

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 10th November 2025

1.	Welcome & Attendance Attendees- John Neale, Fay Read, Judith Westall, Bob & Vanda Gould, Steve Bates, Jan Lloyd, Bruce Battams, Mark Pitman, Gordon Lovell, Mary Tait, Liz Mold, Ann Minnihan, Jane Hanlon, Sarah Setterfield, Elspeth Woods Apologies – Clive Robinson, Sheila Dale, Jacqui Colman, Tania Pal, Sandra Whitefoot, Christine Cartwright, Angela Lovell, Shona Manson, Hilary King, David Vaughan
2.	Minutes for October - Approved
3.	Guest Speaker – Tina Archwell – Children's Air Ambulance Tina's background: former schoolteacher, now charity shop manager, personal connection to the service. Charity Origins & Funding - Founded in 2005 with one helicopter, no government funding. - Early years struggled to raise awareness and resources. - In 2012 partnered with a larger air ambulance organization, boosting visibility. - Ongoing rebranding: helicopter outline with a heart symbol to join two identities. Service Scope & Operations - Focus exclusively on pediatrics, not general road-traffic accidents. - Missions include hospital-to-hospital transfers, home-to-hospital, specialist staff relocations. - Journey times capped at two hours per mission. - Current fleet: one helicopter, planning purchase of a second with extra seating. - Onboard crew: two pilots, one specialist doctor, two to three senior pediatric nurses. - Aircraft equipped with neonatal units for babies. Costs & Financial Challenges - Mission costs rose from £3,700 to about £5,500 each. - Aim to conduct two missions per week; ideal to fly daily. - Equipment upgrades and crew training drive expenses. - No direct government support; relies entirely on public donations and fundraising. Charity Shop Model & Donations - Shop in Milton Keynes as key fundraising arm.

	- Average 200 donation bags daily from community—good, bad and “oh-dear.” - “Oh-dear” items (excessively stained, torn, unusable) cost money to dispose of. - Shop sales: clothing, bric-a-brac, books (50p each), toys, crockery. - Shift away from eBay due to fees; focus on in-store sales and community goodwill. - Special “50p baskets” for mixed-condition items as an alternative to rags. Volunteer & Community Engagement - 27 regular volunteers, strong team spirit (“fresh cream cake Fridays”). - Collaborations with local businesses: Sainsbury’s offered hangar space possibility. - Partnerships with workplaces allowing staff volunteering days. - Community talks, presence at events, encouraging donated items and spreading awareness by word of mouth. Awareness & Branding Efforts - Rebranding launch: helicopter with central heart and bright green/blue colours. - Promotional materials: children’s book “Motorways in the Sky,” mascots Peggy & Blaze, branded rulers and pencil cases for school events. - Plans to engage schools and open-air base visits for volunteers to deepen understanding. Future Plans & Needs - Purchasing second helicopter with parent/carer seat option. - Securing a third air base location for quicker response. - Continued fundraising push for daily missions. - Strengthen Gift Aid sign-ups to claim extra 25% on donations. - Improve public visibility: messaging to include mission costs (“£5,500 per rescue”) and impact stories.
4.	PPG UPDATES Survey Feedback & Communication • Acknowledge delay in sharing results from patient survey. • Plan to draft concise responses for noticeboards and future newsletter: • What patients said / What changes have been or will be made • Aim to build trust by demonstrating follow-through. PPG Accounts • Bank account shows balance of £3,964; with additional cash and recent bird box sales pending. • Discussion of bank charges for cash deposits; interim solution using petty cash transfers.

	• Volunteer support offered (Shona) to help count and tally shop takings. Possible contribution of funds • Ongoing feasibility for front or rear extension to create 2–4 new consulting rooms. • Three surveys commissioned using Section 106 funds (developer contributions). • Next step: CAD drawings and detailed feasibility study. • PPG agreed to earmark funds for room equipment (desks, medical tools, furniture) once scope clear. Update on Tombola & Book Sales • Recent flu/COVID clinic tombola raised approx. £350 • Lessons learned on table placement, visibility of prizes, and ticket-display format. • Book sales at 50p each performed well; discussion over raising to £1 but concern about customer impact and target demographic – Leave for now Community Representation & Future Priorities • Noted under-representation of ethnic and age groups among PPG members. • Challenge of attracting younger adults who prefer other social media than Facebook. • Discussion on defining PPG's role: fundraising vs. broader patient engagement and service improvement. • Plan early-2026 workshop to set clear objectives, outreach methods, and resource needs. Meeting Schedule & Next Steps • Agreed regular monthly meetings on second Monday, 6:15 pm, 12 per year. • Next meeting: December 8, with light refreshments. • Action list for 2026: ○ Publish "You Said, We Did" board/newsletter item ○ Finalize building survey and equipment cost estimates ○ Clarify monthly PPG goals and communication channels ○ Explore new outreach (social media, youth projects) AOB: None
5.	Next Meeting: 8 th December @ 6.15pm



Future PPG Dates for 2025 (2nd Monday of each month)

13th January 2025 10th February 2025 10th March 2025 14th April 2025 12th May 2025 – AGM	9th June 2025 - 14 th July 2025 – Speaker Samantha Lennon (MK Council) 11 th August 2025 8 th September 2025 13 th October 2025 – Lucy Jones, Alzheimer Society – Deferred 10 th November 2025 – Tina Archwell, Children’s Air Ambulance 8 th December 2025 – Christmas Event Speakers – dates to be confirmed • Malcolm Carpenter (MK Prostate Cancer Support Group) • Suzanne Brown (ALS Pals)