

Minutes Withnell HC PPG

3rd June 2026

1. **In Attendance:** Jeff Cottam (Chair), Margaret France, Lynne Lynch, Bernard Melling, Janet Melling, Audrey Perry, Nicola Phillipson, Dr Ann Robinson, Janice Scanlon, Gillian Ainsworth, Ron Ainsworth, Ann Christopher, Hazel Hebson, Alan Martin, Mike Matulewicz, David Wood.

Apologies: Kirsty Craney, Amy Miller, Tracie O’Gara, Gill Tasker.

2. **Minutes** from 25th Feb 2026 were accepted.

3. **Matters Arising/Action Table**

- Visit has been made to assess for installation of outside tap for garden, plus permission needed for alteration to connect downpipe to water butt.
- Update on art display, permission to hang the pictures.
- Liaison for Facebook strategy.
- Patient comments shared with staff.
- NHS App drop-in session took place.
- Bereavement support group promoted.

4. **Friends and Family Feedback.**

Nicola provided statistics from October 2025 till May 2026. No issues, responses are once again overwhelmingly positive, although there has been a gradual decline in total returns. Some discussion regarding this and a feeling that there may be a survey ‘burn out’. Some decline in Nurse appointments, although earlier figures perhaps ‘inflated’ by Flu Clinics.

ACTION All to note.

5. **Surgery News.**

Dr Ressel had a baby on 18th May, both doing well, she is having 12 months maternity leave for which cover has been arranged.

Dr Felicity Robinson is now working Mondays (extra provision) and she received very positive feedback at the meeting.

Ear syringing is no longer free, but Megan now has the equipment to provide this service at the surgery, £40 for one ear or £50 for both ears.

The surgery is also trialling AI for transcribing GP/patient consultations. The system modifies and types up the notes. These will be checked by the GP before being added to a patient's note. They will appear on the NHS App. This system does have the advantage of saving time.

ACTION All to note.

6. **Garden Update.**

Gillian provided an update on progress with the garden.

Work has begun on the banking, and a section has been planted.

The water butt is now in place but needs connecting to the downpipe once approval has been received.

A rota for maintenance has been drawn up by Gillian to cover the summer and autumn months.

Chorley BC have provided a significant number of daffodil bulbs, although there may be planting issues due to the poor quality of the soil.

There is still £191 left in the garden funds from the Parish Council Grant.

Positive comments are being received about the garden, and it is a pleasant lunch break venue for staff, when the sun is shining!

ACTION All to note.

7. Medical Equipment Recycling.

The Tuesday sessions are going well and there have been lots of donations.

There are at least 15 Zimmer frames in stock, and it was felt that perhaps the ICB could take some of them.

There is still the issue of equipment disappearing without the appropriate form being completed, this raises liability issues as the form contains a Health Centre disclaimer.

Concern was expressed regarding wheelchairs that have been taken without the necessary liability form being completed. It was suggested that District Nurses may be using this facility and that the Health Centre should write to the Clinical Lead for Chorley to outline the correct procedures for accessing this equipment.

ACTION Nicola.

8. Bereavement Support Group.

There has been no specific take up of this service although it was noted that there are other facilities within the Borough, e.g. Talking Tables.

ACTION A II to note.

9. Managing Patients with a Learning Disability.

As David and Karen were not in attendance this item was adjourned to the next meeting. It was noted that at least 24 patients with Learning Disabilities attend the surgery. Reception staff are very welcoming and provide a personalised approach.

ACTION All to note.

10. Newsletter.

Amy sent her apologies to the meeting and has informed Jeff that she is withdrawing from her role in producing the newsletter due to increased responsibilities at work and demands on her time. It was acknowledged that Amy has done a wonderful job in launching the newsletter and the committee's thanks were expressed. After some discussion Alan and Ron volunteered to take on this role with a newsletter to be produced at the end of June, any suggested inputs from the committee would be appreciated.

The ICB has announced its intention to support PPGs, perhaps they could assist with the newsletter?

ACTION Ron/Alan.

11. PPG Projects.

After some discussion it was agreed there should be a Garden/Coffee morning on the 11th of July. Gillian and Alan will take the lead however it is important that the committee pull together to make this a success.

There was also some discussion regarding vaccination up take which has fallen, possibly due in part to the negative publicity circulating on social media regarding the effects of vaccinations. A key issue is how to reach out to parents and promote vaccinations. One means might be through school newsletters. Margaret will also approach Public Health Services.

ACTION Gillian/Alan and all to note.

12. AOB

It was noted that appointments for COVID vaccination cannot be made by telephone until the end of June although they are available for older and more vulnerable patients. Advice is given to make them online, but AGE UK estimate that only 40% of their clients have access to internet services.

Heritage /history trail leaflets for our locality, Brinscall and Withnell, are now available and being circulated around the villages. Margaret circulated a copy which looked fascinating and informative.

There was then a discussion regarding the ICB and Government policy regarding the future of health care. The ICB now have an 'Influence Panel' in line with current jargon. Government policy seems to be to diminish not improve patient involvement in the planning and monitoring of services. A very worrying development.

ACTION All to note

The next meeting will be Wednesday 2nd September at 6pm.