Confirmed

Minutes of the Meeting of the
General Dental Council
held at 1:45pm on Thursday 11 May 2017
in Closed Session
at 37 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8DQ

Council Members present
William Moyes   Chair
Catherine Brady
Geraldine Campbell
Rosemary Carter
Margaret Kellett
Alan MacDonald
Kirstie Moons
Lawrence Mudford
David Smith
Jayendra Patel
Neil Stevenson

Executive in attendance:
Ian Brack        Chief Executive and Registrar
Gurvinder Soomal Executive Director, Registration and Corporate Services
Matthew Hill     Executive Director, Strategy
Lisa-Marie Roca  Principal Legal Adviser
Lisa Cunningham  Head of Communications

Staff members in attendance:
Clare Mitchell   Head of Governance
Ian Jackson      Director for Scotland
Helen Elderfield Governance and Executive Support Manager
Sam Clements    Risk Manager (Item 4)

Invited Attendees:
Laura Sayer, solicitor, Mills & Reeve (Items 11 & 12 by telephone)

PART ONE – PRELIMINARY ITEMS
1. Opening remarks, apologies for absence and declarations of interest
   1.1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.
   1.2. Apologies for absence were received from Terry Babbs and Jonathan Green.
   1.3. Neil Stevenson, Chair of Remuneration Committee has a standing declaration of interest in relation to the GDC’s pensions provider. All staff present declared an interest in agenda items 6, 10 and 11.
   1.4. There were no additional declarations of interest pertaining to items on the agenda.
2. Minutes of meeting on 16 March 2017

Discussion

2.1. A typographical error was noted at paragraph 1.2 which should have stated ‘from’ not ‘form’. The second sentence of paragraph 2.3 to be amended to read ‘… should give a better context and may enable this to be ruled out.’

2.2. Subject to those changes, the draft minutes were considered and accepted as a true and accurate record of the discussions that took place on 16 March 2017.

3. Matters arising from the meeting on 16 March 2017 and rolling actions list

Discussion

3.1. The Council noted progress made with actions arising from previous meetings.

3.2. There were no matters arising.

PART TWO – ITEMS FOR DECISION AND DISCUSSION

4. Strategic Risk Register

Discussion

4.1. Sam Clements joined the meeting and presented the February version of the strategic risk register (SRR) which had previously been approved by both the EMT Board and the Audit & Risk committee.

4.2. Sam asked the Council members to note that several events had taken place since the Council had last reviewed the SRR that had an impact on GDC risk.

4.3. Finally Sam stated that he anticipated changes to the SRR in the coming few months and that this indicated positive progress.

5. Chair’s Strategy Group update

Discussion

5.1. The Council received an update on the matters being considered by the Chair’s Strategy Group and noted the proposed next steps.

6. Regulatory Reform

Discussion

6.1. Matthew Hill gave an update on the Department of Health’s pre-election announcement position on primary legislation and tentative plans for secondary legislation and Council members considered the impact of the EU exit negotiations on the healthcare regulation landscape.

6.2. He advised that there was no prospect of primary legislation to either force mergers between the healthcare regulators or to reduce the scope of legislation. There remained a possibility of reasonably sweeping changes by secondary legislation but there was no indication of priority post 8 June. A new minister and ministerial team was expected but given the EU exit negotiations Matthew stated that secondary legislation was unlikely in 2017.

6.3. It was suggested that some health-related clauses would need to be included in ‘Brexit’ discussions, and that the GDC could look to engage with other healthcare
regulators to mutual benefit. There was some agreement that the CEOs and Chairs needed to work together on this matter but noted that despite a good meeting in December, no notes from the meeting or follow up action had been forthcoming. Members suggested that this could be developed at PRB.

7. Horizon Scan

Discussion

7.1. Lisa Cunningham presented the Horizon Scan report which had been further developed since the previous version. Members agreed that the document had evolved impressively and was very useful.

8. Audit & Risk Committee update

Discussion

8.1. Council members received an update from the Audit and Risk Committee regarding recently completed internal audits.

8.2. Council members recognised and acknowledged the good progress being made across the organisation which had moved on significantly in the last year but stressed the need for a structured follow up programme.

9. ICO – self reported incident

Discussion

9.1. Lisa-Marie Roca advised the Council about a data security incident which the ICO had closed the case with no further action, having taken into account the ongoing work and establishment of the information governance team.

All staff members, with the exception of Ian Brack, Lisa-Marie Roca, and Helen Elderfield left the meeting at this point.

Laura Sayer, solicitor with Mills and Reeve, joined the meeting by telephone for the following two items.

10. Review of Pension Scheme Trustee Structure

Discussion

10.1. Lisa-Marie Roca presented the proposal to revise the trustee structure of the GDC Pension Scheme.

11. The GDC 1970 Pension and Life Assurance Plan Defined Benefit Section

Discussion

11.1. Lisa-Marie Roca introduced the paper which made a proposal regarding the future of the defined benefit section of the GDC Pension and Life Assurance Plan.

Lisa-Marie Roca and Laura Sayer left the meeting at this point.

6. Terms and Conditions Review

Discussion

Ian Brack gave a verbal update on the staff consultation on terms and conditions of employment. He noted that there had been a high level of engagement which had included detailed and constructive comments and suggested alternatives.
PART THREE – ITEMS FOR NOTING


PART FOUR – CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS

12. Any Other Business

12.1. Council members noted the recent changes following the restructure and requested that updated organograms be circulated.

13. Review of the meeting

13.1. Council members stated that the workshop session had been very useful and that they looked forward to future sessions. It was agreed that the workshops were not only informative but enjoyable and that working with additional staff members was beneficial.

13.2. Concerning the closed session meeting, the Council members agreed that the papers considered were of good quality and that they had prompted good discussions.

14. Close of the meeting

14.1. There being no further business the meeting was closed at 4.30pm.

Date of next meeting: 22 June 2017

Name of Chair:
William Moyes