

Minutes of the VSG PPG Meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2026 at 6.30pm on Zoom.

Present: David Williams (Chair), Esther Sadler-Williams (Vice Chair), Janet Foster (Secretary), Ian Waddington, Rhiannon Wilson, Roy Kerry, Denise Bradley, Suzy Leaman, Hilary Wells, Peter Overmeer.

1. Welcome and Apologies

David welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Denise Bradley who was attending for the first time.

Apologies received from: Edward Rigby, Trevor Ferrigno, Sarah Pearse

2. Approval of Minutes of 14th January 2026 and Matters Arising:

The Minutes of 14th January 2026 meeting were approved.

Matters arising:

- It was noted that the patient request mentioned in the last minutes was for chairs higher side arms to assist the getting into and out of and not higher chairs. David to update the MoM.

3. Merger Updates/News from the Practice

There was no representation from the practice at the meeting to present an update.

- David reported that a merger update communication had been sent out to all VSG patients from the practice. This communication was welcomed by the PPG. The update had outlined the progress of the merger to date and indicated that a further communication would follow, which will cover the forthcoming changes to repeat prescriptions from April 1st

It was reported that a change to the frequency of repeat prescriptions presents several potential issues for patients. These included people on a 30- or 31-day medication cycle or PRN (take as and when) prescriptions. The meeting requested that the promised information about the changes should be sent to patients as soon as possible. It would be helpful if this clarified the changes and included a rationale for the change, as concerns were raised about this being a possible cost saving exercise. The meeting proposed that the PPG Chair had sight of the communication before it is sent out, to ensure it addresses the issues raised.

Post meeting note: a draft of the Laurel Bank policy has been received and is being reviewed. Issue during Feb is targeted.

Currently the NHS app does not highlight the date the next repeat prescription is due whilst Patent Access does, is this something the practice can turn on or does it require a national change?

- It was reported that Laurel Bank patients had been informed that they will not be able to ring the practice pharmacy first thing to request a repeat prescription from April. This only impacts Laurel Bank patients as it is not available to VSG patients. Several concerns were raised relating to this change and the impact it would have, particularly on older people. Queries raised included:
 - What planning had taken place to prepare for this change?
 - There was mention of information about provisions for people that couldn't manage this change in a newsletter, where could the newsletter be found?

- Use of the NHS app will need to be encouraged; how will this happen? Rhiannon had previously offered via her work with OPAL to arrange a session where people could be set up on the app, could this be revisited?
- For people unable to use the app to request repeat prescriptions, will the only option be the back sheet of the prescription?

Also, ear syringing will not be available from April for Laurel Bank patients, this isn't available for VSG patients.

- David reported feedback from the Rural Alliance PPG Chairs. **Post meeting clarification** is that the Waverton surgery dispensary, not the village pharmacy, has closed and their delivery service is under review.

David agreed to circulate the merger update with the meeting minutes. It is likely that this was sent to a VSG patient distribution list. The Laurel Bank patients expressed interest in the message.

4. Future Meeting Schedule - David

David expressed his view that due to the merger the VSG PPG is currently in a degree of limbo until a unified PPG begins on the 1st April 2026. Therefore, the decision has been made to continue with the last two planned meetings in February and March on Zoom.

The meeting discussed the draft meeting schedule which will include face to face meetings in the 3 locations and Zoom meetings, these will be evenings and afternoons. A quarterly meeting will be held at Laurel Bank surgery with a GP in attendance. Edward has requested that this meeting start at 2pm instead of 2.30 as suggested to help with clinical session planning, this was agreed by the meeting. The finalised schedule will be circulated once David has discussed it with Edward.

The date of the inaugural meeting of the merged PPG in April was discussed; David requested a change of date. **Post meeting note:** there will be no change, the date remains **Wednesday 15th April (14.00 in Malpas)**.

Regarding an inaugural meeting, it was suggested that the constitution will need to be reviewed and changed accordingly. Janet will not be able to attend afternoon meetings, accordingly a Practice staff member will attend afternoon meetings to take the minutes in her absence.

5. AOB

- It was requested that in the future a range of participation of both practice and patients should be considered. What the engagement looks like moving forward is open for discussion. Apparently, Laurel Bank PPG used to have a range of practice staff attending their meetings. It is anticipated that Edward will attend all meetings from April and a GP once a quarter.
- Ian reported that the snow drops at Tattenhall practice have appeared and are putting on a lovely show.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday 11th March 2026
at 6.30pm, Zoom call.**