

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA  
HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018 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)
Board Members	Steve Burrows Phillip Dearden Daren Ward (co-opted)
General Manager	Juana Warburton
Veterinary Surgeons	Raymond Cox Katie Druggan

Apologies for absence given by Paul Halliday, Company Secretary.

**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 121<sup>st</sup> year.
- Introduced the President and Directors / Charity Trustees of the Society.
- Convened the meeting and asked the Members present to approve the President as 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 and asked all to rise in tribute to those Members no longer with us, which all those present did.

- 2.1 The President confirmed that a number of apologies had been received [see schedule in Appendix 1].
- 2.2 The President asked for confirmation that the meeting was quorate with the required minimum of 20 'A' Members in attendance, which the Lyn Renshaw confirmed.
- 2.3 The President 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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)**

3.1 The President confirmed that the minutes had been made available and asked for Members to consider and adopt the minutes of the AGM held 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Ann Hunter proposed the adoption of the minutes, and this was seconded by Jo Marks. 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.

3.2 The President explained that the change in the process for approving the minutes was not for voting on, but he wanted to ensure that they were understood. Minutes will, henceforth, be available

for review more quickly to ensure that matters arising from an AGM can be actioned in a timely manner.

**Item 4: Consider and adopt the 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statements (Debbie Clague, Treasurer, and Sue Waring, Assistant Treasurer)**

4.1 The President then asked the Members to consider and adopt the 2017 Annual Report and Financial Statements and asked the Treasurer, Debbie Clague, if she wished to speak about them.

DC advised that 2017 had been another challenging year, resulting in a significant deficit. Notably there was a reduction in grant income and legacies. The focus continues to be on increasing recurring and controllable income, and managing expenses (although some expenses are fixed). 2018's cost base is expected to reduce.

In February 2017 the Society took over the running of the Tearooms and made a net loss during the year, but the Tearooms is now on target for a profit in 2018.

The aim is to continue with efforts to make the Society more financially sustainable.

Claire Duggan queried why rental income had reduced, and DC replied that this was because the Tearooms no longer paid rent to the Society.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements. Debi Michelson proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, and this was seconded by Claire Duggan. 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.

4.2 The President welcomed David Callin of Callow Matthewman and Co. and thanked him for the work he did on behalf of the ManxSPCA. The President then asked the Members to agree that Callow Matthewman and Co. be reappointed as auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Cath Cubbon proposed that Callow Matthewman and Co. be reappointed as auditors, and this was seconded by Jo Oldbury. The President asked the Members for a show of hands from those in favour of adopting the reappointment, and then for a show of hands from those against. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved that Callow Matthewman and Co. be reappointed as auditors.

4.3 The President asked if those present were happy to delegate the authority for remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board. A Member proposed that the authority be delegated to the Board, and this was seconded by another Member. The President asked the Members for a show of hands from those in favour of delegating the remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board, and then for a show of hands from those against. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved the delegation of remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board.

**Item 5: Consider and adopt the 2017 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)**

The President asked the Members to consider and adopt the 2017 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW thanked those present for attending and then presented a slide show depicting some of the highlights of 2017.

She stated that the number of welfare cases investigated in the year was less than in the previous year at 135, but that there were two successful prosecutions – one in relation to a West Highland Terrier, and the other in relation to several animals including two dogs and two Harris Hawks. Whereas the Westie could be rehomed on the Island (and renamed) the other animals were more easy to identify and so they were rehomed via the Dogs Trust and a falconry centre in the U.K.

JW then described other cruelty cases: one relating to a black swan that was shot through the leg with a pellet (but the culprit was never found); and the other, more a case of neglect, relating to a dog, Matty, who could barely walk because of the poor condition of his coat.

JW went on to explain the Society's involvement with the Animal Welfare Act forum, alongside other agencies. The Act is scheduled to be part of the 2017/18 legislative programme and, when passed, it will act as an overarching framework that will help agencies address and prevent cases of animal cruelty and neglect. One of the pieces of secondary legislation that will follow the implementation of the Act will require animal sanctuaries to be registered and conform to standards (such as those prescribed by the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes), and another will place restrictions on the selling of puppies.

JW then showed a slide depicting some of the children and young people who have benefitted from the Society's educational programme, and she then explained how the links with schools had been further enhanced by Kerry Gascoyne, who was recruited as the Society's Fundraising Manager in April 2017. 'Dress Up as an Animal Day' was particularly successful and will now be an annual event. JW stressed that Kerry is always looking for fundraising volunteers, and for people who want to run events on the Society's behalf.

JW reiterated DC's comments about the Tearooms in its first year 'in-house' (a year when lots of lessons were learned), and she added that the shops, too, had had a challenging year. As with the Tearooms' staff the shop managers and volunteers are an asset to the Society. Alex Morrison, for example, held a successful fashion show with Dot Tilsbury as compare and raised £1,500. JW took this opportunity to mention that the Scheinberg family continue to be a lifeline for the Society, and they double the sums raised in fundraising endeavours such as this. Alan Ormsby's time commitments mean he is no longer a Board member, but he remains well informed about the Society.

JW then explained that the Kennels had admitted 60 dogs during the year, which is less than in previous years. This is partially due to the support given to people who are struggling with their dogs, and Lyn and Diane's input. JW showed a slide of Frankie the French Bulldog who had endless offers of adoption, alongside Buddy the Border Collie who was with us for 18 months before being successfully adopted.

Over in the Cattery JW said that a record number of cats and kittens, 433, were admitted in the year, with the hygienic surroundings of the isolation and quarantine unit enabling cats with serious wounds (like Pirate Joe) able to fully recover. Rehoming rates were excellent.

Other cats of note included Jacob the kitten whose photo on Facebook received more than 25,000 views; and Gwen who was covered in black tar when she arrived.

JW described how the Small Animals Unit had 78 rabbits and guinea pigs, slightly fewer than the previous year, and that it was good to report that there had been no disease issues.

And in the Aviary JW said that 344 birds were admitted during the year, with peafowl being an ever-increasing issue. Three seals were successfully rehabilitated, with one being sent to a sanctuary in Scotland and two being release on the East Coast of the Island, having spent time in an outdoor pool at Ard Jerkyl.

JW then explained that plans for 2018 included doubling the number of dog boarding pens; creating an overflow car park to increase capacity; providing a microchipping service; and continuing to search for suitable premises for a charity shop in the South.

JW finished with a photograph of Maddie, the terminally ill cat who was given a home for Christmas by a Member who JW was surprised, but delighted, was present at the AGM.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2017 Operational Report. Ann Hunter proposed that the 2017 Operational Report be adopted and this was seconded by Alex Morrison. 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 2017 Operational Report.

#### **Item 6: 2017 Veterinary Report (Raymond Cox, Practice Principal, Milan Vets)**

The President asked Raymond Cox to comment. RC said that this was his last AGM report as clinical director of Milan due to his impending retirement from the practice.

RC then commented on how good working practices continue, but that they are continuously reviewed, not least in relation to disease control. The policy on cats with FIV (a type of feline leukemia), which is an infectious, life-limiting disease, has slightly changed in that an FIV positive cat may now be rehomed in a controlled environment – following protocols outlined by Cats Protection and Glasgow University.

RC described how disease control in Kennels has been very good, with good staff and working practices. However, behavioural issues in dogs are still a problem (e.g. the nervous Collie) and require tremendous patience.

RC praised the Police for taking forward the two animal welfare prosecutions and, because the Society has no powers of entry, Police support is essential. It was good to forge contact with the Police and other agencies at the Animal Welfare Act forum meetings. RC said he was hopeful that the Act would be passed soon.

RC updated Members on the case of the illegal importation of a suspected Pitbull-type, which was kennelled at Ard Jerkyl for a time – the judicial processes in the UK mean that the case has not yet gone to court, and the dog is with the care agency that originally housed it, now conforming to regulations. RC said that whether the Breed Specific Legislation is correct or not, the importation of the dog was illegal.

RC added that it had been a busy year for clinical procedures, although a more judicious view is now being taken on whether surgery is the best option with small furies.

Finally, RC said that it had been a privilege to serve the Society for the past 21 years. There is always a small minority of people who attack the Society, but opinion is changing and there is a need to keep any criticism in perspective. RC took Manx Radio to task for an imbalanced news report, and received

an apology; but these matters should not detract from the good work undertaken by the Society. It is disappointing that there seems to be very little desire to have a coherent animal welfare grouping.

RC then introduced Katie Druggan who will be taking over as a co-clinical director at Milan.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2017 Veterinary Report. Jo Oldbury proposed that the report be adopted and this was seconded by another Member. 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 2017 Veterinary Report.

AD then thanked RC for his years of support for the Society and presented him with a farewell gift.

### **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.

7.1 The President then asked Daren Ward to introduce himself. DW described how he had a marketing/financial services background stretching back over 22 years, and that he wanted to use this experience to help the Society as much as possible having had dealings with it since arriving on the Island 18 years ago.

7.2 The President confirmed that Sue Waring was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

7.3 The President confirmed that Paul Halliday was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

SW thanked the shop volunteers for their hard work and support, and JS added that the Society benefitted from more than 5,000 volunteer hours every year.

JS then presented AD with a gift to mark his 30 years as President of the Society.

The President urged those Members present to ask questions while the voting slips were being counted.

### **Resolutions**

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017:

Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0

Proxy Votes: For 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

The resolution was carried.

2. To approve the Annual Accounts for 2017:

Votes in person: For 22; Against 0; Abstentions 1

Proxy Votes: For 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

The resolution was carried.

3. To approve the Operational Report 2017:

Votes in person: For 22; Against 0; Abstentions 1

Proxy Votes: For 17; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0

The resolution was carried.

The formal proceedings closed at 20.45.



## **Appendix 1**

Apologies received:

Janice Beggs  
P & L Callister  
Gillian Cowley  
Georgina Dale  
Margery Fargher  
JS & M Galloway  
Peter Hall  
Georgina MacLaurin  
Hilda Mander  
Mrs AE May  
Peter Munday  
Liz Noble  
KP & P Quirk  
Richard Rake  
Barbara Shaw  
Ann Vickers