



PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF THE 20TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 25th February 2019 at

**the Kings Suite, Hilton Hotel Metropole, Pendigo Way, Marston Green,
Birmingham B40 1PP
at 3.30 pm**

PRESENT

Ruth Cuthbert (Chair)
Sue Wilford (Vice Chair)
Lisa Gerson (Trustee)
Francesca Marchetti (Trustee)
Henry Leonard (Trustee)
Keval Dattani (Trustee)
Daniel Ehrlich (Trustee)
Lynne Brown (Administrative Secretary)

College Members present: Stephen Abery, Guy Barnes, Shune Abbas Bhimani, Kyla Black, Prab Boparai, Ashish Choshi, Vicky Cole, Chris Dakeyne, Colin Davidson, David Ehrlich, Neil Fraser, Gerraint Griffiths, Paul Harries, Saleha Hashmi, Brian Hitchin, Angharad Hobby, Ian Humphreys, Kieran Loft, Ruth Low, Jane Macnaughton, Edward Mallen, Andrew McGregor, Sandra Moon, Paul Niyonkuru, Lisa O'Donoghue, Gary Orriss, David Parkins, Annette Parkinson, Siriol Powell, John Redwood, Martin Rivett, Kevin Rollason, Matt Roney, Nick Rumney, Parth Shah, Tanvi Shah, Mary-Ann Sherratt, Helen Short, Nitika Sondhi, Piotr Szczesny, Kathryn Trimmer, Cindy Tromans, Helen Tzouves, Jonathan Walker, David Wolfe, Michael Wolffe

1. Apologies for Absence:

- Apologies were received from Henrietta Alderman (AOP) and Richard Broughton.

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, purchase of essential items, home adaptations

- Keeping people in the optometric profession
- Increase in enquiries
- Changes in the way people work e.g. more locums and higher risk of financial instability
- Discouraging dependency
- Projects, including promoting critical illness cover
- Who can apply
- Where donations come from and the fund's financial position
- Aims for the coming year
- The role of Trustees and who the newest Trustees are
- How members of the profession can help – e.g. raise awareness, identify new beneficiaries, visit beneficiaries
- Thanks to Trustees, Visitors, members of the profession and Administrative Secretary

Ruth Cuthbert advised the meeting that she was standing down as Chair and that Sue Wilford, who has been Vice Chair, would take over as the new Chair from the date of the AGM.

3. Minutes:

The meeting received and approved the Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting, held on 5th June 2018. (Proposed by Keval Dattani, 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 30th September 2018 (proposed by Francesca Marchetti, seconded by Henry Leonard)

Trustees:

The meeting noted formally that Alison McClune (AOP), Richard Broughton (College) and Sue Wilford (College) retired, by rotation, as Trustees. Their resignations were accepted but they were re-nominated and are willing to serve another 3-year term. The Trustees for the coming year are: Sue Wilford (new Chair), Ruth Cuthbert, Richard Broughton, Henry Leonard, Lisa Gerson, Alison McClune, Francesca Marchetti, Vivian Bush (Treasurer), Keval Dattani and Daniel Ehrlich.

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, 2019.

6. Any Other Business:

Lisa O'Donoghue volunteered to undertake beneficiary visits. She lives in the Northern Ireland 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.