BRITISH POLIO FELLOWSHIP BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 22 September 2026
SUMMARY NOTES

New project: Online PPS self-management training course
The Board was presented with a proposal to develop an online version of the Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS) self-management training course. The online resource would complement, rather than replace, the residential course currently delivered by the Lane Fox Unit at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospital. It would also help to preserve specialist knowledge and make the information and advice accessible to a wider audience.

The Board fully supported the project and approved a budget, agreeing that development work should proceed without making delivery conditional on securing external funding, while recognising that commercial sponsorship and grant funding should be pursued where available.

New project: EPU Conference 2027
A European Polio Union (EPU) Conference has been booked for Friday 11 June 2027 at the Royal College of Nursing, 20 Cavendish Square, London (behind John Lewis on Oxford Street). The venue offers good accessibility but does not provide accommodation. Suitable hotels have yet to be identified. A separate EPU Annual General Meeting (AGM) is expected to take place at the hotel on Saturday 12 June.

The proposed conference theme; *80 Years Post Polio 1947–2027: Partnering for the Lifelong Care of Polio Survivors* was discussed. The theme is intended to link the history and legacy of the 1947 epidemics with the current and future provision of lifelong care, partnership working, and the lived experience of polio survivors. A programme framework is in place, enabling work to progress towards identifying speakers.

The Board supported the proposed conference theme as the basis for the EPU Conference and wider EPU activity in 2027.

BPF strategy update
The Board reviewed the usefulness and frequency of the strategy subgroups. Trustees considered the groups valuable in maintaining engagement and progressing work between Board meetings but agreed that they should become more outcome focused.

Board succession planning
Trustee succession planning remains an important area of focus, and the Board recognised the need for further discussion as a number of Trustees will reach their term limits over the coming years.

Report from the National Treasurer
The Board noted that the overall financial position of the BPF remained healthy, with total funds exceeding £2.75 million. Legacy income continues to have a significant impact on the year-to-year financial position. The Board discussed the presentation and use of designated

and restricted funds, noting the importance of ensuring that funds are used in accordance with their intended purposes. Further consideration of specific funds may be brought to a future meeting where appropriate. The Board also discussed the Holiday Grant Scheme and the position once the Scudamore Fund is exhausted.

CEO Operations Update

Staffing: Tracey Mead has accepted an offer to join the BPF as Fundraising Administrator. Her start date will be Thursday 1 October and she will be part-time, working 28 hours per week. Debbie Hill will extend her role to provide PA/secretarial support to Kripen Dhrona (KD).

Governance: Due to the withdrawal of the Trustee candidate just before the Annual General Meeting, there remains one elected Trustee vacancy. Four members have since expressed an interest to join the Board. These candidates will be interviewed by Kripen, to understand their interest, contribution and commitment before any appointment is considered by the Board.

Audit: KD reported that the 2025 audit recommendations were relatively minor and largely concerned strengthening the written evidence for existing controls. These recommendations will be implemented.

The Board also considered the change in statutory audit thresholds and the time and cost involved in a full audit. Subject to the BPF remaining below the relevant statutory income threshold, the Board agreed the Fellowship should move to an independent examination for the next financial year.

Banking: Satisfactory progress has been made on updating Branch and Region bank mandates and there has been a marked improvement in engagement with the bank.

Partnerships and eradication: New partnerships have been identified and discussions held about potential polio eradication activities on or around World Polio Day, Saturday 24 October. These include:

- BB Partners - involved in the Healthy World, Secure Britain campaign with a coalition of health professionals and the Gates Foundation.
- Global Health Strategies - undertakes communications work for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI).

Other potential areas of collaboration include the amplification of BPF messages through GPEI social media, polio survivor involvement, and potential speakers at the 2027 EPU Conference. Representatives of Global Health Strategies are expected to attend the BPF Zoom Café on 22 October.

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 15 December 2026.