

Dr Kent & Partners Patient
Park Road, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0BE

Minutes of the meeting PPG Meeting held on Thursday 12th March 2026

Item	Agenda items	Action
	<p>Attendees:</p> <p>Don [redacted], Ray [redacted], Angela [redacted], Paul [redacted], Graham [redacted], Dr Kent and Dr Harty.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Sylvia [redacted], Roy [redacted], Rache [redacted], Jane [redacted]</p> <p>Minutes taken by: Paul [redacted]</p> <p>Welcome and introductions</p>	
1	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Graham opened the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting (December 2025) were accepted and can be published to the Practice website. Note that the September 2025 meeting minutes are also not published</p> <p>ACTION: Ensure September and December meeting minutes are published on the Practice website</p>	Practice Manager
2	<p>Practice Update</p> <p>Dr Kent and Dr Harty provided an update. The update was backed up by slides, shared with the PPG members after the meeting. They raised the likely scenario of having to close Waverton branch surgery and expand the operating hours and services of Tarvin branch surgery. This situation has come to a head over the previous month and the PPG were the first to be informed. There would be a full patient consultation via Healthwatch, the patient advocacy organisation. Although the decision is not quite final, the decision feels outside the Practice's hands.</p> <p>The ultimate decision has been caused by negotiations over the building lease with the owner, the Waverton Parish</p>	

<p>Council. Interventions by NHS England at national level have made the situation completely untenable to the Practice, despite support from the Cheshire & Merseyside NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB).</p> <p>The background to this goes back many years and is complex. In 2015, the branch had a dispensary for around 1000 patients. The opening of a Waverton pharmacy ultimately meant the closure of the dispensary. It has been loss making for over three years since the dispensary was closed. Furthermore, there are a number of operational and staffing challenges around offering services across three sites. This meant that it was becoming increasingly unfeasible to offer services across all three current sites.</p> <p>Waverton has a population of around 1500 to 1600, of which 900 patients are with the Practice. The remainder, mostly younger families, use Practices in Broughton and Vicars Cross. The Practice partners were challenged on the impact to those Waverton patients that cannot travel, and the partners confirmed that they would continue with home visits. It was accepted that the only Waverton bus line was from Tattenhall to Chester.</p> <p>The Partners acknowledged that this would likely result in patients leaving the Practice, which was saddening and disappointing. However, they had to consider the long-term safety and sustainability of a Practice of approximately 8200 patients. Wider housing planning indicated that Tarvin and Tarporley could expect significant expansion over the coming 5+ years. This likely meant that these surgery sites were not sustainable long-term. The Rural Alliance Primary Care Network (PCN), of which the Practice is a member, is receiving specialist advice on NHS Property Services.</p> <p>If the decision to close the Waverton branch was agreed, the closure would be staggered over several months.</p> <p>The partners shared a draft letter to be sent to patients. Immediate feedback from the PPG members was that the letter did not explain enough about the background to the decision.</p> <p>ACTION: Re-draft the letter and share with the PPG Chair via email, for onward distribution to PPG members.</p> <p>ACTION: PPG member to review the letter and provide feedback by Monday 16th March via PPG Chair.</p> <p>The plan is to send the letter to patients by 18th March. PPG members were reminded that this information was confidential until the letter was sent. The letter will cover</p>	<p>Dr Hartly</p> <p>PPG members</p>
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	consultation with patients, which will include liaison with Healthwatch and a local meeting in Waverton.	
3	<p>Ray and Graham had intended to attend the Tarporley practice to meet patients and gather feedback. Their visit was stopped due to a roof leak. They are now planning to attend on Wednesday 18th March.</p> <p>Due to the length of discussions on Waverton, the rest of the agenda was not discussed, including Any Other Business.</p>	
	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>23rd April 2026 at 4pm, Tarporley Health Centre</p>	