

Minutes of the VSG PPG Meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 6.30pm on Zoom.

Present: David Williams (Chair), Janet Foster (Secretary), Trevor Ferrigno, Ian Waddington, Sharon Roe, Rhianon Wilson, Roy Kerry, Marianne Poulton, Sarah Pierce, Hilary Wells, Wendy Bell, Verena Ewing.

1. Welcome and Apologies

David welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received from: Esther Sadler-Williams, Suzy Leaman, Edward Rigby, Pauline Hood, Peter Overmeer.

2. Approval of Minutes of 10th December 2025 and Matters Arising:

The Minutes of 10th December 2025 meeting were approved.

Matters arising: None

3. Pre-Christmas Message from PPG Chairman and responses (David)

David reported that following the last PPG meeting a message was sent to all patients, providing a brief update about the merger and inviting people to get in touch. He thanked the practice staff, especially Nikki, for their help and swift action in sending out the message.

The message generated several responses which David circulated with the meeting agenda, he provided a brief overview of the issues raised and reported that these will be included in the Q&As in the next Newsletter.

The issue of the imminent changes to the frequency of issuing repeat prescriptions for VSG patients was raised and discussed. The frequency of repeat prescriptions is due to reduce from 2 months to 1 month (28 days) from the 1st April 2026. This is partly to bring VSG in line with Laurel Bank Surgery and ICB directions. It was felt this could be a significant change for some patients, for various reasons and that it would be helpful to warn them as soon as possible about this change. Trevor agreed to investigate what is proposed and establish what exactly will change with a view to the surgery sending out notification to VSG patients.

4. Merger Updates/News from the Practice – Trevor

The new GP Dr Addala is due to start at VSG on the 2nd February 2026.

Trevor reported that the merger is proceeding as anticipated. Further information will be available towards the end of February/March as things are finalised. The practice will provide updates as and when appropriate.

Trevor reported that changes will be slow once the merger takes place. The key change will be the name change on the 1st April 2026. Then there will be a wait for the 2 systems to merge along with both telephone systems, this will take a little time, possibly up to June.

Queries regarding telephone calls going to all the practices was raised, whether they will have access to patients notes/information etc? Trevor informed the meeting that as the systems will not be merged initially, the practices will be able to access patient information but not as easily as they will be able to once the systems are merged.

It is planned that David and Sharon will contact Edward to arrange a meeting to discuss; an interview for a blog, future PPG communications and the next PPG Newsletter.

David reported that following the last meeting he had contacted My Village News with regards to publishing merger updates. He received an encouraging response, as the PPG is non commercial there could be space available and publication would probably be free.

David is also investigating the Holt equivalent, although it was highlighted that My Village News is also circulated in Holt.

Both publications are produced monthly and it is planned to look at publishing merger update information once it is clear what communications are important.

5. Future Meeting Schedule - David

A discussion took place about the timing and frequency of future meetings and accommodating the attendance of a GP. Esther drafted a meeting schedule for discussion, which David circulated with the meeting agenda.

The difference between VSG and Laurel Bank PPG meeting was discussed. The discipline and structure of the VSG PPG monthly meeting was highlighted; it was felt to be helpful in sustaining the group's membership. It was also recognised that Laurel Bank had met less frequently, these meetings had been driven by the practice and include attendance of a GP. The VSG met monthly without any GP attendance.

The drafted meeting Schedule was considered to be a helpful start to discussions.

6. AOB

- An issue with access to higher chairs at Tattenhall surgery had been raised. Trevor reported that action has now been taken and that chairs are available at Tattenhall. Plans are in place for them to be provided at Farnon practice also.
- Ian reminded everyone to look out for the snow drops at Tattenhall surgery, they should be appearing soon.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 11th February 2026
at 6.30pm, The Vault, St Albans Church, Tattenhall.**

