

## Patients Participation Group Meeting

### Minutes of Meeting held in the Memorial Hall Annexe Monday

20/11/2023

**Chairperson:** Philippa Jones

**Minutes:** Michael Wright

**Present:** Mr. R & Mrs. V. Adams, Mrs. L. Baker, Mr. G. Bedford, Mrs. D. Canham, Mrs. G. Holloway, Mrs. W. Hookey, Mrs. J. Howden, Mrs. R. LeViscount, Mr C Looker, Mrs. M. Mckenna, Mrs. J. Rubie, Mr. & Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. E. Wood

**Woodchurch Surgery:**, Mrs Helen Fox

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Huw Pinney. Optometrist

**Apologies:** Mr. & Mrs. T. Perks, Mrs. B. Hanks, Mrs. P Savage, Mrs. V. Vertue, Mrs. P. Coe, Mr. & Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. D. Neilsen, Mrs. P. Rouse, Mr. & Mrs. Stafford, Dr. J. Hickey, Mr N Jones

#### **Chair's Welcome:**

Philippa welcomed everyone and outlined the Agenda for the meeting.

#### **Minutes of Last meeting (21/08/2023):**

Accepted

#### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Glaucoma & Macular Degeneration - Dr. Huw Pinney - Optometrist**

Our guest Speaker Dr. Pinney gave a very interesting and detailed & illustrated talk on the causes and treatment of these two conditions that contribute greatly to the number of people suffering with visual impairment.

##### **Glaucoma:**

There are two types Open Angle Glaucoma (OAG) and Closed Angle Glaucoma (CAG). OAG can affect 2 people in every 100 (this can increase to 1 in 10 if there is a family history of the condition), CAG affects 1 in a 1000 people. Factors for causing the condition are Age, Race, Family history, Diabetes, Hypertension and Myopia, all of which can lead to an increase of pressure within the eye and then Glaucoma. The treatments can include Eye drops, Laser application or surgery and are usually applied in that order depending on the severity seen.

Question from floor: Are there adverse effects of long term use of drops?

It is possible there are adverse effects but the risk is still far lower than surgical intervention.

##### **Macular Degeneration:**

This condition affects over 1 Million people in the UK and is mainly age related but other factors can be congenital and smoking. Once again there are two types of the condition, Dry Form and Wet Form. Dry form is caused by waste product from the Retina at the back of the

eye not being removed similar to plaque on your teeth and is treated by Taking Vitamins, having a balanced diet and stopping smoking. Wet form is caused by the growth of leaky blood vessels within the eye and is treated by injections and inhibitors.

Dr. Pinney emphasised how important regular eye tests are so the small subtle changes can be picked up early and acted on.

**Woodchurch Surgery update from Mrs. Helen Fox:**

Helen updated the group on the new addition of a receptionist and that the Surgery are no longer in a position to offer Covid vaccinations.

**AOB**

Philippa announced that the teas & coffee money this year had collected £40 before tonights meeting. The total will be handed over the Helen Fox to benefit the planters for the Surgery Team.

**Next meeting:** The dates and guest speakers for 2024 are still to be arranged.

Thanks to Liz Wood and Linda Baker of the "Heavenly Helpers" for providing refreshments.

The meeting was closed at 7:35pm