



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

**Minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2017 at 10.40 am in the Events
Space, 4th Floor, at the RPS, 66 East Smithfield, London E1W 1AW**

Present

Sandra Gidley (Chair)
Catherine Armstrong
David Branford
Sibby Buckle (Vice Chair)
David Carter
Mahendra Patel
Ash Soni

Claire Anderson
Martin Astbury
Elizabeth Butterfield
Nadia Bukhari
Sultan "Sid" Dajani
Aamer Safdar
Tracey Thornley

In Attendance

Alex MacKinnon
Robbie Turner
Catherine Duggan
John Lunny
Neal Patel
Heidi Wright
Corrine Burns
Kimberly Shields
Alison Douglas
Yvonne Dennington

Interim Chief Executive
Director for England
Director of Professional Development and Support
Public Affairs Manager
Head of Corporate Communications
Practice and Policy Lead for England
PJ, RPS Correspondent
RPS Legal Counsel
Governance Manager
EPB Secretary

17/56 Welcome and Introductions

Robbie Turner welcomed EPB members and staff. He thanked Corrine Burns for attending and reporting, as members are keen to hear the result of the elections.

To note: A change in Governance from June 2017 whereby the Chair and Vice Chair will be elected for a period of 2 years. Assembly members will also be elected for a period of 2 years but for the introduction of this change there will be a staggered process as per minute 17/60.

17/57 Apologies

No apologies were received.

17/58 Election of Chair

Robbie Turner, took the chair for this item.

Robbie informed the Board that two nominations had been received for the position of Chair after following due process as set out in Appendix G of the Governance Handbook 2017/18, calling for nominations in advance of the meeting. The following nominations were received:-

Sandra Gidley	Nominated by Claire Anderson Seconded by David Carter
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Liz Butterfield	Nominated by Mahendra Patel Seconded by Aamer Safdar
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Both candidates accepted their nomination and stated their declarations of interest. Voting then took place as per Appendix G of the Governance Handbook. The first round of voting resulted in a tie. A short break occurred before the second round of voting took place.

The candidate with the majority of votes from the second vote and who will become Chair is **Sandra Gidley**.

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 for the election of Vice Chair.

Sandra thanked the Board for electing her as Chair and said that she was committed to working constructively with all board members in the coming years.

17/59 Election of Vice Chair

The Chair explained the process for the nomination of Vice-Chair in accordance with Appendix G of the Governance Handbook 2017/18 and informed the Board that one nomination had been received in advance of the meeting from Mahendra Patel and asked for further nominations. The nominations received were:-

Mahendra Patel	Self Nominated Seconded by Nadia Bukhari
Sibby Buckle	Nominated by David Branford Seconded by Claire Anderson

The two nominees were asked to declare interests in addition to those set out in paper 03. Neither Mahendra nor Sibby had any further interests to declare.

A vote was taken and the candidate with the majority of votes was **Sibby Buckle**.

Sibby thanked the Board for electing her as Vice Chair and said she was looking forward to working with the Board. It will be an interesting couple of years and the

dynamics were challenging. She said that she would harness the strength of the board and look for roles for each member.

17/60 Election for the Appointment of Four Board Members to the Assembly

Robbie Turner took the chair for this item as per the Governance Handbook.

In accordance with Appendix I of the Governance Handbook 2017/18 the Chair called for nominations for Assembly members. It is to be noted that appointments from this year are for a tenure of 2 years, but as agreed by the English Pharmacy Board at their meeting in April 2017 there will be a staggered process to introduce this change as per below. Martin Astbury being the current President and a re-elected member of the English Pharmacy Board will get an automatic place on the Assembly along with the Chair and Vice Chair, therefore an election for **four** places on the Assembly will take place.

- *the board member receiving the most votes cast shall be appointed to the Assembly for 2 years*
- *the board member receiving the next most votes cast shall be appointed to the Assembly for 2 years*
- *the board member receiving the next most votes cast shall be appointed to the Assembly for 1 year*
- *the board member receiving the next most votes cast shall be appointed to the Assembly for 1 year*

Robbie called for nominations:-

Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
David Branford	self	Sibby Buckle
Liz Butterfield	self	David Branford
Claire Anderson	Sibby Buckle	Martin Astbury
Ash Soni	Aamer Safdar	Nadia Bukhari
David Carter	self	Sibby Buckle
Aamer Safdar	Nadia Bukhari	David Branford
Sultan "Sid" Dajani	Martin Astbury	Catherine Armstrong
Catherine Armstrong	Ash Soni	Sibby Buckle
Mahendra Patel	Martin Astbury	Claire Anderson
Nadia Bukhari	Martin Astbury	Catherine Armstrong

The nominees were requested to make a two minutes speech in accordance with Governance Handbook 2017.2018. All nominee made a speech.

A secret ballot then took place with members having up to 4 votes for 4 candidates.

After the first round of voting it was declared that **David Carter** and **Sultan "Sid" Dajani** were appointed to the Assembly for a period of **two** years.

As there was a tie in the voting for the two positions on the Assembly for one year amongst three candidates another ballot took place. Members were asked to cast up to 2 votes for 2 places.

After the second round of voting it was declared that **Mahendra Patel** was appointed to the Assembly for a one year term. Again there was a tie in the votes for the remaining place on the Assembly, therefore another ballot was held.

A third ballot was held. Members were asked to cast up to one vote for one position on the Assembly. The candidates were Ash Soni and Catherine Armstrong. This ballot resulted in a tie.

The meeting was adjourned for a 5 minute break before another ballot took place.

Both candidates were asked to make a further supporting speech.

A fourth ballot was held. Members were asked to cast up to one vote for one position on the Assembly. This ballot resulted in **Ash Soni** being appointed to the Assembly for a period of one year.

New Assembly Members are:

David Carter	-	2 year tenure
Sultan "Sid" Dajani	-	2 year tenure
Mahendra Patel	-	1 year tenure
Ash Soni	-	1 year tenure

The results of the elections of Chair, Vice Chair and Assembly members will be published in the Pharmaceutical Journal and a press release will be issued.

The meeting adjourned for 5 minutes before the next item was taken.

17/61 Statutory Item: Re the removal of sectoral places and whether the EPB can continue to properly fulfil its duties

Sandra Gidley retook the chair for this item and the rest of the meeting.

The English Pharmacy Board noted and discussed paper 17.06/EPB.06 (21 June).

The Chair reminded the Board that this was a statutory items that appears every year, following the decision to remove sectoral places, to ensure the Board has the necessary composition of expertise across the sectors. Last year board members took the decision not to co-opt an Industrial Pharmacist but to use the expertise of Deborah Evans. The Industrial Pharmacist Forum have expressed a wish for the EPB to consider co-option of an Industrial Pharmacist to the Board this year as they feel there is a gap in expertise and knowledge.

Martin Astbury suggested that rather than co-opt the Chair of the IPF should be invited to attend every board meeting. Sultan "Sid" Dajani concurred and said more specialists and students should be invited to meetings to enrich the debate. David Branford added that the Expert Advisory groups should also be included as they were not as connected to the EPB as perhaps they should be.

Concerns were raised regarding having hospital representation in the future as historically hospital pharmacists do not put themselves forward for election and this could possibly leave a gap.

Discussion continued on the merits of sector representation and whether there should be standing agenda items from different sectors. Robbie added that engagement has changed dramatically and once the new Professional Development and Engagement Lead was in place an in depth look at engagement will be taking place, which in due course will be reported back to the Board

Alex MacKinnon added that Scotland had never had sectoral places and they fill the gaps by creating a working sub group for a discrete piece of work. There was some support from the Board for this way of working.

Discussion continued around inviting sectors/groups to meeting. One suggestion was to live stream the meetings but concerns were raised regarding this option.

The Chair concluded that there will be no change to the decision on sectoral places for this year.

As Deborah Evans is no longer on the board and was the lead for Industry the Board were asked to nominate another person. **Sibby Buckle** was nominated to be the lead for Industry as she has had experience in working in the Industrial sector.

Action: Robbie Turner to notify the IPF of the Board's decision not to co-opt but to invite them to attend the next meeting.

17/62 The formal open business section of the meeting closed at 11.30am

17/63 Dates of next meetings (2017)

EPB working day	Wednesday 4th October 2017
EPB meeting	Thursday 5th October 2017

Dates for the meetings in 2018 will be issued once confirmed by the Assembly at their meeting in July.

Board Members please note: *All of the above dates are to be diarised across the EPB. Board meeting dates are firm dates but Working Days will only be used at the discretion of the Chair and the Director for England.*

Election statement from Sandra Gidley– English Board Chair 2017

I have been privileged to lead a very talented board over the last two years. Frustratingly some of our plans have been on hold due to a combination of the general election, judicial review and internal reorganisations but I believe that the opportunities for pharmacists have never been greater.

We all need to work together to use our networks and contacts to highlight the potential of pharmacists to relieve some of the pressures in the NHS.

But, however talented the board we cannot achieve this alone which is why my number one priority is to establish better ways to consult with, and make the most of, the strengths of our members. This will be done by forging closer links with our LPFs and re-establishing board links with individual LPFs. We can use board members as ambassadors, to forge and strengthen a dynamic local network in all parts of the country.

The work on better communication with our members has started and I have been pushing for a proper communications strategy because our members deserve to be better informed about all of the great work that is going on.

At national level we need to spread our reach even further. Over the last year, even during the turmoil of the pharmacy cuts, we continued to have constructive conversations with the Minister for pharmacy and used this to also provide him with a better understanding and appreciation of the pharmacists who work in the newer care settings. Once the new government is in place we need to forge the same, if not better, links with the new ministerial team and continue to work with all parties to provide parliamentary champions for pharmacy. We need to be political but the wider health sector is equally, if not more, important and I will work with our well-connected board members to highlight the potential of pharmacists to solve many of the problems facing the NHS.

In addition to this we need to build on our links with other royal colleges and patient groups and build a coalition of support.

But what do I mean when I say “pharmacists”?

My aim would be to create a spirit of “Team pharmacy” in which pharmacists from all corners of the profession respected those working in other areas. Intra professional working would be the norm so that better communication between community, practice and hospital pharmacists would become routine. We need to break down those professional silos.

But we cannot ignore the challenges that pharmacists in each of the sectors are facing.

Work on promoting the skills of pharmacists working in the community has faced barriers for far too long because of the judicial review. In the interim period I have been building links with other community pharmacy bodies so that we are well placed to work with them on promoting clinical roles for community pharmacists. As a community based pharmacist

myself I want to see a thriving community pharmacy network, working to its full potential to provide the best possible care for pharmacists.

We have good links with the pharmacists who work in GP surgeries and we need to get them working even more closely with their colleagues who work in the community because effectively these pharmacists are two sides of the same coin. To this end I want to strengthen links with our affiliate groups so that we are automatically seen as an invaluable source of advice and support.

Our hospital expert advisory group does great work but it needs to work more closely with the boards and by building on our already improved links with PDS the board will be more in tune with the issues facing hospital pharmacy.

We are well served on the board with academic representatives but it is also important that we have an understanding of that world and of the expectations that our students and pre reg pharmacists have of us, and of the profession. Although we encourage BPSA to attend our meetings we also need to link with them on a more regular basis and this is in progress.

And finally, we must not forget industry or science and over the past year I have worked, alongside board members and staff, to ensure that industrial pharmacists in particular feel valued by our organization.

Over the last two years I have ensured that the board has received updates from all of these sectors and have turned the agenda from internal navel gazing to us all being better informed about some of the inspirational advances in all areas of pharmacy.

In my statement for re-election to the board this year I made it clear that I have one simple aim. That is to ensure that the fantastic students being produced by our universities are able to make the most of their clinical skills and can have rewarding (and rewarded!) careers.

I am sure that is an aim that we all share but why me? I am a community pharmacist at heart but also, due to my 10 years in parliament on the health select committee, have a unique understanding of how to make things happen. I understand the health service AND the world of politics. I don't know everything but by uniting our talents and raising our ambitions I have the strategic oversight to achieve our aims.

We should not set our sights too low. We should not take no for an answer and we should also challenge practice which is not right.

As Lord Birkenhead once said, "The world continues to offer glittering prizes to those who have stout hearts". Those prizes are there for the taking if all of the board's talents are fully focused on the RPS and if we also make the most of our members.