

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Retina UK

Saturday 9th July 2022 at 4.00pm.

Macdonald Burlington Hotel, 126 New Street, Birmingham, B2 4JQ and online.

The charity's formal AGM was the final session of the Retina UK Annual Conference 2022.

An audio recording of this session is available on request.

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman, Martin Kirkup opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance, both in person and online.

The Professional's Conference, the Annual Conference and the AGM were held as hybrid events for the first time and grateful thanks were passed on to Tina Garvey and the Retina UK team, not only for their excellent work in organising the conferences but for all their hard work over the past year.

The Board of Trustees, Medical Advisory Board, community fundraisers and charity Ambassadors were also thanked by the Chairman for their ongoing support, important work and unwavering commitment.

2. Introductions

The Chairman introduced Ashley Grist, the new charity Treasurer and Trustee and also Tina Garvey, CEO.

Other members of the Board of Trustees both in the audience and online were welcomed.

3. Apologies

No formal apologies were noted.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM (result of online voting)

Confirmation was given that the quorum had been exceeded for all AGM 2022 voting items.

Proposers and seconders had been sought in advance due to the high number of attendees online.

The minutes from the previous meeting, held virtually on 17th April 2021 were approved as a true record by 27 votes, 1 abstention and 0 objections. Janet Crookes proposed and Ashley Grist seconded.

5. Presentation of the two annual reports and accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 and year ended 31st December 2021

The Chairman handed over to Ashley Grist as Treasurer who thanked Janet Crookes, his predecessor for her long years of valuable stewardship and handover.

- The disruption caused by the pandemic and the restrictions on activities continued to have a significant impact in 2021. However, income from fundraising activities, government grants, trust and corporate donors was at a similar level to 2020.
- Total income for the year ended 31st December 2020 was £2,128,494 (including £1,095,391 legacy income).
- Total income for the year ended 31st December 2021 was £1,239,135 (including £219,531 legacy income).
- Information and support activity provision for the community continued, spending £470,847 in 2021, in line with the previous year.
- Grants and donations of £95,867 were awarded for medical research in 2021 (£543,559 in 2020). This reduced amount was in line with the decision to wait for the research community to return to full scale activity, post pandemic.
- At 31st December 2021 total funds were £2,023,342, enabling the charity to make new medical research grants in 2022.
- The investment policy remains unchanged and the charity holds equities in a CAF Balanced Growth Fund with the objective of gaining a return in excess of that available on short term deposits.
- The Annual Report document shows the financial statements have been audited by Azets Audit Services who confirm they give a true and fair view of the charity's affairs and have been properly prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.
- The Treasurer recommended the Annual Report and accounts for adoption.

6. Resolution: Adoption of the Annual Report and accounts for 2020 and 2021 (result of online voting)

2020 – Approved by 27 votes, 1 abstention and 0 objections.

2021 – Approved by 27 votes, 1 abstention and 0 objections.

Simon Keightley proposed and Paresh Makwana seconded.

7. Resolution: The appointment of the auditors (result of online voting)

The audit committee's recommendation to reappoint Azets Audit Services was approved by 27 votes, 1 abstention and 0 objections.

Simon Keightley proposed and Paresh Makwana seconded.

8. Presentation of Retina UK activity in 2021 and 2022 overview

2021 was a challenging year and the charity contained activities in a cautious manner to reflect the uncertainty that affected research, fundraising and the general economy.

The charity continued to support the community by responding to the significantly higher demand for support from those who found the year as challenging as the previous year due to the pandemic.

Despite the challenges medical researchers have faced, their work continues with energy and determination to find new understanding of therapies, providing hope and promise for the future.

In 2022 we will ensure every opportunity is taken to reinvigorate fundraising activities, working with our community, trusts, corporates and individuals. Strong reserves for medical research activity will enable the charity to put out further calls for research, informed by the strategic reviewing process.

9. The appointment of trustees (result of online voting)

During 2021, the process to seek new Trustees resulted in exceptional applications. Four successfully nominated candidates bring a wealth of experience in the pharmaceutical, business development, law and ophthalmology fields to the Board.

The Chairman announced Roger Backhouse retires by rotation and is standing for re-election. This was approved by 28 votes, 0 abstentions and 0 objections.

The new elections of Vanessa Forster, Ashley Grist, Simon Keightley and Paresh Makwana were each supported by 28 votes, 0 abstentions and 0 objections.

All Trustee appointments were proposed by Elizabeth Graham and seconded by Lynda Cantor.

10. Any other business

There were no questions or any other business.

11. Chairman's closing remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, both in person and online and the Retina UK team. The AGM was formally closed.

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