

BOARD MEETING

Saturday 7 October 2023

SUMMARY NOTES

Minutes of the Board meeting on 15 July 2023

The Board approved the minutes for the meeting held on Saturday 15 July.

Board members Co-options

Last year the Board conducted an audit of its Trustees to determine whether there was a skills gap. The audit identified the need for expertise and experience in diversity, fundraising, and growing membership. To address these needs, the Board will look to potentially coopt a person(s) to the Board and/or to a working group(s). Likely candidates will be approached and offered an interview with a panel of Trustees.

Managing stock portfolio

The Trustees are currently looking at options to convert Fellowship funds to stock investments. Branch officers have been consulted and various investment companies have been contacted. A recommendation will be put to the Board for approval. When a decision is made, the details will be shared with the membership.

Cost-of-Living Grant

The Cost-of-Living Grant will continue for the time being, until all the funds ring-fenced for eligible members, has been allocated. The Support Services team is focusing on those individuals in need.

Strategy update

Trustee, Frances Quinn has recently done a lot of research to estimate the number of polio survivors currently living in the UK. The Fellowship will use this insight to continue the development of its strategy, and to understand where and how to target its services in the future. The Outreach Working Group will continue this work, looking particularly at where polio survivors live, their age range, ethnicity, and the level of awareness of Post-Polio Syndrome in non-members of the community, who are experiencing similar symptoms.

NatWest Banking Matters

Progress on resolving banking issues with NatWest continues but is slow. The Board questioned whether the Fellowship should now approach the Banking Ombudsman. It was suggested a number of other charities were also experiencing similar difficulties and perhaps the Fellowship could coordinate a collective approach.

Membership

The Board has agreed that a Membership Working Group should be formed to focus on all issues related to membership, but especially retention and recruitment. Linda Davis will be the Trustee representative for the group.

Partners

The One Push campaign team has been in touch with the Fellowship and asked for help in recruiting polio survivors who are willing to share their stories on film and lobby their MPs. Also, Birmingham City Football Club has offered to hold some BPF fundraising activities. The details of which are yet to be agreed.

Trustee, Frances Quinn informed the Board that she has been invited to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Scottish Post-Polio Network to speak about the Fellowship's Optimal Care Pathway (OCP).

Patrons and Ambassadors

Journalist, Jon Sopel and actor, Robin Askwith have been asked to be Patrons of the Fellowship. Both have agreed in principle but neither have responded to further messaging. They have been chased.

The Fellowship has secured Anum Qaisar, MP as a Patron. Anum lives in Scotland and is a Westminster Member of Parliament. She has agreed to support the Fellowship by sponsoring an Optimal Care Pathway event (yet to be arranged) that will be held at Westminster, London.

Indoor Games

The Board agreed it is important to continue to host a national social event for members. The next Indoor Games weekend (15-17 March 2024) will follow a slightly different format. After the event, if the feedback is positive, it is hoped this could become a good template for Indoor Games events in the future.

European Polio Union

There was a European Polio Union meeting in Brussels on 11 October, which focused on Polio Eradication and how to increase awareness of the impact the polio virus is still having.

Optimal Care Pathway

The Pathway is in its final stages. The project team will miss its original publication target date of World Polio Day (24 October) but is now aiming for publication in December.

Report from the National Treasurer as at 31 August 2023

The Strategic Finance Report which shows the financial position of the Fellowship as at 31 August 2023 was reviewed by the Board. It showed there is currently a deficit for Central Office, which it is hoped will be covered by the receipt of further legacies. More fundraising activity will begin at Central Office and a Fundraising Strategy will be provided for Board approval.

Any Other Business

The dates of the next meetings of the Outreach Working Group and the People Working Group were agreed and scheduled.

Next Board Meeting

Saturday 18 November 2023