

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2008 at the Wales Millennium Centre, Bute Place, Cardiff, CF10 5AL

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Present

President	Mr S Churton
Vice-President	Mr M Astbury
Treasurer	Mr A Gush

Mr S Acres	Ms S Agha
Mr G Alexander	Mrs M Allan
Professor N Barber	Mrs C Brown
Mr David Carter	Dr B Curwain
Mrs D Drury	Dr C Duggan
Dr P Entwistle	Mr J Gentle
Mrs S Hikins	Mrs L Jacobs
Mr J Jolley	Mr A Kershaw
Mrs S Kilby	Ms A Moore
Ms M Saunders	Mr D Simpson
Mr D Thomson	

In attendance

Mrs B Taylor, Chairman of the English Pharmacy Board, Mrs S Melville, Chairman of the Scottish Pharmacy Board and Mr M Donovan, Chairman of the Welsh Pharmacy Board.

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar

08/107 Apologies for absence

Mr R Jobling, Ms Y Liddell, Professor B Michell, Ms J Ramsey, Professor K Wilson

08/108 Declaration of interests

The President reminded Council members that declarations of interest should be made by individual Council members at the beginning of the relevant item.

08/109 Welcome to guests

The President welcomed the following guests Marilyn Davies, Morgannwg Branch; Mair Davies, Welsh Pharmacy Board; Damien Dowling, Cardiff & Vale Trust; Kate Kinsey, Manchester Branch; Fiona Price, Welsh Pharmacy Board; David Qualter, Pharmacist Support; Martha Rogers, Guernsey Branch;

08/110 Minutes of the public business part of the meetings of Council held on 24 July 2008 and on 4 September 2008
Council

resolved

that the minutes of the public business parts of the meetings held on 24 July and on 4 September 2008 be received and agreed as a correct record.

08/111 Matters arising from the public business part of the minutes not specifically included in the agenda

Minutes of 4 September 2008:

Policy and communications forum (minute 08/98 refers)

Following discussion at the Officers group and Executive awayday,
Council

agreed

that in addition to the Officers the other two members of the Council elected to work with the Officers would also be members of the Forum.

Professional leadership matters

08/112 British Pharmaceutical Conference 2008

Mr John Gentle, Chairman of the Conference Committee, reported that the BPC 2008 had been very successful. The opening of the conference on the Sunday had attracted a large number of members, and initial feedback from members, sponsors and all those participating had been positive. There had been considerable interest from the national press and a record number of articles had appeared.

The President thanked all those involved in making the conference a success, particularly Andrew Lloyd, Science Chairman and Carmel Hughes, Practice Chairman.

Council

noted

the report.

08/113 Branch Representatives' Meeting (BRM) 2008

Mr John Gentle, Council Branch Sponsor, introduced paper 08.10/C/8, which had been circulated.

Council considered the draft responses and with the amendments proposed,
Council

agreed

the Council responses to the resolutions of the Branch Representatives' Meeting on 22 May 2008.

08/114 Pharmacist Support

Mr David Thomson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Benevolent Fund, updated the Council on the work of *Pharmacist Support*.

Following changes in the Charity Commission regulations, the Society had changed the trust deed for the Benevolent Fund, which now constituted two Council members (Mr Thomson and Ms Agha), two lay members and four Fellows of the Society of long standing. The Trustees had developed a business plan and a marketing plan to implement the business plan. A manager had been in post for one year – Mr David Qualter, and a considerable amount of progress had been made. Following a questionnaire in *The Pharmaceutical Journal* and work with focus groups, the Trustees had made significant changes. The Fund had been re-named *Pharmacist Support* and had been re-launched with great interest at the BPC in September 2008.

Mr Qualter commented that links with a number of pharmacist bodies were being pursued, a new interactive website had been established and the number of contacts had increased.

Council welcomed the progress made and congratulated Mr Qualter and the Trustees on their work.

Council

noted

the report.

08/115 The Society's awards

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar, introduced paper 08.10/C/88, which had been circulated.

Mr Holmes informed the Council that a proposal was being developed for an award for a "local champion" to recognise local initiative and leadership, and that that local award should be established as soon as possible.

Council strongly supported that one facet of the new professional body should be to recognise professionals through appropriate awards.

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Council

agreed

that, with the exception of the local champion award, no new awards be created until after the new professional body was established.

08/116 Pharmacy Practice Framework 2008

Dr Sue Ambler, Education Policy Lead introduced paper 08.10/C/89, which had been circulated. The Framework was the result of a Council led project started in 2006 and overseen by a Council Working Group. The Framework would inform the setting of both regulatory and professional standards and provide a foundation for the development of advanced frameworks in key areas like industry and veterinary pharmacy and the definition of advanced general practice and specialist clinical practice.

Dr Ambler thanked the Special Interest Groups and Committees at the Society and the PPI team for their help in securing valuable input from across the profession and from the public and patients. A key objective of the

project from the outset was to secure buy-in from across the different sectors in pharmacy and across the Society.

Ms Marcia Saunders, a member of the project group, commended the Framework to the Council as it established the core aspects of all scopes of practice and principles going forward for the professional body and the regulator. A number of Council members supported that view.

Other Council members were of the view that the Framework should have been discussed by the Council's Education Committee before being brought to Council for approval for publication.

Council voted on the proposal that the Framework should be referred to the Education Committee. The proposal was carried.

With the minor amendments noted in the discussion,

Council

agreed

to refer the Pharmacy Practice Framework to the Education Committee for consideration prior to Council discussion in December 2008.

08/117 Research strategy 2007 – 2011: Update on progress

Council

noted

- i. progress made in commissioning the first phase of projects taking forward the second 2007-2011 Research Strategy which focuses on three priority areas: patients, medicines and professionalism in pharmacy; patient safety and pharmacy practice; social capital, health inequalities and pharmacy, and
- ii. progress made on completing (publishing and disseminating) projects from the initial 2002-2006 Research Strategy which focussed on three priorities: workforce, education and ethics.

Regulatory matters

08/118 Rules: Fees 2009

Mr Andrew Gush, Treasurer, introduced paper 08.10/C/92, which had been circulated. He thanked Mrs Wendy Harris, Deputy Registrar & Director of Regulation and the Fees team for their work on the fees proposals for 2009.

Council

made

- i. the Rules as attached to the paper, and

noted

- ii. that following the required gazetting, the revised Byelaws had been sent to the Privy Council for approval.

08/119 Board of Examiners fees

Mr Andrew Gush, Treasurer, introduced paper 08.10/C/96, which had been circulated. The proposal was intended to address an inequity in the fees for different groups within the Society.

Council

agreed

- i. the following fees for Examiners for the remainder of 2008
Chairman – Overall Chair - £330 per day
Chairman – Scottish Chair - £330 per day
Board members - £223 per day.

Council further

agreed

- ii. that the fees for the Board of Examiners Chairmen and members should in future increase annually and remain in line with those paid to the Chairmen of Health, Investigating, Registration Appeals Committees (non-legally qualified) and Accreditation Panel Team Leaders, and for members, with the fees paid to panel members for Health, Investigating, Registration Appeals Committees and Accreditation Team members.

08/120 Regulation of pharmacy technicians: Certification for those transferring from the voluntary register to the statutory register

Dr Sue Ambler, Education Policy Lead introduced paper 08.10/C/93, which had been circulated.

Mr Steven Acres declared an interest as the Vice-President of the UK Association of Pharmacy Technicians and supported the proposals.

Council

agreed

- i. that pharmacy technicians whose names were transferred from the voluntary register to the statutory register would be issued with a letter of certification in that register; and
- ii. that pharmacy technicians whose applications for registration were granted after the statutory register came into force continue to be issued with a certificate of registration identical in format to the certificate issued to pharmacy technicians registered in the voluntary register, until such time as the Society's regulatory powers transfer to the General Pharmaceutical Council.

08/121 Transitional registration criteria for pharmacy technicians: clarification of qualification requirements relating to the Boots 1 year dispenser training programme

The President declared an interest and declined to chair the item. The Vice-President took the Chair.

Dr Sue Ambler, Education Policy Lead introduced paper 08.10/C/94, which had been circulated.

Council

agreed

that the transitional registration criteria for pharmacy technicians be amended by the addition of an end date of 07/03/2005 for achievement of the Boots 1 year dispenser training programme.

The President resumed the Chair.

08/122 Referral from Law & Ethics Committee: Pandemic Flu – possible amendments to legislation

Mr David Carter, Chairman of Law & Ethics Committee, introduced paper 08.10/C/95, which had been circulated. The Department of Health had consulted regarding possible changes to medicines legislation to deal with a pandemic flu crisis. Council had agreed in February 2008 that the Society's response should support the proposals to enable the use of date expired and patient returned medicines, subject to consultation with the profession and others. A public consultation was held and the Law & Ethics Committee, having considered the responses to the consultation, recommended that the Council should agree that the Society's standards and guidance for the sale and supply of medicines should be amended as set out in the paper.

Dr Phillida Entwistle, a member of the Society Drug Donations Working Group (DDWB), drew Council's attention to the view of the World Health Organisation, which was represented on the DDWG, that it was totally unacceptable to use patient returned or date expired drugs in the third world. Amending the standards as proposed could establish a double standard.

It was clarified that the amendment of the standards would only apply in a situation in which there the supply of medicines would be seriously disrupted. It was permissive change which allowed pharmacists to exercise their professional judgement in an emergency situation.

Council recognised that there were different risks in supplying drugs to third world countries, for example often a lack of a qualified workforce and of appropriate standards. It was important to differentiate between managing drug supplies in the third world and measures to deal with a pandemic flu crisis in the UK.

Council

agreed

to amend the standards for the sale and supply of medicines

- i. to allow the re-use of patient returned medicines in the event of a pandemic flu, and
- ii. to allow the use of date expired medicines in the event of a pandemic flu.

08/123 Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group (PRLOG)

Council

noted

the update, which had been circulated at 08.10/C/91.

08/124 CPD Pilot Interim Report

Council

noted

- i. the report, which had been circulated at 08.10/C/9, and that
- ii the pilot was running late and due to technological difficulties with reviewing CPD records kept on paper;
- iii electronic CPD records had been reviewed successfully;
- iv independent research confirmed that members had responded favourably to feedback on their CPD records, while making suggestions for future improvement;
- v a report of the completed pilot with recommendations for introducing regular CPD record review would be brought to a future meeting of Council.

08/125 Statutory Committees statistical report

Council

noted

the report, which had been circulated at 08.10/C/98.

Organisational matters

08/126 Policy development process

Mr David Pruce, Director Policy & Communications, introduced paper 08.10/C/99, which had been circulated. Following the discussion of the proposals in the paper in the Committee session that morning, Mr Pruce asked Council to note the following agreed amendments.

- The involvement of the Public Liaison Group (PLG) would be the norm and that the PLG would be involved in the horizon scanning exercises planned.
- The list of potential policy issues presented, with the addition of rural dispensing, would be brought for discussion to future Council strategy days or Committee sessions for deliberation.
- The flow chart would show that policy development was an iterative process.

Council

reaffirmed

- i. its support for the process of policy development, implementation and monitoring set out in the paper, and

agreed

- ii. that the Policy and Communications Forum would keep the Devolution Protocol under review and bring recommendations to Council if required, but would not undertake a formal review of the devolution protocol.

08/127 Minutes circulated since the June 2008 meeting of the Council
Council

received

the minutes of the following committees

Scottish Pharmacy Board	11 June 2008
English Pharmacy Board	2 July 2008
Welsh Pharmacy Board	2 July 2008
Scottish Pharmacy Board	8 July 2008
Law & Ethics Committee	15 July 2008
Education Committee	16 July 2008

08/128 Any other business: Europharm

The President and the Council congratulated Mr Gerald Alexander on his appointment to the Executive of Europharm as Treasurer.

08/129 Location of Council meetings in 2009

Council

noted

the report, which had been circulated at 08.10/C/100.

08/130 Council update

Council

noted

the update and progress report, which had been circulated at 08.10/C/10.

08/131 Presentation of Honorary Membership to Dr Chris Rostron

The President awarded Honorary Membership of the Society to Dr Chris Rostron in recognition of his outstanding contribution to pharmacy and his distinguished service to the Society over the last decade through his unstinting commitment to the Academic Pharmacy Group (APG), having served on the APG Committee, as Vice-Chairman and currently serving as Chairman.

Dr Rostron's unprecedented level of service and his enthusiasm and commitment had been huge, impacting the careers of several thousand Liverpool-based pharmacy students through personal teaching and through his wider academic work. His work had been widely published, and many of the publications had first been presented at the Society's British Pharmaceutical Conference.

Dr Rostron thanked the President and the Council for the great honour in being made an Honorary Member of the Society. He assured the Council of his continuing commitment and that in the remaining two years of his chairmanship of APG he would work to ensure that education was at the core of the new professional body.

The President closed the public business of the Council.