



PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES OF THE 23rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held virtually on 28th March 2022 by Zoom

at 4.00 pm

PRESENT

Vivian Bush (Chair)
Daniel Ehrlich (Vice Chair)
Keval Dattani (Treasurer)
Richard Broughton (Trustee)
Aishah Fazlanie (Trustee)
Tushar Majithia (Trustee)
Francesca Marchetti (Trustee)
Alison McClune (Trustee)
Manbir Nagra (Trustee)

Lynne Brown (Administrative Secretary)

Ian Humphreys (College)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Adam Sampson (AOP)
Sue Wilford was not present

2. Chair's Address:

The presentation is available as a separate Powerpoint document and was distributed in advance of the meeting. As everyone present had seen it, the Chair did not read it out during the meeting. The main topics included:

- Structure of the Benevolent Fund
- The Trustees & what they did during the year
- The purpose of the Benevolent Fund
- Who the BenFund supports
- The Fund's activity
- Financial summary
- Raising awareness of the Fund with the aim that every optometrist knows it exists
- Developing the profile of the Fund
- Retirement and renomination of Trustees

- How to help the Fund
- Expression of thanks

The Chair personally thanked Sue Wilford and said he was looking forward to welcoming a new College Trustee.

Ian Humphreys asked why the numbers of applicants was lower than last year and what had been done to raise the profile of the Fund. The Chair explained that although cash disbursements were lower, applicants had been referred to more support services. Efforts had been made to engage with the optometry student council but the meetings had been cancelled. The Trustees had begun to look at changing the Fund's name and working on the website. There is already evidence that the coming year will be much busier.

3. Minutes:

The meeting received and approved the Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Meeting, held on 4th October 2021. (Proposed by Richard Broughton, seconded by Daniel Ehrlich.)

4. Matters arising:

None

5. Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report:

The meeting received and approved the Financial Statements and Treasurer's Report for the year ended 30th September 2021.

6. Trustees:

The meeting noted formally that Sue Wilford (College) retired by rotation, as a Trustee.

Ian Humphreys and all the Trustees expressed their thanks to Sue who had served the Benevolent Fund for many years, including a term of chairmanship.

Alison McClune (AOP) and Richard Broughton (College) have been re-nominated for further 3-year terms.

The Trustees for the coming year are: Vivian Bush (Chair) Keval Dattani (Treasurer), Richard Broughton, Francesca Marchetti, Alison McClune, Daniel Ehrlich, Aishah Fazlanie, Tushar Majithia, Manbir Nagra and one other yet to be nominated by the College.

There were many expressions of thanks to Sue Wilford who retired after many years of devoted service, including chairmanship, to the Benevolent Fund.

The Trustees expressed their willingness to help Ian Humphreys with his search to procure a new College Trustee.

7. Independent Examiners:

The meeting agreed to the appointment of Vivien Ma, FCA, of Sayer Vincent, as Independent Examiner to the Fund for the year ending 30 September, 2022 (proposed by Ian Humphreys, seconded by Daniel Ehrlich)

9. Any Other Business:

None

10. Date of next meeting: Monday 27th March 2023

Ian Humphreys offered to distribute publicity material on behalf of the Benevolent Fund at the College Conference in June 2022.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 4.30 pm.