

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Retina UK**

**Saturday 24 June 2023 at 4:00pm**

University Of Westminster, Marylebone Campus, 309 Regent Street, London, W1B 2HW and online.

The charity's formal AGM was the final session of the Retina UK Annual Conference 2023.

An audio recording is available on request.

### **1. Welcome**

The Chairman, Dr Martin Kirkup opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance, both in-person and online.

The Professional's Conference, Annual Conference and AGM are hybrid events for the second time and much appreciation was shown for all attendees over the two days. Feedback from the content, presentations, topics covered and organisation of the events has proved unanimously positive and gratitude was shown and passed on to the entire Retina UK team for their hard work in running all events, in particular Matthew Carr.

Due to their generosity, the University of Westminster were prepared to sponsor the event by covering the costs of the venue hire, enabling the conferences to be held in person in London. A vote of thanks was given to all University staff and the Vice Chancellor for all their help and contribution.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies from Ms Rachael Stevens and Mr Roger Backhouse were given.

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM (result of online voting)**

Note - The quorum of all votes required for each item has been exceeded.

The approval of the minutes of the previous AGM received 29 votes, 1 abstention and no objections. This approval was proposed by Mr Ashley Grist and seconded by Mr Paresh Makwana.

### **4. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

The Chairman handed over to Retina UK's Treasurer, Ashley Grist to present the Annual Report & Accounts for year ended 31 December 2022.

- The backdrop for fundraising in 2022 continued to be a tough economic climate, already fragile following the pandemic and further impacted by the food and fuel inflations as a result of the war in Ukraine. Despite this, total income increased by 26% versus 2021.
- Non-legacy income was broadly in line with the previous year thanks to major donor grants, a further grant received by the UK Government Medical Research Support Fund, and the relentless efforts of our fundraising team and volunteers across our community.
- Legacy income was £535,255, which is above the average amount received over the past five years. The total income for the year came to £1,562,632 - £323,497 better than the prior year mostly due to the increased legacy income.
- The majority of income is from voluntary sources, the key elements being the donations and fundraising efforts of individuals and groups across the UK. In addition vital funds from corporate and trust donors have been received and a number of legacies. Trustees are aware of the unpredictability of

all income sources and the need to continue to develop all income channels. Appreciation is given to all those who give us support.

- The charity continued to provide information and other support activities for the community, spending £615,141 in 2022, a 31% increase versus the previous year, due primarily to developing the website, the return to an in-person annual conference and salary inflation. Grants and donations of £531,622 for medical research were awarded, more than five times the amount in 2021 and a return to pre-pandemic levels.
- As a result of income received and activities undertaken in 2022 there was a small net increase in funds of £13,284 and at 31 December 2022, total funds were £2,036,626.
- The charity's investment policy remains unchanged; for any funds surplus to short term requirements, deposits on fixed terms of up to one year are considered. 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. This investment forms the core of the amount held under our Reserves Policy, and is held for the long term. No investment increase is planned in equities as the charity will continue to seek to spend income on suitable medical research projects and on information and support programs.
- Finally, as the Annual Report document confirms, the financial statements have been audited by Azets Audit Services who confirm they give a true and fair view of the charity's affairs, have been properly prepared in accordance with UK Accounting Standards, and with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

The Treasurer recommended the Annual Report and Accounts to members for adoption.

## **5. Adoption of the annual report and accounts for 2022 (result of online voting)**

The Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 were approved with 30 votes, 0 abstentions and 0 objections. Mr Paresh Makwana proposed and Dr Elizabeth Graham seconded.

## **6. The appointment of the auditors (result of online voting)**

The audit committee's recommendation for the appointment of Azets Audit Services were approved with 29 votes, 1 abstention and 0 objections. Mr Paresh Makwana proposed and Dr Elizabeth Graham seconded.

## **7. Presentation of Retina UK activity in 2022 and 2023 overview**

As much of Retina UK's activity has been reported throughout the conferences and is readily available in the Annual Report and website, the Chairman summarised by giving full recognition to all those who support the charity, including members of the community who have continued to fundraise and donate despite the current economic situation.

Appreciation was also given to the Retina UK team for their hard work throughout the year. Volunteers, ambassadors and trustees were also recognised for their commitment and time contribution to support the charity and the wider community.

The independent Medical Advisory Board said a fond farewell to their chair, Professor Susan Downes and showed a debt of gratitude for her excellent contributions in her time with them since 2018. Professor Tara Moore was given a warm welcome as their new chair.

## **8. The appointment of trustees (result of online voting)**

The re-election of Dr Lucy Withington as a trustee was approved with 30 votes, 0 abstentions and 0 objections. Dr Elizabeth Graham proposed and Mr Simon Keightley seconded.

## **9. Any other business**

There were no questions or any other business.