



**CENTRAL
OPTICAL
FUND**

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Central Optical Fund

(The trading name of The Central (Local Optical Committee) Fund Limited)

Held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday 8th November 2017 at the Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth, CV8 2LD

PRESENT: 14 LOCs were represented of which 9 were members of the company. Also present were directors of the company, Mrs. R. Cuthbert (chair), Mr. M. Shinn, M/s S. Leighter who was now a director following a period of co-option, Mr B. Thanki and Mr A. McGregor. Mr. R. Brackley was present as Company Secretary and Finance Officer. 5 guests were present.

1. Chairman's Introduction

The chair welcomed all attendees to the third A.G.M. of the Central Optical Fund and presented the top table of the directors of the company and the Company Secretary.

2. To receive and approve the Minutes of the 2016 A.G.M.

The minutes had been circulated and were AGREED as a true record

3. To receive the Report of the Chair of the Directors, M/s Ruth Cuthbert

The chairs written report was circulated in the Annual Report. Verbally the chair reminded the meeting of some of the projects the Fund had been involved with. 2 major challenges facing the Fund still remained that LOCs could help with.

- The fact that only 24 of the 78 LOCs have joined the company.
- Falling income. Problems with payment agencies and reduced income from LOCs were noticeable.

4. To receive and approve the financial report from the Company Secretary, Mr. Roy Brackley

The financial report for the 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017 financial year was circulated in the Annual Report.

The Company secretary pointed out the continuing dual problems of, firstly, monies which have come into the Fund but could not be allocated to an LOC and, secondly, the possibility of monies not reaching the Fund although LOCs believe it has been paid.

Assistance was requested by way of LOCs letting him know what they have paid to the Fund over the last 3 years so it can be checked against amounts received.

The accounts were **APPROVED** by the meeting.

5. To receive and approve the decision of the directors that SJB Chartered Accountants continue as accountants for the company.

The decision was **APPROVED** by the meeting.

6. To receive reports from recipients of funding during the relevant year

Verbal and written reports were received.

7. To update the meeting on the nomination(s) and, if necessary, election for the director of Region 2

8. To update the meeting on the nomination(s) and, if necessary, election for the director of Region 4

She was pleased to announce that the vacancy for a director for Region 4 (London and South East) has now been filled by Sue Leighter.

9. The chair closed by thanking all supporters of the Fund.

10. Closure of the A.G.M.

The chair thanked everyone for attending.

Chairman's Speech AGM COF 2017

For year 1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

In the year in question from July 2016 to June 2017 the Central Optical Fund has been pleased to support several projects of national importance to optometry.

You will also see that we have produced an Annual Report which was sent to all LOCs, was in your delegate pack, and which we also have copies of today. In this you will find a precis of the projects that we have funded together with a financial summary.

I hope that you have all watched the excellent AOP film "On The Record" which was jointly funded by the Central Optical Fund and the former OCCS last year. This year COF is pleased to be a contributor to the follow-up film.

Vista Magazine

Vista is a unique magazine designed to raise awareness of the importance of regular sight tests and how lifestyle choices can affect eye health and to encourage readers to take positive steps towards caring for their eyes - actions that will lead to a reduction in the number of people in the UK living with avoidable sight loss. Although this is a magazine to mark National Eye Health Week, it has a shelf life of one year.

Bruce Evans: Referrals from community optometrists to the hospital eye service

The goal of the proposed research is to investigate the role of optometric eye examinations in detecting ocular pathology. The research will be a retrospective review of anonymised records from optometric practices and HES units. The research will quantify referral rate and referral reply rate and will investigate the appropriateness of optometric referrals and their outcomes. There is more information in your delegate pack.

Open Optometry Test Chart

This is an electronic test chart that will be available as open source. This means anyone who wants to use the chart and modify it would be able to. It should work on just about any operating system.

Data Repository

This was jointly funded by LOCSU and COF. It is being used, as envisaged, to make the case for further commissioning of extended primary care services. For the first time, LOCs, LOC Companies and LOCSU commissioning leads are regularly providing CCGs with amalgamated real-time data to demonstrate the efficiencies, desirable outcomes and positive feedback from patients from existing services. While commissioning as a whole, has slowed due to the development of STPs and the impact this has had on commissioning programmes, the Data Repository itself is already proving to be a valuable tool in persuading commissioners

that these services are viable. The Data Repository is also being used in LOCSU operational and policy work for positioning papers and consultation responses, as well as relevant external stakeholder meetings.

Look out for the Central Optical Fund's name and logo when you read about these projects

Looking to the future the COF still faces three major challenges that the LOCs could greatly assist in.

First: I am stepping down as a director of COF and so there is a vacancy for a director to represent Region 2, which is North West of England. No nominations have been received. If you represent one of the LOCs in this area, please can you consider nominating someone to represent you. The directors meet four times a year in London. Mike Sheen will be taking on the mantle of chairman from the conclusion of the AGM

Second: since the new company was formed, the majority of LOCs have not become members, with only 24 of the 77 LOCs joining so far. It costs nothing to join and the fund from which grants are given has historically come from all LOCs

Thirdly: the income is falling. The COF has had great problems communicating with Capita who do not seem to understand the concept of a voluntary levy. Thus, if the COF is to continue to support the profession, we need your help. Please consider a monthly, annual or ad hoc donation from your LOC funds. Speak to Roy to find out the easiest way to do this.

We want to thank the individuals and LOCs who continue to support the Central Optical Fund.

LOCs please join if you have not already done so.

Ruth Cuthbert
Chairman