

# NORFOLK & WAVENEY LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 8 JUNE 2022

### MINUTES

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The 2022 Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee was held virtually using Zoom and was called to order at 19:30 on 8th June 2022 by Mrs. Deborah Daplyn. (Chair)

**PRESENT:** Ed Adkins, Charlotte Berryman, Elizabeth Bunn, Deborah Daplyn, Kate Fenn, Michelle Horn, Roger Lee, Julien Nelson, Niall O'Brien, Dan Rosser, Ian Sinha, Linda Vernon-Wood, Peter Hutchinson (Administrator), Julia Maiden – LOCSU Representative, Catherine Hedges – Optical Representative Norfolk & Waveney Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Martin Ling, Rachel Adkins, Osinachi Okafor, James Donaghy, Chidinma Usim, Moin Sarodia, Catharine Bushby.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Robert Conway

**OBSERVER:** Julia Maiden of LOCSU - Returning Officer for the Election  
Catherine Hedges – Optical Representative to Norfolk & Waveney Health & Wellbeing Partnership

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**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: NONE**

### BUSINESS

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1. Mrs. Deborah Daplyn welcomed those present to the Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee Annual General Meeting for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
2. **The Minutes** from the meeting held on 23rd June 2021 were displayed. Ian Sinha proposed they be accepted as a true and accurate record, seconded by Ed Adkins. The minutes were duly approved and signed.
3. **Chair's Report NWLOC. May 2022**

By the time you read this we will have finally transitioned back to the Green Phase and I hope are still in it! Hopefully this means that we can all start getting back to normal although the world continues to be a very uncertain place at the moment.

This year has proved to be quite a frustrating one for the LOC as; quite understandably, the commissioners have been busy trying to deal with the problems of the wider NHS. This culminated in the "eye team" being seconded to other COVID related roles for nearly 4 months and thus almost nothing progressed for us. Happily, the team are now back in place and very engaged in dealing with some of the issues which have been dragging on for a long time.

In case you missed it, we are now back to one whole area again, an Integrated Care System (ICS )and they are keen to unify services across the whole of our patch, wherever possible which should make some of the border issues easier .

We are at an advanced stage of agreeing a new post cataract assessment contract with a substantially increased fee. Once this is done, post op patients from the NNUH, Newmedica, Spamedica and the JPUH will all be handled through the Opera IT system. We will shortly be putting out a call for all practices and practitioners who wish to be involved to come forward for training, so that we can really roll this out properly.

We still hope to hold an OSCE for the glaucoma training but sadly not enough candidates have so far come forward to make it financially viable. We are exploring the possibility of running a joint session with Suffolk LOC, so it might still be possible. We will be in touch when we know more.

We have also put in a request for increased fees across all our other enhanced services and this will be dealt with once the cataract contract is complete. The LOC has also been asked to attend preliminary discussions around electronic referrals, EeRs, which is already up and running in other parts of the country. I will keep everyone posted on progress as this is potentially quite a big change.

We would also encourage you to read about, and engage with, the GOC's current consultation on changes to the Opticians Act. There are some fairly radical changes being considered in the consultation which will genuinely affect the way in which we all practice.

Sadly, we had to wind up the Local Optical Association (LOA) committee this year and so the provision of CET and training has been taken on by the LOC. We have made a slow start but look forward to providing relevant and topical CET for all.

Our speaker tonight is from a new initiative to provide support around health and wellbeing for all those in primary care practice, in Norfolk & Waveney including Optometry. We have information on our website, do please go and have a look, there is a wealth of help and information out there. And don't forget to register for and use the website, we are trying to keep it up to date and it should be your first port of call should you have a question for us.

It remains for me to thank the whole committee who continue to work on your behalf, giving up so much of their time for (hopefully) your benefit. We always need new talent for the committee, the East being under represented at the moment, so if are interested, please do let me know.

Many thanks for your continued support

Deborah Daplyn

Chair NWLOC

#### **4. Hon Secretary's Report 2022**

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.

### **Treasurers Report 2022**

Income from the levy (0.5%) was up on the previous year (marking a return to some sort of normality post covid pandemic) although still the lowest since 2016-17. Expenditure was less than income allowing some of the contingency fund, utilized during the pandemic, to be replenished, something the LOC is aiming to continue for the next few years. Virtual meetings have continued to save costs.

LOCSU has not requested any change in the portion of the levy it receives (currently 0.5%). We look forward to the NOC.

Those contractors who support the voluntary Central (LOC) Fund continue to do so at a rate they can set for themselves at PCSE online. This part of the levy is sent straight to The Central Fund rather than having to be transferred from the LOC account. CoF has supported many projects, including National Eye Health week and are always keen to hear from practitioners who want to run small research projects that may benefit the whole profession. Please see the website for details about applying for funding.

Declaration of interest: I am a Central Optical Fund Director for region 5 which includes Norfolk & Waveney.

Linda Vernon-Wood

Hon. Treasurer, Norfolk & Waveney Local Optical Committee

## 5. Scrutinised Financial Accounts for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

<b>Norfolk &amp; Waveney LOC</b>	
Financial Report 2021-22	
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Statutory Levy	£58,642.59
Other	£2,376.27
<b><u>Total Income</u></b>	<b>£61,018.86</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>	
Honoraria	£4,743.00
Admin fees	5582.01
Admin travel	0.00
Members fees	16430.16
Members travel	0.00
Meeting Rooms	143.88
Website	180.00
Office costs	805.00
Training & NOC	640.00
AGM & Misc.	£0.00
Central Fund	£93.01
Payment to LOCSU	£29,274.78
<b><u>Total Expenditure</u></b>	<b>£57,891.84</b>
Balance brought forward 5/4/21	£36,712.27
Income	£61,018.86
Expenditure	£57,891.84
<b>Balance as 6/4/22</b>	<b>£39,839.29</b>

**6. Accounts Scrutineers for 20121-22:** Rachel Adkins & Hellen Hillis; both agreed to continue as scrutineers for 2023

**7. 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: Linda Vernon-Wood Seconded: Ed Adkins:

Motion passed: nem con.

## 8. Committee Election

The Constitution requires one third of the Committee members to retire each year; the

members standing down this year are Deborah Daplyn, Niall O'Brien, Linda Vernon-Wood and Elizabeth Bunn. Each of these committee members has indicated their willingness to stand for re-election.

There being no other candidate 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