

COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 1 December & Wednesday 2 December 2009 at 1 Lambeth High Street, London SE1 7JN

PUBLIC BUSINESS

Present

President	Mr S Churton
Vice-President	Mr M Astbury
Treasurer	Mr J Gentle

Mr S Acres	Ms S Agha
Mr G Alexander	Mrs M Allan
Professor N Barber	Mr D Carter
Mrs D Drury	Dr C Duggan
Dr P Entwistle	Mr G Hall
Ms S Hikins	Mrs L Jacobs
Mr J Jolley	Mr A Kershaw
Miss Y Liddell	Dr T Learoyd
Mrs S Kilby	Professor B Michell
Mrs A Moore	Ms M Saunders
Mr D Thomson	Mrs V Turner

In attendance

Dr B Curwain, 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 J Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar

09/139 **Welcome to guests**

The President welcomed Mr Timothy Barlow, Wessex Region and Miss Gemma Donovan, BPSA President, to the meeting.

09/140 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms Sandra Melville for Tuesday only, Dr Brian Curwain, for Tuesday only, from Mr John Jolley for Wednesday only and from Mrs Jane Ramsey. Mr Alan Kershaw gave apologies for lateness.

09/141 **Declaration of interests**

The President reminded Council members to make declarations of interest as appropriate before each agenda item.

09/142 Minutes of the public business part of the meeting of Council held on 7 October 2009

Ms Martyn Schofield, Corporate Secretariat, advised that the venue was listed incorrectly on the minutes.

Council

resolved

that, subject to the venue being corrected, the minutes of the public business part of the meeting held on 7 October 2009 be received and agreed as a correct record.

09/143 Matters arising from the public business part of the minutes not specifically included in the agenda

There were no matters arising.

Professional leadership matters

09/144 Transitional Working Group

Mr Howard Duff, Director for England, introduced report 09.12/C/119 and updated Council on the 'red' and 'amber' designated workstreams.

There was a lengthy discussion on the Science & Research workstream with some Council members expressing concern about a perceived lesser role for science in the professional leadership body. This perception was refuted with the Chief Executive & Registrar emphasising the importance of science and reminding Council that the Assembly would decide if a proposal for a new membership category of pharmaceutical scientist would be put to the membership. The Director of Professional Development & Support would have overall responsibility for implementing the science strategy.

Discussion continued onto the Special Interest Groups and how it was important to maintain the expertise of the members of the Groups for the professional leadership body. This followed Council's previous discussion of Ms Alison Moore's review of committees and it was agreed that this work should be built on prior to demerger.

Council

i. **received** the report.

09/145 CHRE consultation on future GPhC standards – professional leadership draft response

Mr Howard Duff, Director for England, introduced report 09.12/C/120.

Council were advised that this response would be from the National Pharmacy Boards.

The President thanked the Board Chairs and Ms Seema Agha for their work on the response.

Council
agreed

- i. that the response be signed off by a working group of members from all three Boards with the submission to clearly state that the response was from the National Pharmacy Boards.

09/146 Public interest and health issues

09/146.1 Supply issues in pharmacy

Mr David Pruce, Director of Policy & Communications, introduced report 09.12/C/120A.

Council
agreed

- i. that the government be lobbied for immediate action to be taken to alleviate medicine supply problems; and
- ii. that government be further lobbied for the establishment of an independent inquiry into steps that can be taken to resolve the current medicines supply problems.

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar, advised that this was David Pruce's final Council meeting as he was leaving the Society and paid tribute to his years of invaluable work on behalf of the organisation.

Regulatory matters

09/147 CHRE consultation on future GPhC standards – regulatory draft response

Dr Tristan Learoyd made a declaration of interest as an academic at a university that provided overseas courses.

Professor Nick Barber made a declaration of interest as an academic at a university that provided overseas courses.

Mr Martin Astbury made a declaration of interest as a pharmacist working in a supermarket.

Mr Alan Kershaw, Chair of the Council working group for the GPhC standards consultation, introduced report 09.12/C/121 and advised that the report had also been considered by the Education Committee. In view of the timescale for submission it was requested that the Officers be given authority to sign off the final response.

There was a general discussion about the apparently 'heavy handed' regulation indicated by the draft standards and the concern that this could create fear in the profession. A principle based regulatory approach, as exemplified by the current Code of Ethics and as recommended by CHRE, would be less confusing. It was agreed that in the preface to the response this point would be emphasised. The inappropriateness of question 14 regarding possible integration of the MPharm and pre-registration year would also be raised as it was a huge question that required lengthy consideration. The role of the professional leadership body in developing standards would also be included.

Council
agreed

- i. that the comments made by Council members be incorporated into the response; and
- ii. that the Officers Group sign off the response prior to submission

09/148 Regulation of advanced practice in pharmacy

Dr Andreas Hasman, Revalidation Policy Co-ordinator, introduced report 09.12/C/122 and advised that the report would be widely publicised.

Some Council members expressed concern at the suggestion that regulation be left to employers. It was agreed that the variation in employers meant there would be a significant variation in regulation. It was noted that this point arose in the CHRE viewpoint of regulation of advanced practice in pharmacy.

The President thanked Dr Hasman for an excellent report.

Council
agreed

- i. the report of the task and finish group, subject to additional clarity being made in the report that Chapter 4 was from the CHRE and the tightening of language relating to regulation and the employer responsibility; and
- ii. that the report be made available to interested parties.

09/149 Business continuity of regulation – an update to PRLOG 5 November 2009

Mrs Wendy Harris, Deputy Registrar & Director of Regulation, introduced report 09.12/C/123 and advised that the parliamentary process necessary to enable the official demerger of the Society remained on track for Spring 2010.

Council

- i. **noted** the update and the business continuity information.

09/150 Transition Planning of Regulation to GPhC

Mr Bernard Kelly, Director of Commercial Services & Resources, gave a presentation on the plans underway for the transition of regulation from the Society to the GPhC.

This included:

- Budgets for 2010 and beyond
- IT, records, office space and finance separations
- TUPE preparations for staff transferring to the GPhC
- Service Level Agreements for support functions
- Banking arrangements for GPhC for when it acquired legal status
- Recharges across the organisation

Mr Kelly advised that the Society would keep a copy of the Register of Pharmacists upon demerger and would need confirmation from all members on the Register that they were content to let the Society use their information for the professional leadership body.

The President thanked Mr Kelly and his team for the work to date on the transition.

09/151 Patient and public involvement: Annual report 2009

Ms Sylvia Hikins, PPI Council member sponsor, introduced report 09.12/C/125.

Council

- i. **noted** the progress in the delivery of the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) Strategy and;
- ii. **approved** the annual report for publication.

09/152 Fitness to practise disclosure policy

Council

noted the report that had been circulated at 09.12/C/125.

09/153 English language competency of EEA pharmacists

Mrs Lorna Jacobs made a declaration of interest as a Council member of the Nursing & Midwifery Council.

Mrs Wendy Harris, Deputy Registrar & Director of Regulation, introduced report 09.12/C/126 and suggested that the portfolio of information and evidence now be sent to DH for their considered response. Further support for language testing for EEA pharmacists could also be sought from professional leadership bodies. Council agreed that such steps as necessary should be taken to raise the profile of the Society's concern and focus specifically upon the patient safety aspects of this issue. These might include questions with MPs; lobbying of the UK government; press involvement; and contacting professional bodies for support. It was also proposed that the issue should be referred to in the regulatory response to the current consultation on proficiency standards.

Council

agreed

- i. that such steps as necessary to raise the concern of the Society regarding English language competency of EEA pharmacists be taken.

Organisational matters

09/154 Chief Executive & Registrar's report

09/154.1 Minutes of committees circulated since the July 2009 meeting of Council

Council

received

- i. the minutes of the English Pharmacy Board 16 September 2009 and Science Committee 23 September 2009.

09/154.2 Recommendation from the Officers – GPhC Standards Council working group

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar, introduced report 09.12/C/127.

Council
ratified

- i. the decision that Mr Alan Kershaw be appointed Chair of the Standards Working Group to develop the Society's regulatory response to the consultation on draft GPhC standards.

09/154.3 Recommendation from the Officers – GPhC (Constitution) Order 2009

Mr Jeremy Holmes, Chief Executive & Registrar, introduced report 09.12/C/127A.

Council
ratified

- i. the consultation response to the GPhC (Constitution) Order 2009.

09/155 Transfer of Emergency Fund

Mr David Thomson made a declaration of interest as Chairman of the Board of Pharmacist Support.

Mr Bernard Kelly, Director of Commercial Services & Resources, introduced report 09.12/C/129 and advised that, if Council agreed, £100,000 would be made available immediately to Pharmacist Support for them to distribute as necessary to pharmacists affected adversely by the recent floods in the country. This was not limited solely to the Cumbrian floods but included those that may happen in other parts of England, Scotland and Wales.

Council requested that clear information be made available to pharmacists about the money and how they could claim. Mr David Thomson, on behalf of Pharmacist Support, thanked Council for the donation.

The winding up of the Emergency Fund as a charity was a technical matter and reliant upon the approval of the Charity Commission.

Council, acting as Trustee of the charity
agreed

- i. that the sum of £100,000 be made available immediately to be applied at the discretion of Pharmacist Support to provide financial assistance and support to any pharmacist in distress as a consequence of the recent floods in the country, or any similar occurrence in the future; and
- ii. that the balance of the funds in the account of the Emergency Fund as at 1 December 2010 shall at that date be transferred to the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund ('Pharmacist Support', charity no 221438-1) to be applied as part of its general funds.

09/156 Council update

Professor Bob Michell advised that *09/83 Remuneration Committee – salary increases for 2009*, was incorrect as the meeting had been postponed and therefore the issue was still live.

Council

noted the paper attached at 09.12/C/130 with the correction noted above.

09/157 Appointments Panel report

Council

noted the report attached at 09.12/C/131

09/158 Any other business

College of Pharmacy Practice

Mr Jeremy Holmes advised that the Appointments Panel had appointed Ms Sue Kilby and Professor Nick Barber to be the Council members appointed to the College of Pharmacy Practice (CPP) Governing Body whilst the organisation wound down in preparation for joining the professional leadership body. Mr Ian Simpson, Chief Executive of CPP would join the Transitional Working Group.

BPC 2010

The Treasurer advised that work was ongoing for BPC 2010 with site visits due to be carried out imminently with the venue to be finalised by mid December 2009.

Council

agreed

i. that the conference venue be agreed and signed off by the Officers.

The President made the following address:

Catherine Duggan

“Colleagues – it doesn’t seem long at all since I was welcoming Catherine to Council, but today is in fact her last Council Meeting – certainly as a Council member anyway!

Luckily, as you know, she is not deserting us, but is taking up the post of Director of Professional Development and Support early in January 2010, where she will bring significant expertise, as well as bags of energy and enthusiasm, to this important new role.

I know from talking to people that she has already started getting involved with the work of the Society, and she has begun to support and form relationships with those who she will be working closely with in the new year.

Catherine combines strong strategic and policy thinking with a clear sense of the professional support that pharmacists need in their daily lives. She is also very collaborative in her style and I know that your people are already looking forward to working with you Catherine.

Catherine spent her early career in community pharmacy and has since become a highly respected practice researcher and policy specialist. As well as working in front-line NHS roles her achievements include developing ways

to measure patients' medicines-information needs and improving inter-professional communication across healthcare. She has been very closely involved in the UKCPA, and I know they will miss her contribution, enthusiasm and leadership.

She has also been an active member of the English Pharmacy Board since June of last year, shortly after being elected to Council. Her contributions have brought experience from her many areas of work, about which Catherine always speaks with passion as well as authority. Her extensive networks are always brought to the table for the benefit of the boards activities and her approach has always been refreshingly collaborative. I know that the English Board all wish Catherine all the very best for her new role.

I have to say that as the English Pharmacy Board representative on TWG Catherine has been exceptional in her work within both the "professional networking" and the "professional development and education" workstreams. In these areas she has put in a considerable amount of her personal time and effort.

Catherine brings a lively, energetic and fresh approach to the TWG. A prime example of this is the modern, youthful terminology she introduces to the team. The fact that an item relating to the use of 'wiki's stayed on the action list for a number of meetings was largely down to the confusion in the group as to what it was, and what they were supposed to do with it!

Although Catherine has been a member of Science Committee since she joined Council, she only chaired the committee twice before she was appointed Director of Professional Development and Support. However Catherine does not get away from science that easily, as she will head up science and research within in the professional leadership body.

Catherine will be remembered by the committee for her enthusiasm and faultless chairing of the meetings, which now last an hour longer than under the previous chair! – I wonder why that is!

I am told that Catherine was delighted with the choice of hotel that she stayed in for the October Council meeting in York as she declared that her aim was to replicate the 'atmosphere and feel' of a Hotel du Vin in the house she was currently doing up close to Alexandra Palace (a work that she declared had been in progress for several months but was still no closer to completing). The tartan carpet, red walls, green sofas and heavy velvet curtains of the library of the hotel may give you an idea of the style she is trying to create in her own home!

Anyway – Catherine, on behalf of all your colleagues on Council I would like to say a huge "thank you" for the fantastic contribution you have made to our discussions. It has been a demanding time for all of us, but so often made lighter and more enjoyable through your insights and sense of humour. On a personal note, I would like to record my appreciation for the fantastic support for me, and I know that everyone here wishes you all the very best with your new responsibilities within the PLB. Have a restful Christmas - because we need you firing on all cylinders when you return in the new year!

Thank you again Catherine – it has been an absolute pleasure and privilege having you on board.”