

NORFOLK & WAVENEY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23 JUNE 2021

MINUTES

The 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee was held virtually using Zoom and was called to order at 19:30 on 23 June 2021 by Mrs. Deborah Daplyn. (Chair)

PRESENT:

Twenty three members of the optical professions were invited to join the meeting of who thirty two were recorded as having logged-on.

APOLOGIES FOR ABESENCE: Julien Nelson; Michelle Cade

OBSERVER: Tom Mackley of LOCSU - Returning Officer for the Election of Committee Members.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: NONE

BUSINESS

1. Mrs. Deborah Daplyn welcomed those present to the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31st March 2021.
2. **The Minutes** from the meeting held on 10th June 2020 were approved and signed.
3. **Chair's Report NWLOC. May 2021**

Well what a year that has been. We have all had to wrestle with the challenges brought by the COVID pandemic , aprons that don't fit, glasses that steam up, and who knew just how many knobs there are on a slit lamp until you have to diligently clean them all down after every patient! Maybe we will have better news since this report was written about getting back to normal. Everyone will have huge back logs of patients to deal with and whilst I appreciate that that is taking centre stage at the moment, we do need to be looking forward as well.

Last year saw the introduction and slight modification of the CUES service. As a provider myself, I sympathise with the extra challenges brought about by this service and believe me the LOC is working hard to get further modifications to it, to make it more workable. The hub has certainly taken some of the strain out of need to see patients but unworkable timescales still need to be addressed.

We are also getting used to our new IT system, Opera which has its good and bad points. It does continue to be tweaked as suggestions are received and it will form the backbone of enhanced services in the short to medium term.

As you will be well aware, the NHS is in a bit of a predicament and Ophthalmology has been identified as one of the areas in most need of reorganising. There is a desperate need to see more patients, more efficiently and Community providers (including us) are seen as part of the solution to this. The pathways identified as most needing urgent attention, which are relevant to us, are electronic referrals mechanisms from us to secondary care; more streamlined cataract care, increased glaucoma monitoring and referral refinement, macula referral refinement and urgent eye care i.e. CUES.

You will recognise that in Norfolk (parts of) we already have some of these services in place, albeit in need of some modifications and the LOC is in discussions with the other elements currently. However we recognise that capacity in your practices is limited and poor and unrealistic fees do nothing to create more. We have submitted a proposal for a significant increase in fees and continue to press our case to the fee payers. At the time of writing, I have no update to give you on this but it remains at the top of our agenda as unless this is dealt with in a realistic way then our involvement may have to be limited.

I would also encourage you to follow the progress of the Government's white paper in Health and Social care as this may have ramifications for GOS in the medium term. A link to the paper can be found on the LOC website.

We also have a new website and all of you will need to request registration details afresh in order to access the members' area. I would encourage you to make use of this resource; we are endeavouring to keep it up to date and relevant.

Once again, I would like to thank the work of the committee, some of which has bordered on the heroic over the past year. This remains a challenging time for all of us but new horizons are opening up for those who would like to do things a bit differently...watch this space.

I wish you a healthy and prosperous rest of 2021.

Deborah Daplyn

Chair. NWLOC.

4. Hon Secretary's Report 2021

Before writing this report, I thought I'd reflect on the situation this time last year.

At that time, we were still open for emergency care and repairs etc., with no idea when we would be allowed to perform eye examinations and PPE was only just starting to trickle through. The situation was enough to test the strongest amongst us.

Fast forward a year and we learnt to live with Covid – to an extent. Thankfully, cases have been lower in comparison to most areas of the country. Most of us will have been fully

vaccinated by now, along with the majority of our patients. PPE is readily available and we are able to see patients again, albeit with lower capacity.

One of the biggest knock-on effects has and will be for some time a massive backlog, both in the care of our patients and those needing secondary care. This will present both challenges and opportunities.

On a personal note, the past year has taught me about the importance of efficiency and viability. It has also made me realise how much of our work pre-covid was mostly fuelled by goodwill and a desire to do the best for our communities, heavily subsidised by normal activities. Without the pre-covid capacity to see patients and generate the income to fund this care, the goodwill has run out. The decision makers within the NHS need to realise this and act on it.

Hopefully it won't be much longer before we can attend meetings and CET in person. Online interaction is better than nothing, but it's not the same. Here's to hoping the next 12 months will be more predictable.

Ed Adkins

Hon. Sec. NWLOC.

5. Treasurers Report 2021

Unsurprisingly the levy income was lower over the year April 2020 to March 2021 but thanks to a suitable contingency fund although the closing balance is lower than opening the committee has been able to fund all the work that has taken place without increasing the levy. The loss over the year was in the region of 8K (£8226.89) LOCSU who have been exploring their future role now that PECs deal with extended services eg CUES have not requested any change in the levy they receive this year (currently 0.5%), during the first lockdown they suspended the levy due, saving the LOC just over £2000.00 This years NOC was virtual saving cost in transport and time away from practice, all committee meetings were held by zoom - also reducing costs, no meeting rooms or travel. Those contractors who support the voluntary Central (LOC) Fund continue to do so at a rate they can set themselves on PCSE online. The contributions to the fund have dropped from about £400-£500 per month to £10-£30, a concern to the directors of fund as this seems to be the case nationwide. I will declare that I am the Central Optical Fund director for our region, originally getting involved as I wanted to know what they were doing with YOUR money. The directors have worked hard this year updating the website, systems and processes. We received the report from Cardiff University 3D Virtual Eye Clinic Project, support funded National Eye Health week and agreed to support LOCSU in its work on the **Stronger Together: Collaborative Primary Care at Scale 2020/21 State of Nation report.**

Linda Vernon-Wood

Treasurer, Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee

6. Scrutinised Financial Accounts for year ended 31st March 2021

Norfolk & Waveney LOC Financial Report 2020-21	
<u>Income</u>	
Statutory Levy	£ 41,202.62
Other	£ 5,330.50
<u>Total Income</u>	£ 46,533.12
<u>Expenditure</u>	
Honoraria	£ 4,632.00
Admin fees	£7,792.48
Admin travel	£0.00
Members fees	£16,027.83
Members travel	£72.00
Meeting Rooms	£143.88
Website	£60.00
Office costs	£474.72
Training & NOC	£575.00
AGM & Misc	£ 5,338.16
Central Fund	£ 2,151.84
Payment to LOCSU	£ 17,492.10
<u>Total Expenditure</u>	£ 54,760.01
Balance brought forward 5/4/20	£ 44,939.16
Income	£ 46,533.12
Expenditure	£ 54,760.01
Balance as 5/4/21	£ 36,712.27
Treasurer	
Scrutineer: Helen Hillis	
Scrutineer: Michelle Cade	

7. **Accounts Scrutineers appointed for 20121-22:** Rachel Adkins & Hellen Hillis

8. **Motion to give the Hon, Treasurer the authority to vary the Statutory Levy between 0.4% and 0.9% as required to achieve a satisfactory account balance by the end of the financial year.**

Proposed: Elizabeth Bunn Seconded: Roger Lee:

Motion passed: nem con.

9. **Committee Election**

The Constitution requires one third of the Committee members to retire each year; the members standing down this year are Charlotte Barber, Julien Nelson, Ian Sinha and Dan Rosser. Each of these committee members indicated they will stand for re-election and there

being no other nominations these four members were re-elected unopposed.

Mrs. Daplyn said she was happy to take questions later and closed the meeting at 19:41 hrs.

Signed..... Date.....

Deborah Daplyn, Chair Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee