

BOARD MEETING

Thursday 11 July 2024

SUMMARY NOTES

Annual accounts and report presented

Auditors for The British Polio Fellowship (BPF), AZETS were unable to join the Board meeting, as expected. The annual accounts had not been fully signed-off by AZETS' management. Trustees will therefore be sent an updated version of the accounts which they will be asked to approve before the end of July. Chair, Gordon Richardson will then be asked to sign the accounts in order or them to be made ready for the BPF's Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM will be held at the Village Hotel Walsall in the West Midlands on Saturday 14 September 2024.

Minutes of the Board meeting 11 May 2024

The minutes of the Board meeting held on Saturday 11 May were approved by the Trustees. There were no amendments.

Strategy update

An updated draft version of the new BPF Strategy (2025-2028) had been shared with the Board. All working group leaders were asked to review the draft objectives assigned to their respective groups (Improving Communications, People, Finance, and Outreach and Health & Wellbeing). A meeting to make amends and feedback on the new Strategy will be held on Thursday 25 July.

National Events

The Trustees agreed several broad objectives relating to future national events and discussed a proposal made by Kripen Dhrona. A separate task team will be formed to think of/put forward innovative ideas for activities in the future. Trustees Sue Brown and Linda Davis expressed an interest in staying involved. Matthew Thomas will also be invited to join the team to represent Central Office. The Board will hold a special meeting on 28 August to decide about next years' Games and how to move forward.

Report from the National Treasurer as of 31 May 2024

The Fellowship recently received a legacy that will reduce the currently projected year-end deficit. A question was raised about how best and when to record a legacy in the accounts, if the funds have been promised to the Fellowship, but not yet received. The Board will hold a separate discussion in September.

CEO Operations Update

Banking matters: Kripen continues to deal with NatWest Bank to try and resolve the Fellowship's outstanding signatory issues.

Advisory/Expert Panel and Optimal Clinical Pathway

Advisory/Expert Panel: An Expert Panel meeting was held on Wednesday 19 June. A number of clinical questions were raised with the panel on behalf of members, for discussion and general advice.

Optimal Clinical Pathway (OCP): The OCP team (Kripen Dhrona, Trustee Frances Quinn and Carol Levin) will be attending a local pathway launch event in Newcastle on Thursday 18 July. This will be the first regional event to be held since the publication of the pathway. Clinicians, MPs, and press have been invited.

The pathway has been emailed to Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) in England and Health Boards in Scotland. The team has had responses from five ICBs so far and held two online meetings. One ICB has invited the team to give a training presentation to educate its medical panel.

Kripen has made contact with the Head of Nursing at the Neurology Academy. She is willing to help the Fellowship promote the pathway and has agreed to meet the OCP team.

An exhibition will be held in the Scottish Parliamentary building in May 2025. The Westminster event on 3 July was cancelled because of the general election. The sponsor for the Westminster event was MP Anum Qaisar (SNP) who has now lost her seat. The Fellowship must look for a new Parliamentary sponsor.

All polio members have been posted two copies of the pathway and asked to deliver the information to their GP, consultant, and/or other healthcare professionals. Anyone needing more copies of the pathway was asked to contact Central Office.

Any Other Business

Trustee, Archie Leyden shared the sad news that Georgina (Gina) Hay had passed away. In the past, Georgina has been an Area Trustee and was Scottish Regional Secretary for a long time. She will be greatly missed.

Next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Saturday 14 September in Walsall, West Midlands following the Annual General Meeting.