



BOARD MEETING

Saturday 9 March 2024

SUMMARY NOTES

Minutes of the Board meeting 20 January 2024

The minutes from the Board meeting held on 20 January were approved by the Board.

Away Day

The current strategy working groups have taken on board all related actions that came from the Away Day held in January. All feedback will be collated and fed into the next strategy document. The objective is to produce a new strategy for approval at the Board meeting in July and then it will be presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September.

National Events/Indoor Games

The Board agreed it needed to look at whether the Games was a good use of resource, or if there should be an alternative event that would attract more people. Currently, the cost of the Games and the time resource required is high. First, a risk assessment will be completed.

85 Anniversary

A proposal was made to add an 85th anniversary element to existing events, rather than have a separate national event. An anniversary cake and tea will be provided at the AGM.

Report from the National Treasurer as of 31 January 2024

The report from the National Treasurer focused on year ending 31 December 2023. The figures are yet to be audited but currently, it shows the Fellowship will end the year with a surplus, thanks to investment gains made last year and a large legacy.

The medium-term financial prospects for the Fellowship remain the same. The Fellowship has to budget for a deficit, because it cannot predict income from one year to the next.

Looking five-years ahead, if the Fellowship does not receive enough legacies, it will use all its national programme funds by 2026 and will need to look at other funds to keep the national programme moving forward at the same or increased level.

It was noted some Branches do use funds to make donations to national programme initiatives, such as the Games or Heating Grants.

Today, the overall position long-term is very different to that a few years ago. The Fellowship is not in any immediate financial danger, and it is possible that legacies could mean it continues for longer, but legacies are unpredictable.

Co-options

Two members will be joining strategy working groups. One will join the Outreach and Health & Wellbeing working group, as well as its Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Action Plan

sub-group. The other member will join the Improving Communications working group. Both will sign a none disclosure agreement.

Phone system

The Fellowship will soon be moving to a new 01923 telephone number. The existing 0800 number will remain. From Wednesday 13 March, an answering service will ask callers to select a menu option to speak to a specific Central Office team. If they know a person's extension number that can be used instead. By May, all other 01923 numbers will be disabled.

British Polio Fellowship Website

A new accessibility tool has been added to the British Polio Fellowship website. The tool (ReciteMe) can read aloud, enable font and/or colour contrast changes, as well as translate text into different languages. This is a good step forward for accessibility and inclusion.

Board meeting dates

The July Board meeting date has changed. It is no longer on 6 July or 13 July. The meeting will take place at 2:00pm on Thursday 11 July.

Christmas cards

Central Office has enough stock of 2023 Christmas cards and will not be ordering any new cards in 2024. All existing stock will be cleared.

European Polio Union

The AGM for the European Polio Union (EPU) is to be held in May. Polio France is leading on a project to gather numbers of polio survivors in the European Union.

Expert Panel

A meeting of the Expert Panel was held in March. It is looking to grow the number of clinicians involved with the Fellowship and improve overall clinicians' late effects of polio and post-polio syndrome knowledge.

Optimal Clinical Pathway

The pathway will be launched on 20 March with a Zoom event, which will be recorded. Members, clinicians, and other stakeholders have been invited. After the launch, the pathway will be distributed throughout the relevant health delivery systems i.e. Integrated Care Boards (42 in England) and Health Boards (12 in Scotland, seven in Wales, and five in Northern Ireland).

Any Other Business

The Fellowship attended an event to mark Rare Disease Day at Westminster on 29 February, to raise awareness of polio as a rare disease.

Next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Saturday 11 May 2024.