



## Minutes of the meeting of the English Pharmacy Board - Open business

**Minutes of the meeting held on 24th June in the Ground floor Conference Suite at the RPS, 66 East Smithfield, London E1W**

### **Present**

Sandra Gidley (Chair)  
Catherine Armstrong  
Sibby Buckle  
Sultan "Sid" Dajani  
Mahendra Patel  
Ash Soni

Claire Anderson (Vice Chair)  
Martin Astbury  
Anthony Cox  
Deborah Evans  
Aamer Safdar

### **In Attendance**

Howard Duff  
Charles Willis  
Neal Patel  
Helen Jones  
Yvonne Dennington

Director for England  
Head of Public Affairs  
Head of Corporate Communications  
Human Resources Manager  
EPB Secretary

### **Apologies**

David Carter  
Tony West

Helen Gordon  
Heidi Wright

### **15/58 Welcome and Introductions**

Howard Duff welcomed EPB members and staff and gave special thanks to Simon Redman and his team for the effort they put into having the ground floor conference room at the new building (66 East Smithfield) ready for the meeting. It was noted that the English Pharmacy Board and Team England were the first to hold a meeting in the new building.

### **15/59 Election of Chairman**

Howard Duff, took the chair for this item.

Howard gave his personal thanks and thanks from Team England as well as the Board to the past Chair, David Branford, for his fantastic focus, determination and leadership during his time as chair, from which we have all benefitted.

Howard informed the meeting that today's agenda would be a blend of open business for the purpose of the elections of Chair, Vice Chair and Assembly members and a board development day facilitated by Jane Owen Jones from lloydmasters.

Howard Duff informed that Board that only one nomination had been received for Chair, that of

Sandra Gidley	Nominated by Anthony Cox Seconded by Sultan "Sid" Dajani
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Howard Duff requested that the Board affirm Sandra Gidley as the Chair of the EPB for 2015/2016. The English Pharmacy Board members were unanimous in confirming Sandra Gidley as Chair for the coming year.

The Chair's written statement is attached as Appendix A and will be published by the Pharmaceutical Journal.

Sandra Gidley, the Chair of the English Pharmacy Board, took the Chair.

Sandra Gidley thanked Board members for their support and paid tribute to David Branford's leadership over the past two years saying that he will be a great loss to the English Pharmacy Board. Sandra emphasised how lucky she was to have such committed board members and looked forward to working with them all and Team England in what was a very exciting time for pharmacy. She asked Board members to bring problems to her directly and not let them fester and said she looked forward to an open and honest way of working.

#### **15/60 Election of Vice Chair**

The Chair, explained the process for the nomination of Vice-Chair in accordance with Appendix I of the Governance Handbook and informed the Board that two nominations had been received in advance of the meeting and asked for further nominations. No other nominations were forthcoming at the meeting. The nominations received were:-

Claire Anderson	Nominated by Anthony Cox Seconded by Mahendra Patel
Sibby Buckle	Self nominated Seconded by Deborah Evans

Diverging from the Governance Handbook Appendix I, both candidates were invited to give a one minute speech. Both candidates agreed with this process and gave a short address.

A ballot was held which resulted in Claire Anderson being elected as Vice Chair.

Claire thanked Board members for their support in electing her as Vice Chair saying how delighted she was and that she would work hard in supporting Sandra and the board.



## Appendix A

### **Statement to support the election of Sandra Gidley to the Chair of the English Pharmacy Board**

I want to start by paying tribute to David Branford. His energetic leadership style and focus have played a large part in establishing the English Pharmacy Board as a major player in shaping the future of our profession.

Our focus on a number of campaigns has paid dividends, the profile of our profession has been enhanced amongst leaders in health and we are seeing closer working with GPs. I would want to continue the campaign style of working, potentially adding “pharmacists” as prescribers to the list. In addition to this we need to keep a close eye on “decriminalisation” and see it through to fruition.

I will be further strengthening relationships with other pharmacy bodies, especially with regard to community pharmacy, so that we can build on the contribution to healthcare that can be made by community pharmacists. Our forthcoming campaigns on long term conditions and care homes will be an ideal mechanism for this. I am passionate about the role that pharmacists can play in improving health outcomes and am totally committed to using every opportunity to make the case with commissioners and policy makers and other health professionals.

So, working with other organisations is important but we also need to focus on the needs of our members. Community pharmacists are under increasing pressure from employers to meet targets and we need to tackle this problem from a patient safety perspective and work with employers to make sure our members are empowered to offer safe care to patients.

I recognize also that hospital pharmacists are very concerned about seven day working. Additionally, we need to keep up pressure to find a workable solution to the decriminalisation issue for hospital pharmacists.

In academia there are challenges as we move towards the five year degree and the profession struggles with the thorny subject of student numbers.

All of these issues affect our members but we also need to improve our links with the grass roots and continue to invigorate the LPFs. I have been encouraged by some of the energy that has gone into this work recently but would also want to consider how more board members can become practically involved. But, as well as increasing participation at local level there is a real problem of disconnect which must be addressed if we are to engage and retain our members. We need to involve members in our work and find better ways for them to feed into our agenda.

No one person can deal with all of this alone and I have been impressed, over the last three years, by the enthusiasm and commitment of my fellow board members. We may not

quite be a board of all the talents but we are most certainly a board of many, many talents and my key role as Chair would be to ensure that we are making the most of them. We need to harness the skill and enthusiasm of board members in order to augment the skills and expertise of our staff, to create a high performing team.

I have ideas as to how to progress this but no-one has a monopoly on ideas and my first job would be to find out from each and every board member how they would like to be better utilised and also better informed. I aim to revisit, and strengthen, the concept of board leads but also to trial having a small working group involved with each campaign.

At the moment, in health circles, the word on everyone's lips is "pharmacy". Team England needs to use every method at its disposal to translate words into action and delivery. By making the most of what Board members have to offer we can make sure that we make better use of the skills of pharmacists, in all sectors, for the benefit of patients.

Financial, social and demographic pressures mean that the world is changing fast and the way we deliver health care is also changing fast. We need to be prepared to seize any opportunities which present themselves. I can do no better than end with a quote from Charles Darwin: "It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."