



## **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

### **MINUTES OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at**

**the AOP Offices, 2 Woodbridge Street, London EC1R 0DG**

**at 6.00 pm**

#### **PRESENT**

Ms R Cuthbert (Chair)  
Mr V Bush (Treasurer)  
Mrs L Gerson (Trustee)  
Francesca Marchetti (Trustee)  
Alison McClune (Trustee)  
Lynne Brown (Administrative Secretary)

AOP Members present: Sana Asif, Ian Beesley, Jane Bell, Susan Bowers, William Hilmes, Gordon Ilett, Julie-Ann Little, Stewart Mitchell, Deepali Modha, Fatima Nawaz, Shoaibilyas, Emma Spofforth, Martin Sweeney, Tushar Majithia, Alex Thornton, Andrew Tompkin

#### **1. Apologies for Absence:**

- Apologies were received from Richard Broughton and Henry Leonard (Trustees).

#### **2. Chair's Address:**

In her address, Ruth Cuthbert reminded those present of the background and purpose of the joint College/AOP Benevolent Fund. The presentation is available as a separate document but the main topics included:

- Trustees appointed by College and AOP
- Who the BenFund helped
- How the BenFund helped e.g. payment of professional subscriptions, grants to ease severe financial problems, provision of counselling, purchase of essential items
- Keeping people in the optometric profession
- Modern problem of personal debt and helping people to overcome it
- Projects
- Who can apply
- Where donations come from and the fund's financial position

- Aims for the coming year
- The role of Trustees
- Farewell to retiring Trustees
- How AOP Councillors can help – e.g. raise awareness, identify new beneficiaries, visit beneficiaries
- Thanks to Trustees, Visitors, members of the profession and Administrative Secretary

**3. Minutes:**

The meeting received and approved the Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017. (Proposed by Lisa Gerson, seconded by Francesca Marchetti)

**4. Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report:**

The meeting received and approved the Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30 September 2017 (proposed by Vivian Bush, seconded by Julie-Ann Little)

**Trustees:**

The meeting noted formally that Mr Richard Llewellyn, Mrs Ruth Cuthbert, Mrs Francesca Marchetti and Mr David Cartwright retired, by rotation, as Trustees. Their resignations were accepted but Ruth Cuthbert and Francesca Marchetti have been re-nominated by the AOP and are willing to serve another 3-year term. The College has not yet nominated anyone to replace their two retiring Trustees. The Trustees for the coming year are: Ruth Cuthbert, Richard Broughton, Henry Leonard, Sue Wilford, Lisa Gerson, Alison McClune, Francesca Marchetti and Vivian Bush with two others to be advised by the College.

**5. Independent Examiners:**

The meeting agreed unanimously to the appointment of Helen Elliott, FCA, of Sayer Vincent, as Independent Examiner to the Fund for the year ending 30 September, 2018.

**6. Any Other Business:**

There was general agreement that locums, in particular, should avail themselves of Critical Illness Cover because many of the applicants to the Benevolent are self-employed and their financial position is severely compromised when they are unable to work due to illness or injury. It was suggested that there should be a generic story in OT, or a CET article, about an optometrist who has suffered due to inadequate insurance cover. Locums should also think about their pension provision and practice owners should not rely on being able to sell their practices.

Susan Bowers volunteered to undertake beneficiary visits. She lives in the Midlands and left her email address with the Administrative Secretary.

The Chairman thanked those present for attending the Annual General Meeting.

There was no other business.