Present: Mr P Wallace (Chair)
Dr H Harper (Honorary Secretary)
Mr R F Lyon (Honorary Treasurer)
Dr I Baillie
Dr C Brett
Mr J Buckley
Ms C Bull
Mr P Crowther
Mr R Day
Mr G Elliott
Mr J Hansen
Prof K J Kirk
Mr B McGrath
Mr S Poucher
Mr C Sinclair
Prof R A Smith
Mr R Watson
Mrs T Walker (Minute Secretary)
BINDT Staff in attendance
Mrs C Bailey
Mrs K Cambridge
Mr D Gilbert
Mr P Shah

Apologies: Mr K Quirk

The Chair (Mr P Wallace) opened the meeting and welcomed all to the AGM.

1. **Apologies for absence**
   - Apologies noted as above.

2. **Adoption of the minutes from the previous meeting**
   - The minutes of the last AGM held in East Midlands last year had been circulated.
   - No queries were raised.
   - Prof Smith proposed we accept the minutes of the last Benevolent Fund AGM, and this was seconded by Mr Poucher. The proposal was carried unanimously.

3. **Matters arising**
   - Dr Harper raised his action of contacting the Branches to enquire whether they would like a further meeting of the Benevolent Fund Trustees in order that they are well informed.
   - Dr Harper received two replies and both are in favour of the status quo. So no further proposal is being made to hold special meetings for the Branches.

4. **Presentation of the Annual Report**
   The Chair’s Report for the year ending 31st December, 2018.
Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Benevolent Fund.

I am sorry to have to report the sudden death of our Honorary Treasurer, Gail Long. She has served on the Board of the Benevolent Fund for as long as I can remember and will be sadly missed. She initiated and ran the Prestige Raffle which raised a tremendous amount of money for the fund.

The Fund has continued to help people who have lost employment to maintain Institute membership, professional qualifications and Engineering Council registration. The aims are to assist these people to identify employment opportunities, to return to employment and to maintain morale. There have been several successes but some beneficiaries require support for several years. There have been six members helped this year with membership subscriptions and we have continued to help those members with mobility problems.

Contact has been made with bereaved families to offer consolation and practical help.

I would like to thank all of the people who helped in organising and running the Prestige Raffle at the Conference, last year. Also all of the Companies and Individuals who donated prizes and supported the Raffle. Due to the sudden and unexpected death of Gail, it was decided not to run the raffle this year.

I would also like to thank all members of the Board and Tanya, Cindy and Elaine for all of the help that they have given me over the past year. Also the Branch Welfare Officers who have been a tremendous help in following up requests for assistance.

Please carry on with your fund raising and try to recruit more members to the Fund.

Thanks for your support,

Peter Wallace

- Mr Wallace also informed the AGM that there is a collection in honour of Ms Long on behalf of the Benevolent Fund. Envelopes are available for those that wish to donate.
- Mr Wallace also noted that the fund had very few actual contributing members to the fund and at £5 a year it is hoped that it is a small request being made. He asked that members encourage others to join the fund and contribute towards it.
- Mr Wallace introduce Mr Lyon as the new Honorary Treasurer and thanked him for stepping into the role.

5. Presentation of Accounts to 31 December 2018

- Accounts were circulated for review.
- Mr Lyon explained that he has only be in the post for two weeks and as such he was giving Mrs Long’s report. He noted that part of his role is to give consideration to investments and aims by next year’s AGM to report back on this matter.
- Mr Lyon talked through the main highlights of the accounts. Income over expenditure, leaving an annual surplus of £649 for the year. Noting an increase on last year of the current assets value also.
- Mr Lyon summarised that the accounts looked in a healthy position.
- He also called for support in gaining more income for the fund to enable increase in support for those in need.
6. **Adoption of Annual Accounts**
   - Mr Elliott proposed we accept the Accounts for the year 2018, and this was seconded by Mr Crowther. The proposal was carried unanimously.

7. **Election of Office Holders**
   - Dr Harper clarified that the agenda stated Election of Office Holders, however the rules state that the matter for the election of office holders is a matter for the Board and not for the membership at large.
   - However, Dr Harper noted that it is good that all see the nominations and approve them for there is the wish not to get the Board out of step with the membership. To support this Dr Harper proceeded to read out the appointments made by the Board.
     
     Mr Peter Wallace (Chair)  
     Dr Harry Harper (Honorary Secretary)  
     Mr Roger Lyon (Honorary Treasurer)  
     
     Dr Harper proposed the election of two new Board members and the continuation of membership of the existing Board members:
     
     Mr Peter Wallace  
     Mr Roger Lyon  
     Dr Harry Harper  
     Mr Paul Crowther  
     Mr Gary Elliott  
     Mr John Hansen  
     Mr Steve Poucher  
     
     with the addition of two new members to the Board:  
     Prof Robert Smith, seconded by Mr Hansen  
     Mr Karl Quirk, seconded by Mr Lyon  
     
     The election of the Board, constituted as above, was carried unanimously.  
     Dr Harper reported that Prof Smith will take up his role on 1 April 2020 and Mr Quirk will take up his post immediately.  
     After the meeting, it was noted that Mr Lyon had been appointed Hon. Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund on 16 August 2019 by order of the Board.  
     After the meeting, on 4 September 2019, Ms Caroline Bull was co-opted onto the Board by order of the Board.

8. **Election of Independent Examiner**
   - Mr Wallace proposed that Dove Naish should act as independent Examiners for the Benevolent Fund accounts next year. This was seconded by Mr Crowther.  
   - Approval of the Independent Examiner was carried unanimously.

9. **Any other business**
   - Dr Harper proposed the following motion:
A motion to be put before the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 4 September 2019

Proposed by: Harold Harper, Honorary Secretary
Seconded by: Peter Wallace, Chairman
Supported by: The Benevolent Fund Board

Motion:
Subject to the approval of the Charity Commissioners, the eligibility of a member of the British Institute of Non-Destructive Testing to be accepted as a Member of the Benevolent Fund with the power to take part in its business, vote in its General Meetings and be eligible for Assistance shall be clarified by distinguishing between “voting members” of the Institute and others who may be less precisely described as “members” of the Institute.

The Benevolent Fund Board shall be empowered to make any typographical changes to the Rules in order to make this distinction clear and to correct any typographical errors in the Rules.

Supporting statement:
The Benevolent Fund was founded to provide assistance, when necessary, to members of the British Institute of Non-Destructive, former members and the dependants of both.
Membership of the Institute automatically carried voting rights and required payment of a subscription, except at the highest level when honorary membership was awarded.
Conditions have now changed and greater clarity is required.
The Institute now has directors who can establish classes of membership with different rights and obligations. Classes can be established to encourage membership and promote the charitable objects of the Institute. Affiliate membership has been introduced, for example, as a non-voting grade open to any person who has a demonstrable interest in non-destructive testing, condition monitoring or any of the related technologies but who is ineligible for membership, or who, for whatever reason, does not wish to join at one of the voting grades.
The Benevolent Fund Rules were amended in 2011 to permit the Fund to grant assistance to people who are or have worked in non-destructive testing but who are not and never have been members of the Institute. Recognising that a more nuanced judgement was necessary, the AGM instructed that in such cases the application should be referred to all members of the Board. This requirement is embodied in a specific Rule (Rule 16(e)).
The Board of the Benevolent Fund believes that applications from those who do not meet the requirements for the voting grades of the Institute and those who do not wish to pay a subscription to join such grades, should be treated as “exceptional cases”. Their applications should not be automatically rejected, but they should be subject to the requirements of Rule 16(e).
No-one who is currently eligible for assistance will be excluded by virtue of the proposed change to the Rules.
This relatively simple change streamlines the operation of the Benevolent Fund while the Institute implements its strategic changes.
The Board of the Fund recommends that you vote in favour of this motion.
Specific changes to the Rules
Specifically, the following changes (emboldened) to the Rules of the Benevolent Fund, as adopted on 31 March 2011, are proposed:

Rule 1(e). Insert the word “voting” before the word “member” (twice). The amended wording to read:
1 (e) “Dependant” shall mean any person who is or has been in the opinion of the Board supported in whole or in part by a voting member of the Institute or a deceased voting member.

Rule 1(f). Insert the word “voting” before the word “member”. The amended wording to read:
1(f) “Life Member” shall mean a voting member of the Institute who has become a Member for life of the Benevolent Fund by virtue of Rule 4(c) hereof.

Rule 3(a) Insert the word “voting” before the word “members”. The amended wording to read:
3(a) To raise and maintain by donations and voluntary subscriptions a fund which shall be devoted to the relief of poverty of necessitous persons, whether or not Members of or subscribers to the Benevolent Fund, who are or have been voting members of the Institute and spouses, widows, widowers, children of such persons or Dependents.

Rule 3(c). Insert the word “voting” before the word “member”. The amended wording to read:
3(c) To render assistance in exceptional circumstances to necessitous persons who are working or have worked in non-destructive testing but who are not and never have been voting members of the Institute, their spouses, widows, widowers, children or dependants.

Rule 4(a). Insert the word “voting” before the word “member”. The amended wording to read:
4(a) Membership of the Benevolent Fund shall be subject to the acceptance by the Board of an application for Membership from a voting member of the Institute and to payment of the annual subscription of the applicant.

Rule 4(c). Insert the word “voting” before the word “member”. The amended wording to read:
4(c) A voting member of the Institute may become a Life Member upon payment of a lump sum to be fixed by the Board, in its absolute discretion, in each particular case.

Rule 16(e). Insert the word “voting” before the word “members”. The amended wording to read:
16(e) All applications for assistance by or on behalf of necessitous persons who are working or have worked in non-destructive testing but who are not and never have been voting members of the Institute, their spouses, widows, widowers, children or dependants shall be referred to all members of the Board.

• Mr Gilbert pointed out that in the Dr Harper’s original proposal he wrote of Associate Membership and asked that this be amended to Affiliate membership. Correction made.
• The proposal was carried unanimously.
• Mr Sinclair offered congratulations to all on the Benevolent Board on the expenditure in assistance grants to individuals. Stating that he places as much importance on the outgoings as in the income of the fund. For that is what the fund is there to do, support those in need.
• Mr Wallace thanked him for his comments.
Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place during the BINDT annual conference after the BINDT AGM, to be held in Northampton, on the 16th September 2020.

Mr Wallace thanked all for attending and supporting the Benevolent Fund.