

MINUTES

A Meeting of the Council of The Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland took place at 7:00pm on Thursday 21st January 2010, in the Society's House, 73 University Street, Belfast, BT7 1HL.

Present

Ms Bowen (President)
Mr Mark Nelson (Vice President)
Mrs Muriel Singleton
Professor Paul McCarron
Mrs Helena Buchanan
Professor James McElnay
Dr Colin Fitzpatrick
Professor David Woolfson
Mrs Roberta Tasker

Apologies

Mr J R Anderson
Dr K McClelland
Ms A McCollum
Dr G Fleming
Dr L Byers
Professor G Linden
Mrs J Hughes

1. Introduction and Welcome, Apologies

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the apologies of Council members who were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Council Meeting of 17TH December 2009 (No meeting took place).

The minutes of the meeting on 19th November 2009 were presented.

i. Matters of Accuracy

None

ii. Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 19th November 2009 were proposed by the President, seconded by Mrs Muriel Singleton and Agreed by Council.

iii. Matters Arising

All Actions completed.

3. Tabling of Any Other Business

None

4. Correspondence

(i)The President attended the National Clinical Assessment Service's education workshop and distributed brochure's for Councils information.

(ii)Dr Norman Morrow emailed his reply to the Society on 4th December 2009 with regard to the scheduled meeting on 14th December 2009.

(iii)The Chief Executive detailed a letter of thanks from Mr Bob Nicholls, Chair Designate of the General Pharmaceutical Council who paid a recent visit to the Society.

5. Staff Reports

(i) Chief Executive's Report

The draft consultation of the draft Pharmacy (Northern Ireland) Order 1976 (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2010, Proposals for Consultation was received on Friday 15th January 2010 at 4.00pm. Staff had added comments previously raised by Council that have not been addressed in this draft and made the document available to Council on Tuesday 19th January 2010. The Chief Executive apologised for the late circulation, caused by the late receipt and the need to append the information noted. The Chief Executive was asked to explain again to Council the current composition of the Statutory Committee highlighting particularly the single chair and limited membership situation and issues arising. The Chief Executive also outlined possible options which would enhance the functions of the Statutory Committee.

Proposals for Consultation

The Chief Executive introduced the DHSSPS Consultation document and invited Council debate;

3.5 & 3.6

Council agreed that these paragraphs do not provide a complete picture of the actual history of dialogue with the department to date. The Assembly debate and motion should be included for completeness or 3.5 or 3.6 should be excluded,

3.7

Council confirmed that The Council of Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) carry out an annual review of performance which confirms that all of the regulators, including PSNI meet the minimum standards required. Council thought that this paragraph gave a negative picture of the PSNI position whilst acknowledging that the CHRE had called in each of the last performance reviews for speedy legislative reform, including the Statutory Committee

3.8

The last sentence of this paragraph is only one of a range of possible outcomes and is needless speculation – council would wish to see the paragraph finish at “further legislation may be required”.

5.1 - 5.3

This particular section is silent on the Statutory Committee which Council agreed needed urgent reform. Council did not agree that the legislation would strengthen its powers in the respects necessary

The Chief Executive explained the present situation as regards the Statutory Committee and how the powers of the Committee would work in an ideal world. Council agreed that, as a minimum, work should commence on legislation to reform the method of appointment, number of chairs and members and power of the Chair of the Statutory Committee.

7.1.2

Council noted that the second bullet point does not accurately reflect the actual wording in Trust Assurance and Safety which is “Second, professional regulation needs to sustain the confidence of both the public and the professions through demonstrable impartiality. Regulators need to be independent of government, the professionals themselves, employers, educators and all the other interest groups involved in Healthcare.

Council observed that many of the provisions in the draft order failed to reflect the content of this part of the White Paper, in particular new departmental powers.

7.3

The Council discussed the proposal for the Department to make appointments and raised concern over possible costs associated with the Appointments Commission – the Chief Executive confirmed that he had asked the Department on a number of occasions for costs and awaited a reply. Council did not believe

that departmental appointments satisfied the wording of the White Paper. On the question asked at Q3, Council suggested change wording to **“Do you agree that there should be an independent appointments process to appoint all members to the smaller, more business like Council?.**

8.1

Council concluded that the middle line of the paragraph is an inaccurate statement “ the society has indicated the need for additional committees” as Council’s position has consistently been to have a single, enlarged Statutory Committee to deal with FTP and only the DHSSPS decision to use the methodology of secondary legislation to introduce reform has created this need. The Council continues to prefer a single committee with all powers as suggested by CHRE.

8.2

The last line of the paragraph refers to the requirement of responsibility and accountability - but required by whom?

9. Q4

Council contended that this is the wrong question to ask. There should be an option to choose an upgrade of the Statutory Committee as described or additional Committees as proposed by the Department, with a suitable description of the risks and benefits of each

10.2

Council asked that if, as this paragraph states, the responsibility for dealing with Fitness to Practise matters in relation to physical and mental health should rest with the Society and Article 18 of the 1976 Order will be revoked, what will replace it? Council were of the view that consul tees should be advised of the detail for the proposed methodology

10. Q6

It is not acceptable to remove health professionals from a register solely because they have a disability; therefore Council queried why the DHSSPS would pose this question.

Appendix C

Council advised that the Consultation list is missing some regulatory bodies, given the consultation intentions stated at 1.

Schedule 2 Point 2

This states that the Department should have the autonomous power to make all decisions regarding the Council and committees this is not consistent with the stated requirements of the White Paper or with the arrangements for other regulators. Council strongly suggest that the powers in this section should lie with the new Council and be subject in the normal way to departmental approval for regulations

Schedule 2 Point 3

Council noted that the Department had previously agreed that the intention was to create powers for the Council to institute Committees both by regulation and without regulation. Council were advised that the Society's legal advisors had confirmed that the amended wording did not allow this but continued to require the creation of all committees by regulation.

Council expressed frustration at the continuing failure of the Department to draft the legislation to reflect comments which have repeatedly been made by Council

Action Point: The Chief Executive was instructed by Council to write to the DHSSPS to outline the issues discussed. Given the critical nature of some issues Council asked that the Department do not send the consultation out until after the next Confidence in Care meeting where the Society staff would have an opportunity to further explain the issues and secure changes

Key Engagements

Shane McQuillan of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland visited the Society to discuss mutual points of interest, including future strategy.

Priorities

The Council noted the content and were asked to send emails to the CEO if there are any questions or concerns.

Professional Forum

The interview panel will convene mid-February to conduct the interviews for the position of Professional Forum Manager.

Revalidation

The General Pharmaceutical Council has agreed to share outcomes of Phase 1 of the research but the Society needs to look into the second phase of research.

Corporate Strategy

The Chief Executive presented the draft of the Corporate Strategy document for discussion. After a short discussion it was agreed that a small sub-group of Council should critique the document and email their response to the Chief Executive.

<p>Action: Mrs Roberta Tasker, Professor David Woolfson and the President will form a sub-group and submit their response in an email to be sent to the Chief Executive. A further discussion will take place at the February meeting of Council</p>

Media

The Head of Public Affairs drew members attention to an article in the current issue of Pharmacy in Focus in which Jim Wells MLA, the Chair of the Health Committee, broadly supports our position of maintaining a local regulator of pharmacy while developing the Professional Forum as the local leadership body.

Patient Forum

The Patient Forum met on the 14th December and discussed various key issues.

Action: The minutes should be amended to read 14th December not January.

Risk Register

The Head of Public Affairs drew members' attention to the updated Risk Register. The changes in the register were highlighted and particular attention was drawn to the fact that the risk of the political institutions collapsing in Northern Ireland had been raised to High. The consequences of this particular situation arising was discussed and the Head of Public Affairs was tasked with monitoring this issue. All other changes in the risk register have seen risks moving down and activities are being undertaken to mitigate risks.

Request from Botanic Inns

(a). Botanic Inns Ltd have purchased a Pub/restaurant in East Belfast and are hoping to call the reopened premises the Horatio Todd Kitchen. They have contacted the Society requesting a Photograph of Horatio Todd the first President of the Society. It was agreed by Council that since the only photographs the Society has of Horatio Todd are of him as President of the Society that it would be inappropriate to provide the photographs we have.

(b) A request has been received from Kettering Hospital asking the Society could they use our resources to advertise vacancies for hospital pharmacists, either through the Society's newsletter or by way of a direct email to registrants. After a short discussion, it was agreed by Council that to do so could lead to a negative response from registrants therefore it was inadvisable to grant this request.

(iii) Registrar's Report

144 Statutory letters are to be sent out on Friday 29th January for Pharmaceutical premises that have not yet reregistered for 2010. This is the first stage of the removal process.

The Stephen Twibill High Court case will be heard on the 22nd January 2010 and if the outcome is changed in any way there will be financial consequences for the Society.

The National Clinical Assessment had recently commissioned a survey among pharmacists and early indicators show that pharmacists are increasingly suffering health issues. Health is a significant factor in performance issues in pharmacy.

The Transitional Arrangements for a New Council of the Pharmaceutical Society

There was a short discussion on this document about the transitional arrangements, the Appointments Commission and the legislation which will be made in November 2010. The date for handing over to the new Council could be January 2011.

Action: Members of Council with concerns regarding the document are to send emails to the Registrar before the evening of the 22nd January 2010.
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6. Future Council Meetings

Council meetings should be held in a reasonable, accessible area of the Society which is manageable for people with any special needs. Therefore the present Council Chamber does not provide the opportunity for persons with disabilities or

special needs to attend the public meetings. However the Lecture Hall as all the electronic conveniences and accessibility for anyone wishing to attend the Council meetings.

7. Update on Homeopathic Medicines - Professor David Woolfson

Professor Woolfson discussed the implications of the letter from Dr T A Maguire regarding the supply of homeopathic remedies from community pharmacists. Under European Legislation, homeopathic medicines are also classified and regulated similar to medicines for human use. As these remedies are legal then the Council cannot stop the pharmacies from selling these products.

Action: The Registrar will respond to T A Maguire's letter confirming this position and signalling the imminent report from the Select Committee of Parliament.

8. Committee Membership - Vice President

There are four Committees in the Society but the attendance has varied during the current period of intense activity in pharmacy. With Ethics and Law Committee and Practice Committee there is often a cross-over of work therefore the Vice President suggested that these committees should combine which may lead to better effectiveness. Council discussed the proposal that Ethics and Law and Practice Committees should combine to form a single committee.

The Vice President proposed Council agree to combining both Ethics/Law and Practice Committees and Professor James McElnay seconded the proposal and Council agreed.

The introduction of lay persons with specialised knowledge as members of the committees, by way of co-optation was discussed. It was agreed that this would be helpful as long as the lay members were selected for the knowledge and skill that they bring to the work of the committee

Motion; The President proposed co-opting lay persons onto the membership of the committees and this was seconded by the Vice-President. Council Agreed.

The Vice President also proposed that an ad-hoc committee be created to look at registration issues on a pilot basis – this was seconded by the President and agreed by Council.

Action – All Council members to advise the Vice President of their preference for Committees – each Council member should volunteer for at least one, but more than one would be very welcome – the Office to circulate an email request to all Council members seeking self nomination to committees

9. Reports from Committee Meetings.

(i) Education Committee

The last meeting of the Education Committee took place on 26th November 2009 at 2pm at Society House.

Matters Arising

None

PSNI Awards for University of Ulster MPharm Students

Motion 1 to Council: We remove the Gold Medal Award for the top Pharmacy University of Ulster student completely.

Motion 2 to Council: We have a second Gold Medal to be awarded to all University of Ulster Pharmacy Students.

After a short discussion and acknowledging that no UU graduate would be eligible to receive a medal for a number of years it was decided to withdraw the motions at this time

Recording of CPD by Undergraduate MPharm Students

A request was made by the MPharm Course Team at the University of Ulster, that the Society explores the possibility of permitting access to the PSNI CPD record database by undergraduate MPharm students. Dr Kathy Burnett of the Ulster University and the CPD Facilitator will be working together on this.

Any Other Business

There ensued a short discussion on the subject of the participation of a former staff member of one of the two universities being appointed onto the PSNI Accreditation Panel as this person may have a perceived conflict of interest. The Chief Executive explained, for the Council, the processes and criteria involved in

appointing the members of the Accreditation Panel. The Chief Executive agreed to revert to Council with more information.

Action: The Chief Executive will respond to the concerns of the Council

In January 2010

There was a discussion on CPD roles for assessors and facilitators and the future arrangements for these. It was acknowledged that there may be a future role for the Professional Forum to provide help in facilitation

The minutes of the Education Committee were proposed by Mrs Roberta Tasker and seconded by the President and agreed by Council.

Issues of concern to the Pre-reg Facilitator:

(i) The Pre-Reg Facilitator wanted guidance as regards a tutor who has not been recently resident in Northern Ireland or working in a full time role for the three years detailed in the criteria for becoming a tutor. There was a short discussion before Council confirmed that all of the criteria must be met and that it will be necessary for the employer of Pre-Reg student to find another tutor or the student to secure another training position.

(ii) A pre-reg student will not have completed the full 45 weeks before sitting the professional exam but 44 weeks. The question was asked was it feasible for the student to sit the exam? Council consented to let this student sit the exam at 44 weeks.

(ii) Finance and House Committee

(a) A meeting of the Finance and House Committee was held on the 14th December 2009 at 7.00pm in Society House.

There were no motions or actions.

Action: The minutes should be amended to read Mark Nelson and not Mark Neale.

The minutes of the December 2009 Finance and House Committee were proposed by the President and seconded by the Vice-President.

(b) A meeting of the Finance and House Committee was held on the 18th January 2010 at 5.00pm in Society House.

The minutes of the Finance and House Committee were proposed by Mrs Helena Buchanan and seconded by Professor James McElroy.

Motion to Council: The Committee recommends to Council that they give their commitment in principle to avail of the NICPLD web services from June 2010 at a cost of £4,500.

Professor James McElnay and Professor David Woolfson declared an interest and withdrew from the discussion.

The motion was proposed by Mrs Roberta Tasker and Seconded by Dr Colin Fitzpatrick and Council agreed

Motion to Council: The Committee recommend to Council to authorise the use of a portion of the current database budget for the purpose of implementing a new Complaints document management system at a cost of £4,000.

Council discussed the motion and expressed satisfaction as long as there was secure shareable software with a retrievable mechanism.

The motion was proposed by Mrs Roberta Tasker and seconded by Dr Colin Fitzpatrick and Council agreed.

(iv) Practice/Ethics and Law Committee

A meeting of the Practice/Ethics and Law Committee was held on Thursday 7th January 2010 at 7pm in Society House.

(a) General Pharmaceutical Council Standards Consultation

There are some issues of duplication within the document. Also it would be imperative to have an email canvas of the committee's members as to their preferred days and times per month of subsequent meetings.

The minutes of the Practice/Ethics and Law Committee were proposed by the Vice President and seconded by the President and agreed by Council.

10. Date of next Council meeting

Thursday February 18th 2010

The Council Meeting concluded at 10.00pm.

