

**DORSET LOC AGM MINUTES – 4th SEPTEMBER 2023**

**RNLI COLLEGE - POOLE**

1. Apologies : Carolyn Hudd (new secretary), Ian Underwood. Thanks to Kirsty Tuke for her work as the previous secretary, who left us in August 2023.
2. Minutes from last meeting - unavailable at present, will be emailed out in due course.
3. Matters arising – following Grace Haine’s resignation Jane Bell will be taking over as interim Chair.
4. Chair’s Report – Grace Haine

Well, there have been a few changes since our last AGM on 7/6/22, the first one being that this is my last report as Chair having resigned in March.

I would like to thank Ali for stepping up from Treasurer to cover the Chair whilst a replacement can be arranged. I would also like to thank the rest of the committee for their support over the last couple of years as Chair and my decision to step down.

The regular monthly meetings with the Dorset Eyecare Board have continued, unless interrupted by industrial action. These meetings are our main point of contact with both hospitals, representation from the NHS trust, CHEC and ourselves. It is a chance for us to get progress reports on the waiting lists from the hospitals and their recovery plans post-Covid. I spent much of my time at these meeting raising our concerns over the initial service offered by CHEC and the on-going issues that have occurred with service and the coverage across the whole of Dorset.

I had also continued to have quarterly meetings virtually with both the LMC and the LPC, which fed into a newly established committee under the Integrated Care Board – called POD (Pharmacy, Dentistry and Opticians).

This has been set up as the Dorset Integrated Care Board has taken on the responsibility for the delegated commissioning for all of us, from NHS England, within the limitations of our national contracts. However, is part of a collaborative commissioning hub for the South-West, which is looking at establishing integrated pathways across primary, community and secondary care. Representations have been made as to the various additional pathways that we can offer help with, for the appropriate fees.

We have also attended regional and national meetings with LOCSU and once again these have been invaluable to keep us in the loop with things nationally and regionally. They are also helping us with succession planning within the committee itself.

As always, I would like to thank the whole committee for all their hard work on your behalf, as always we have been working very hard behind the scenes to try and ensure that here in Dorset we can provide the best eyecare possible within the commissioned schemes, and improve them where we can.

Looking to the future we are establishing a co-operative relationship with the commissioners locally and hope to impact the provision of eyecare across providers. We are always looking for contractors and performers to be involved in those changes via the committee. If you are interested in the becoming a member of the committee, please have a chat with one of us.

Grace thanked Jane for filling in as Interim Chair and thanked the other committee members for their support during her time as LOC Chair, which she has been proud to serve as a DO.

1. Input from new interim Chair – Jane Bell

The committee are keen to get the LOC up and running again effectively. Jane has put out a plea for anyone willing to supply LVA services in the West of the County.

1. Treasurer's Report – Ali Yasen

Independent adjudicators, Julian May and Parag Patel have verified our account statements, the balances of which stand currently at:

CURRENT: £25,224.32

SAVINGS: £18,718.79

I have kept a close eye on our expenditure and in the past year this has produced a pleasing uptick in our current account balance. In part this is due to COVID and the lack of physical events, as well as the previous Chair stepping down in recent months. The vast majority of any work, travel or meeting time conducted by committee members has been completely voluntary and not claimed for.

The main change in the past year was that on advice from independent financial advisors, all statutory bodies and similar organisations must enrol onto a formal payroll system such that payments are made via PAYE. This was therefore implemented in the new tax year beginning in April 2023.

The main expense each month is the payment to LOCSU which stands at 50% of the levy we collect from contractors. Despite their invaluable help in the past couple of months, this equates to roughly £21,000 each year. This has been raised as an issue to discuss with LOCSU, which I am preparing to do.

As there is a healthier cash flow this year, we may be able to explore helping fund MECS OCSEs and CPD events. Other suggestions are also welcome. With the possibility of new members joining and hopefully more action being taken, this time should ideally be paid for. This could start to impact the cashflow before funding further events.

Julian May and Parag Patel to continue as auditors for the coming year.

1. Education – Ali Yasen

Education is being passed back to Grace Haine, a new CPD account needs to be created and details of any future events will be distributed in due course.

1. Social media/ website – Ali Yasen

The website is currently out of date but the new secretary Carolyn will be tasked with bringing it fully up to date and keeping control of social media.

1. LOCSU segment – Alvaro Borges

Alvaro gave an outline of LOCSU and what they do.

LOCSU is a support unit for LOC’s acting as a centralised support organisation.

They can provide a wealth of Clinical Pathways, with three new pathways being developed in the last year.

They were heavily involved in the National Consultation GOS Review.

They annually run the National Optical Conference, which he would urge LOC members to attend.

LOCSU are supplying PayRoll support services to LOC’s following the change to PAYE for members. They can also offer support with websites and advice for Treasurers.

New committee member training is also provided. WOPEC codes for training are supplied from LOCSU.

Electronic Referrals were the challenge for 2023.

The change for CCG’s to ICU should offer more flexibility for the future.

Joining as an LOC member can open up various opportunities and can change your professional life.

He thanked the Committee for being invited to the AGM in such a beautiful setting.

1. New committee member nominations: Suzanne Flay, Chris Quinton, Alix Trott, Ashton Galloway.

The new members were welcomed to the committee.

1. Future meeting dates – TBC whilst in transition
2. AOB

Speaker Mr Mohammed Rashid was welcomed as speaker.