

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA
HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2017 7.30pm
AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE**

Board Member and Officers Present

President	Alex Downie OBE (AD)
Chairman	Jacqueline Street (JS)
Treasurer	Debbie Clague (DC)
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Waring (SW)
Company Secretary	Paul Halliday
Board Members	Sue Blythe Steve Burrows Phillip Dearden (co-opted)
General Manager	Juana Warburton
Veterinary Surgeon	Raymond Cox

Item 1: Formal convening of meeting (Jacqueline Street, Chairman of the ManxSPCA)

The Chairman of the Board:

- Called the meeting to order at 19.30 and welcomed all persons attending in this, the Society's 120th year.
- Introduced the President and Directors / Charity Trustees of the Society.
- Convened the meeting and asked the Members present to approve the President at Chairman of the meeting, which was given.

Item 2: Attendance (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

The President of the Society:

- Added his welcome to those attending.
- Asked all to rise in tribute to those Members no longer with us, which all those present did.
- Confirmed that a number of apologies had been received [see schedule in Appendix 1].
- Asked for confirmation that the meeting was quorate with the required minimum of 20 'A' Members in attendance, which the Secretary confirmed.
- Asked for confirmation that no-one on the Board or amongst the assembled Members had any conflict of interest with respect to the items on the agenda, which was confirmed when no-one declared.

Item 3: Consider and adopt the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 7th November 2016 (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

The President confirmed that the minutes had been made available and asked for Members to consider and adopt the minutes of the AGM held 7th November 2016. Alan Ormsby proposed the adoption of the minutes, and this was seconded by Jo Oldbury. The President asked the assembled Members for a show of hands from those in favour of adopting the minutes, and then for a show of hands from those against. Those present at the meeting approved the adoption of the minutes unanimously, and the President then explained that the proxy votes would be accounted for at the end of the meeting.

Item 4: Consider and adopt the 2016 Annual Report and Financial Statements (Debbie Clague, Treasurer, and Sue Waring, Assistant Treasurer)

The President then asked the Members to consider and adopt the 2015 Annual Reports and Financial Statements and asked the Treasurer, Debbie Clague, if she wished to speak about them.

DC advised that there was a modest surplus over expenses, and a continued reliance upon donations and recurring income. The Windsor Road shop had been closed because it was loss-making, and a Ramsey shop opened; and the Society had now taken over the running of the Tearooms. The Society needs to increase controllable income.

She added that there are fixed expenses that are difficult to reduce, but there had been a slight overall reduction in expenses. The Society's total net assets are £1.9m.

DC drew attention to Point 9, and invited Phillip Dearden to comment on the ongoing VAT issue.

PD said that there was a VAT problem, and that the Society had reclaimed too much VAT and it now owed this sum to Customs and Excise. He added that VAT activity had been undertaken openly and honestly, but some of those activities had been done incorrectly. This is due to the Society's VAT status being a complex one with some areas of work being vatable, some being zero rated, and some not vatable. If an expense is vatable it can be claimed back, but the Society has been claiming back all VAT which is incorrect.

PD went on to say that the Board had taken advice, prompted by its auditors, and that he has analysed the situation and spoken to Customs. An amount will have to be paid back, but this is money the Society should not have had in the first place. How did this happen? PD said he didn't know, but he could understand how the mistake had been made.

A Member queried why Customs did not pick up the problem earlier and PD replied that the forms submitted would not necessarily allow for this. Another Member asked how much would need to be paid back to which PD replied that he estimated a little over £100,000 (although this has yet to be finalised). He added that the Society did have the funds to meet this cost, but its financial buffer will be eroded.

Another Member asked if the sum could be paid back a bit at a time, and PD replied that it didn't need to be but if Customers were agreeable we could do this.

The President said that VAT was a very complicated matter and could be interpreted in different ways, and it was a shame that it became a matter for social media.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Annual Reports and Financial Statements. The President asked the Members for a show of hands from those in favour of adopting the accounts, and then for a show of hands from those against. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

The President welcomed a good friend of the Society, David Callin of Callow Matthewman and Co., and thanked him for the work he did on behalf of the ManxSPCA. He asked if those present were happy to delegate the authority for remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board, and this was agreed unanimously by a show of hands.

Item 5: Consider and adopt the 2016 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)

The President asked the Members to consider and adopt the 2016 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW said she would try not to repeat what she brought to the previous AGM, given it had been held so late in 2016, and she welcomed everyone.

JW commenced a slide presentation, which began with two rescue dogs, Lola the English Bull Terrier and Windsor the Rough Collie, who have been adopted by members of staff. She added that, in all, 79 dogs were rehomed in 2016, and that the adoption process was second-to-none. The Kennels staff continue to use the training expertise of Debbie Martin, who is based in Ramsey, on a regular basis; and on an ad hoc basis they use a UK-based Clinical Animal Behaviourist. The contribution made by volunteers is invaluable, with Bethany Freeguard receiving a special mention.

She added that the Operational Report contained a range of statistics, but one is of particular note – namely that the breed of dog most commonly gifted into the Kennels in 2016 was the Border Collie (perhaps due to our semi-rural economy, and the fact that owners completely underestimate the needs of the breed).

One such Collie, JT, appeared in the following slide which pictured him in one of the outdoor dog pens which were funded by the Scheinberg Family.

JW then commented that 362 cats and kittens were rehomed or released in 2016, and that changes to the way in which feral cats are dealt with (eg. releasing the males more quickly after they have been neutered) has improved the process. Burger and Fries (polydactyl cats) appeared in a slide, and JW welcomed any ideas for better names for cats.

JW said that it wasn't all good news and that there is cruelty on the Island, and that the Society had a number of animals currently in its care that it could not openly discuss for legal reasons.

JW went on to mention that 110 'small furies' had been rehomed in 2016, and that education work continued in an effort to stop people buying these animals without an understanding of the commitment needed.

JW then described the wild animals that came into the Society's care, not least young seals. She added that the Society uses a 'watch and wait' policy before it brings in a pup to the seal unit, and luckily there were no seals in the unit when its roof blew off in the November storms. She expressed her thanks to Mannin Roofing for responding to her call so quickly, and the repairs were fully covered by insurance.

JW moved on to describe how the Aviary had released or rehomed 449 birds in 2016, and how cockerels are still a problem due to irresponsible breeding, and that finding new homes for them is difficult. She added that young corvids and herring gulls keep the Aviary full in the Summer months.

JW then went on to describe the plight of feral sheep on the Island.

Away from Ard Jerkyl, JW discussed the opening of the Ramsey charity shop, which was officially opened in October by Lady Gozney who had agreed to be the Society's Patron.

JW then summarised what was on the horizon: outreaching to the more remote communities with the Animal Care in the Community initiative, funded by Co-Op; finishing the Chill Out Rooms, to incorporate a grooming facility; maximising the income potential from the Tearooms now that it is being run by the Society, including making it dog-friendly (although the Foxdale Road closure has had a huge impact); exploring the feasibility of a Southern charity shop; developing the new Fundraising

Manager role and trying to maximise the Scheinberg Family's very generous pound-matching of donations; and being involved in the drafting of the new Animal Welfare Act.

JW concluded by saying how grateful she was to the Manx public for their support and generosity – the Society needs as many people as possible to love it. Small, regular donations add up, and help to provide sustainable funding.

In response to questions from Members, JW confirmed that the Chill Out Rooms would need a 'change of use' permission for dog grooming, and that quiet space for dogs that needed it would be a priority. When asked about the enrichment field, she replied that funds were still earmarked for the field but that a craftsman would be needed to make the structures. And finally, when asked about Rexina the hermaphrodite cat JW replied that he/she was still in the Cattery.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2016 Operational Report. The President asked the Members for a show of hands from those in favour of adopting the report, and then for a show of hands from those against. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2016 Operational Report.

Item 6: Veterinary Report (Raymond Cox, Practice Principal, Milan Vets)

The President asked Raymond Cox to comment. RC described how Milan was half-way through a three-year contract with the Society, and that the company also employed Jacqueline Street. He said he wished to highlight that there was no conflict of interest.

RC then commented on 2016 being a good year for rehoming, and the good numbers and the good work 365 days per year far outweigh any negative comments.

RC described how the Cattery had overcome issues with respiratory diseases such as cat 'flu' and that infection control had been high on the agenda, with procedures re-vamped. The sick-bay unit is far from perfect and has poor ventilation, but this is being addressed.

RC then stated that the Kennels had also had a successful year, with relatively few health issues; and the Boarding Kennels continue to be popular.

RC then said he would tackle the 'elephant in the room' which was the euthanasia of Ziggy. He said that Ziggy had first come in to the Society in 2013, and that when he was rehomed there had been a succession of incidents with him resulting in the dog being returned to the Society. The clinical animal behaviourist who worked with Ziggy said that he was a dog with numerous triggers and that being kennelled made him worse. He was an aggressive dog, and every effort was made to help him – far more than what any UK charity would do. It was with extreme regret that the decision was taken to let him go, and the resultant furore on social media was out of proportion and unacceptable.

RC then commented on the other issue that had resulted in social media criticism for the Society – namely the importation to the Island of a suspected Pitbull-type dog. Milan had a legal responsibility to report the dog to DEFA and the Police, who then requested that the Society house him until he was sent back to the UK for Essex Police to handle.

RC then commented that the future Animal Welfare Act would help animals to be treated fairly and equally be they farm or domestic animals.

Finally, he congratulated the staff at the ManxSPCA and said that the work they do is a testament to their love of animals.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Veterinary Report. The President asked the Members for a show of hands from those in favour of adopting the report, and then for a show of hands from those against. Those present at the meeting approved the adoption of the Veterinary Report.

Item 7: Election of members to the Board of Management (Jacqueline Street, Chairman of the ManxSPCA)

The President then introduced the next item, being the elections to the Board of Management. He then asked Phillip Dearden to introduce himself, and then for PD to be proposed and seconded. Jacqueline Street proposed PD and Steve Burrows seconded his election to the Board.

The President then stated that the other two names to be considered, Jacqueline Street and Steve Burrows, were already on the Board.

Paul Halliday proposed Jacqueline Street and Sue Waring seconded her re-election. Debbie Clague proposed Steve Burrows and Phillip Dearden seconded his re-election.

All three elections were carried by a unanimous show of hands of those present.

Resolutions

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 26t June 2017:

Votes in person: For 31; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 14; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

2. To approve the Annual Accounts for 2016:

Votes in person: For 31; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 14; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

3. To approve the Board/Operational Report 2016:

Votes in person: For 31; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 14; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

The formal proceedings closed at 20.45.

Appendix 1

Apologies received:

Nula Baker
Jan Bujko
Gillian Cowley
Alan Cope
Val Crane
Georgina Dale
Joanne Hetherington
Georgina MacLaurin
Sue Madigan
Hilda Mander
Debi Michelson
Liz Noble
P & K Quirk
B Shaw
Ann Vickers