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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 Online on Monday 24th November 2025 6.30pm

1. Present

Alan Tinger (FODO), David Hewlett (ELC LOC & FODO), Max Halford (ABDO), Joanne Kain (Dorset LOC), Rachel Robson (Eyecare Trust), Edward Ovenden (L&MB LOC), Peter McElduff (Suffolk LOC), Indervir Atwal (Notts LOC)
Amy Seaman (Director NE), Sue Leighter (Director London and South), Charles Barlow (Director Midlands and SW), Linda Vernon-Wood (Director East), Ian White (Director NW)

2. Election of Chair

Sue Leighter was proposed by Charles Barlow and elected to chair the meeting

3. Apologies

David Cartwright (Eyecare Trust); Sophie Gainsley (on behalf of LOCSU team), Alistair Bridge (ABDO)

4. To receive and approve the Minutes of the 2024 A.G.M.

Held at online at 6.30pm on Monday 25th November 2024. The minutes had been made available via the website and through the email invites and were shared on screen. There were no matters arising.
The chair proposed "The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting are accepted as a true an accurate record of the meeting" seconded by Alan Tinger. The motion was passed with no objections.

5. The Director's Report

Sue Leighter presented a verbal report supported by an online presentation based on the Annual Report of the Fund and providing information on both past projects and current work of the Fund.
Peter McElduff praised the Well Being project and requested earlier notification about NEHW. Rachel Robson welcomed NEHW feedback and better LOC engagement and collaboration. Charles Barlow suggested all LOCs appoint a NEHW officer.
Peter McElduff queried if the Fund was underutilised with subsequent discussion around potential project topics supported by ideas from Edward Ovenden.

6. The Financial Report from the Company Secretary

Charles Barlow as Company Secretary presented a verbal report supported by a chart of accounts. Edward Ovenden and Peter McElduff queried the suitability of IP bursaries for Fund grants. CB responded that whilst all applications are welcome, this type of application would be unlikely to succeed as funding can be available from other sources and many of the funding criteria are unlikely to be met.

7. Resolution to receive and approve the decision of the directors that SJB Chartered Accountants continue as accountants for the company.

The chair proposed "The Resolution is that SJB Chartered Accountants remain as accountants for the company" The motion was passed with no objections.

8. To hold an election (if required) for the Director of Region 1 (North East) and Region 4 (London & South East)

There were no new nominations received therefore Amy Seaman will remain in role as director for the North East and Sue Leighter as director for London and the South East.

9. Any Other Business

Alan Tinger (FODO) thanked the Central Fund for its work on behalf of the sector.

10. Closure of the A.G.M. 7.09 pm