

PPG Virtual Committee Meeting, 13th July 2021 via Zoom

Present: Lynne Mitchell, Alison Green, Angela Millington, Jenn Hesmer, Andrée Stevens and Lin Holmes

Absent: David Standen

1. There were no apologies.
2. As Dr Radia would be joining the meeting soon, LM opened with a discussion on Dr Radia's statement, which was circulated earlier that day. The statement concerned mask wearing at the surgery after July 19th. Everyone was in agreement with the proposal. LM suggested patients should be told when making their appointment.
3. The minutes of the June meeting were agreed.
4. Matters arising:
 - There was a brief discussion about the Opt out form and various members had sent it to friends and family.
 - Vaccinations:
 - ~ LM gave updates from the PPG Steering Group - First vaccinations would be stopped in Hastings from 21st July as there has been slack at the vaccination centres. It will still be possible to have a first vaccination, but people will have to travel further afield. Local numbers of COVID are high.
 - ~ AS gave us details of a mobile unit at St Leonards Academy Wed 14th – Sun 18th July.
 - ~ There was a brief discussion on the possible future difficulty staffing the vaccination centres as volunteers (often retired medical staff) have had little time off and are exhausted.
5. Dr Radia joined the meeting. LM informed him that we are all in agreement with the surgery's position on mask wearing from July 19th. AG thought the statement was a bit long to maintain people's attention and suggested a shorter version, which was accepted. Dr Radia explained that it could be problematic if patients declare it is their right not to wear masks and they are booked in with a vulnerable clinician. Surgeries may be given standard operating procedures by the government, but not as yet. LM mentioned the difficulty of not knowing when a telephone appointment would happen and that sometimes it was hard to reach the phone before it rang off. With Engage Consult you can include your availability. Dr Radia said they usually tried a couple of times. Surgery staff attendance is affected by Track and Trace currently. The surgery is waiting for information on booster vaccinations. There has been talk in the media of people having the booster and the flu vaccination at the same time. The surgery is already set up for flu vaccination. Dr Radia left the meeting at approximately 8.15pm.
6. There followed a discussion on what is being achieved in our meetings. It was good to have had something specific to focus on today with the mask wearing statement and to feel we are making a contribution. We don't always know what issues are affecting the surgery and when they are so busy it is difficult for them to talk to us. The Chair's role is quite onerous with several other meetings to attend and no Secretary.

Facebook – we can put things on there but have to ask. LM had put a comment on there, which was taken down, then put back.

A.O.B There was no AOB.

Dates of next PPG meeting

10th August 2021 - 7.30pm via Zoom

No meeting in September as several members are unavailable.

12th October 2021

The meeting closed at 8.30pm