newsletters? I unfortunately do not have capacity to arrange it so is it back to Kimberley to say yes, give leisure centre manager and my details, and ask PPG for local knowledge?

**[Since this meeting, A slipper swap event has been organised to take place at Stradbroke Village Hall on Monday 20 April 2026, 2 to 4.30pm]**

**5. Any other Business :**

- (a) LW asked HJ if he has any experience with using AI within a practice. HJ advised when working in London, he has used transcription software. This involved that during a clinician's chat with a patient, AI records the consultation and produces notes and a standard letter for the patient. The GP reviews these and makes amendments if required. HJ commented this is a time saver for a GP and gives more time for a GP to talk to a patient.  
JL asked if this is centralised or local to a practice. How is it stored, GDPR compliance etc.  
It was advised that AI Receptionist is not very good.

CG commented she had limited knowledge of this and would be keen to look at this again.

- (b) HJ was asked if he could think about any areas where the PPG could be of help in the future?

**6. Agreed date of next meeting : WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL 2026, 2.00 to 3.30pm**

approved 22 April 2026