



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: M I N U T E S

Devon Local Optical Committee Annual General Meeting
Thursday 13th May 2021, 7pm
Meeting via Zoom

Venue: Zoom

Present: Charles Bill, Clive Parker, Daniel Tabb, Deborah Bill, Elizabeth Sullivan, Emma Hill, Ian Holten, Kiki Soteri, Kym Balcomb, Leanne Smewing, Luisa Simo, Mark Bushby, Max Halford, Michael Beavis, Peter Noakes, Simon Brooks and Steve McCluskey

Apologies: Fiona Hiscox and Nicki Pullen

Chair: Max Halford

Welcome

Max Halford welcomed everyone to the 2021 Devon LOC AGM.

Apologies for absence and Minutes of the last meeting

Jonathan Drew also welcomed everyone to the AGM

Apologies for absence listed above

No comments were received on the minutes of the 2019 AGM – therefore the minutes were taken as an accurate representation of the meeting and sign off formally at the AGM.

Outcome of committee nominations and confirmation of committee for 2021/22

5 places were available on the committee in 2021 (for a three-year term). 4 nominations were received: Michael Beavis, Simon Brooks, Daniel Tabb and Leanne Smewing.

Due to the number of candidates standing for election being lower than the number of places available all candidates were deemed to be successful and were formally voted onto the committee by all present.

The committee for 2021/22 will be:

Michael Beavis, Charles Bill, Simon Brooks, Max Halford, Fiona Hiscox, Ian Holten, Steve McCluskey, Peter Noakes, Luisa Simo, Daniel Tabb and Leanne Smewing.

According to the LOC Constitution the LOC can co-opt up to 3 people. Elizabeth Sullivan and Kym Balcomb will be co-opted to the committee for the next 12 months.

Treasurer's report – Daniel Tabb

Jonathan Drew introduced Daniel Tabb for the Treasurer's Report:

See Treasurer's report here:



Treasurer's Report
2020-2021.pdf

Daniel gave an overview of the accounts for the past two years (2019/20 and 2020/21). COVID-19 has had an impact on the accounts. The LOC are working in different ways (remote working).

There is a tighter budget and the LOC have used reserves over the past 12 months. Full details are contained within the attached treasurers report.

Adoption of accounts for 2019/20 and 2021

See accounts here:



Devon LOC Accounts Summary 201920.pdf



Devon LOC Accounts Summary 202021.pdf

Treasurer's report and accounts were distributed prior to the AGM- the treasurer presented the accounts to the committee for adoption.

Proposed by: Steve McCluskey

Seconded by: Luisa Simo

All present agreed the LOC accounts for 2019/20 and 2020/21

Honorarium

The treasurer gave an overview and explanation of the honoraria and explained that no honoraria had been paid in 2019-2020 due to the pandemic effect on the LOC income.

It was decided, by the committee, that the Honorarium should remain unchanged from previous years for 2020/21, generating the following:

- Chairman - £1,661.00
- Vice-Chairman - £357.00
- Treasurer - £1,329.00
- Secretary - £357.00

The Honoraria was proposed by Michael Beavis and Seconded by Peter Noakes. All present agreed with one abstention.

LOC Statutory Levy

A discussion followed regarding the statutory levy for 2021/22

It was proposed that the levy will remain unchanged as previously agreed at a Devon LOC AGM in 2019(1.5%). it was proposed that the levy will remain at 1.5% until reserves back to 6 months of working capital in the Devon LOC accounts. A balance is required between not increasing the levy, building reserves and the increased workload of the committee over the next 12 months.

The LOC statutory levy is a standing item on each LOC meeting

The LOC continue to pay the LOCSU Levy monthly at the level of 0.5%.

The levies were supported by the treasurer with no objections from all present

A question was asked regarding how long it will take to have LOC reserves back to normal. Unsure how long this will take – the LOC will be working over the next 12 months to get back to 6 months reserves. Income has reduced by 30% over the last 12 months

Jonathan Drew thanked Daniel Tabb for the Treasurers Report and introduced Max Halford for the Chairman’s report

Chairman’s Report – Max Halford

See Chairman’s report here:



Devon LOC AGM
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Written Questions

Five written questions received:

1. Who in North Devon is responsible for holding back the development of primary care in optometry? Why are we so behind Plymouth?
This would be the HES (North Devon District Hospital and the consultants). Devon CCG are supportive of the use of primary care (as per Plymouth) but cannot mandate to the acutes. Enhanced services in the community in other parts of the county has been helped by engaged consultants in those acutes who are supportive of the primary care workforce. We are now in discussions with North Devon District Hospital regarding a post-op cataract follow-up service.
2. Levy for next year? **See above section**
3. Visual fields in practice – when are practices performing them?
Primary Care are currently under amber phase of the COVID-19 College of Optometrists guidance which means patients are seen and tests undertaken when clinically necessary. It is unknown when the amber phase will change.
4. Not a specific question, but maybe general discussions around what seems like obstructive processing of the new NHS forms and unwarranted returns of vouchers and withholding of payments. I understand that this is a national problem and I guess the LOC can't really offer much help, but maybe still worthy of mention.
This is a national problem, and the LOC are engaged with PCSE from a clinical and administration point of view. LOCSU are also liaising with PCSE at a national level on the issues experience by optician practices. If practices are having problems which they cannot resolve following the guidance on the PCSE website, we would advise them to contact the LOC (admin@devonloc.co.uk) and we will try and help where

possible.

5. I am currently doing the independent prescribing course and Exeter RD&E could not allow me to do my 12 days of practical placement back in Jan. Could the LOC help me in any way in applying now to make my case stronger?

This has been discussed by the LOC and the issues have been recognised by the LOC. The LOC will take this forward with all the HESs in Devon and the Ophthalmology lead for the Clinical Commissioning Group.

Closing remarks

Max thanked the committee, and the LOC team for their support during the year and welcomed the new committee members.

Date of next Devon LOC AGM

May 2022 (Date to be confirmed)