



## **MINUTES OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held virtually on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

**at 10:00 am**

### **PRESENT**

Vivian Bush (Chair)  
Daniel Ehrlich (Vice Chair)  
Keval Dattani (Treasurer)  
Richard Broughton (Trustee)  
Aishah Fazlanie (Trustee)  
Jane Macnaughton (Trustee)  
Tushar Majithia (Trustee)  
Francesca Marchetti (Trustee)  
Alison McClune (Trustee)  
Anuj Patel (Trustee)

Lynne Brown (Benevolent Fund Administrative Secretary)  
Ruth Cuthbert (optometrist, optical adviser and former Benevolent Fund trustee)  
Ian Humphreys (Chief Executive, College of Optometrists)

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

None

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

The presentation is available as a separate Powerpoint document and was distributed in advance of 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 including new avenues of support
- The Fund's activity
- Financial summary
- Developing and raising the profile of the Fund
- The objective of the Fund
- How to help the Fund
- Expression of thanks

**3. Minutes:**

The meeting received and approved the Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting, held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023. (Proposed by Daniel Ehrlich, seconded by Richard Broughton.)

**4. Matters arising:**

Daniel Ehrlich thanked the Chair for all his work over the year.

Ian Humphreys expressed his thanks for all the work carried out by the Fund, especially if it finds itself having to cope with more demand over the coming year.

Ruth Cuthbert suggested that the Fund should work with NHS England to achieve more publicity within all its different regions. The NW region sends out a leaflet which mentions the Fund to newly qualified optometrists and she suggested that other regions could do the same.

She also mentioned that she did not see any notification about the Fund's AGM within College or AOP communications.

**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 2023 which had been circulated before the meeting. (Proposed by Richard Broughton, seconded by Alison McClune). Keval Dattani thanked Lynne Brown and the College accounts team for their work on the report.

**6. Trustees:**

The Trustees for the coming year are: Vivian Bush (Chair) Daniel Ehrlich (Vice Chair) Keval Dattani (Treasurer), Richard Broughton, Aishah Fazlanie, Francesca Marchetti, Jane Macnaughton, Alison McClune, Tushar Majithia and Anuj Patel.

**7. Independent Examiners:**

The meeting agreed that quotations will be requested from several accountancy firms - as well as from Sayer Vincent - to act as Independent Examiners to the Fund for the year ending 30th September 2024. The quotations will be compared and considered at the next board meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**8. Any Other Business:**

None

**9. Date of next meeting:** To be confirmed.

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 10.20.