



BRITISH POLIO FELLOWSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 23 June 2026
SUMMARY NOTES

Auditors' presentation on 2025 accounts and report

The auditors were not present at the Board meeting but had provided a draft version of the accounts and accompanying annual report ahead of the Board meeting. Once approved, the final versions will be made available to members attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September, at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. Members who are unable to attend the AGM can request a PDF copy of the documents.

BPF Strategy update

Membership numbers have increased slightly despite the loss of some older members. Meanwhile, the Membership Working Group is developing a new membership recruitment plan, which will be shared with the Improving Communications Working Group once it is finalised.

Report from the National Treasurer

The Board considered the latest Finance Report. It showed that for income and expenditure to the end of May 2026 there was a surplus. Legacies continue to represent the Fellowship's largest source of income.

The Board discussed the challenge of making effective use of the Fellowship's available funds while current members are still able to benefit from them.

CEO Operations Update

Staff Matters: The Fundraiser position remains vacant. It was noted that limited time has been available to actively promote the role. Candidates who have applied to date have not met the required standard.

AGM: The agenda will be confirmed by email. There will be a short 10-minute Board meeting afterwards to confirm new Officers.

Elections: There will be no Trustee elections this year, as five applications were received for the five vacancies on the Board. It was also noted no Trustee elections are scheduled to take place in 2027.

Partnership Work: The International Post Polio Education Collective (IPPEC) is aiming to launch its website on World Polio Day (24 October). The site will provide a central resource of verified links to polio-related articles in one place.

The Neurology Alliance (NA) in England is lobbying for a modern service framework for neurology, with the BPF supporting this campaign. In Scotland, NA is developing a new strategy and working with its new Neurological Champions, while NiNCA (Northern Ireland) is preparing a photo opportunity at Stormont to support the launch of its report on the cost of inaction.

Events: The National Indoor Games (NIG) has been booked for 2027. Members do not need to register via their Branch or Region; they can contact Central Office directly.

Registrations for the Health and Wellbeing Conference on 4 July have been strong, with 115 attendees registered to date. Consideration will be given to holding a further event in 2027 in a northern location.

The Prosthetics and Orthotics Stakeholder Group was established to lobby for the formation of an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for prosthetics and orthotics in Parliament. BPF was invited to join the group and has developed useful contacts with orthotics companies.

Hydrotherapy: The Hydrotherapy Working Group has developed guidelines for volunteers to support the establishment of hydrotherapy classes for polio survivors in their local area. It is hoped that a pilot scheme will be run in an identified area, subject to consultation by the Branch with its members.

Hydrotherapy facilities have also been explored in Eastbourne, Hastings, and Worthing. It was noted that, for provision to be viable for members, classes would require to be subsidised. The estimated cost to a Branch subsidising weekly sessions with a qualified hydrotherapy physiotherapist is approximately £7,000 per year, assuming attendees contribute around £9 per session.

Advisory/Expert Panel and EPU Update

EPU Update: Kripen Dhrona, Chief Executive Officer and Frances Quinn, Trustee attended the European Polio Union (EPU) Conference in Sweden on 12 June and the AGM in Denmark on 13 June. The conference was held at a hospital, part of which is used for specialist accident trauma patients and part (25%) for patients who have had polio. Kripen and Frances were given a tour of the facility, which included a hydrotherapy pool and gym, and provides services comparable to the UK's Lane Fox Unit.

Approximately 12 EPU members attended the AGM. It was noted that the organisation faces similar challenges to other polio organisations internationally, particularly in defining its core objectives and what it is able to achieve.

Advisory/Expert Panel: The Expert Panel will meet on 8 July.

1947 polio epidemic commemoration

FQ reported that planning for the 2027 EPU Conference and AGM is progressing following a BPF Working Group meeting on 19 June. Suitable London venues are being viewed and considered. The conference is proposed for 11–12 June 2027 and is expected to have a stronger clinical focus than the Health and Wellbeing Conference. The event will mark the 80th anniversary of the start of the 1947 polio epidemics.

Any Other Business

There was no further business to be discussed.

Next Board meeting

The next formal full Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 September 2026.