MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA
HELD ON 1st JULY 2019 7.30pm
AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE

Board Member and Officers Present

President	Alex Downie OBE (AD)
Chairman	Jacqueline Street (JS)
Company Secretary	Phillip Dearden (PD)
Treasurer	Debbie Clague (DC)
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Waring (SW)
Board Members	Daren Ward (DW)
	Geoff Gelling (co-opted) (GG)
General Manager	Juana Warburton (JW)
Veterinary Surgeon	Katie Druggan (KD)

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.
- 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 (proposed: Rosie Scott; seconded: Phillip Dearden).

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 was 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: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 9th July 2018 (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

The President confirmed that he had already approved the minutes of the AGM held 9th July 2018. The President asked for his decision to be endorsed by the assembled Members, and for there to be 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.

Item 4: Receive and adopt the 2018 Annual Report and Financial Statements (Debbie Clague, Treasurer, and Sue Waring, Assistant Treasurer)

4.1 The President then asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2018 Annual Report and Financial Statements and asked the Treasurer, Debbie Clague, if she wished to speak about them.

DC advised that 2018 has been a good year, with initiatives made that will make the Society more sustainable – reducing costs; investing in staff; increasing boarding capacity and income; proactive fundraising; and profitable trading from the Tearooms and the charity shops. DC also acknowledged the importance of the Scheinberg family's continued financial support.

DC added that there was a need to ensure financial stability with ongoing control over expenses and further efficiencies, and that the Society is still dependent upon legacies. The Board's current aim is to create sufficient reserves that would enable the Society to operate for a 12 month period should donations fall away.

DC thanked the Society's volunteers for the impact they had on reducing costs.

When questioned by a Member about whether there was a plan in place should the Society have a bad year financially, JW replied that it was important for the Society to build its reserves and not spend all of its available income; and to keep focused on income generation such as boarding (and ensuring that clients keep coming back to us). She added that it was pleasing to see the Tearooms now making a profit, and that the levels of donations has remained high.

DC added that the Board held a meeting every month and kept a close eye on expenses.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements. Alan Ormsby proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, and this was seconded by Richard Reeves. 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 [remain] as auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Debbie Clague proposed that Callow Matthewman and Co. be reappointed as auditors, and this was seconded by Ann Hunter. 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 2018 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)

The President asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2018 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 2018.

JW began with a chart showing the various income streams for the Society, and re-iterated DC's comments that more than 50% of the Society's income was from legacies, large and small. She added that Liam Rice's social media savviness has resulted in more donations coming from overseas.

JW then advised that there had been no prosecutions for animal cruelty in 2018, although she predicted that, sadly, she predicted that this was not going to be the case in 2019. In 2018 47% of the complaints received from the public were about dogs, followed by cats, with vast majority being unfounded. JW cited Ann Vicker's calculation in relation to horse welfare, in that a third of reports were malicious, a third were misguided, and a third had some validity.

JW went on to describe how 2018 had been a bad year for hedgehogs, mainly due to the very dry Summer.

JW then commented on slides relating to horse issues; the campaign (in association with the Humane Society) to make people more aware of real fur being sold on the high street; microchipping; and the Society's continuing education and preventative work.

JW stressed the importance of the Tearooms not just as an income generator, but also as a reason for the public to visit Ard Jerkyll, making it a 'destination'; and she then praised the charity shop teams for being great ambassadors for the Society in Douglas and Ramsey.

JW then described how important it was for the staff teams to be well informed and educated in their areas of work, and praised Krysia Borush, in particular, for having gained a degree in canine behaviour in 2018. This directly impacts on the good work of the Kennels.

JW covered further slide relating to dog boarding, and how this enabled the Society to build up relationships with clients over the long term, as well as making increased income; the continuation of Trap, Neuter, Return policy for feral cats; the reduction of rabbits being admitted for rehoming (is this due to better education/awareness?); the issue of peafowl on the Island; and plans for 2019 which include creating an overflow car park at Ard Jerkyll, enhancing the dog boarding experience with grooming options, and planning for a replacement of the wooden Cattery pens.

JW then ended with a slide depicting Rosie Scott undertaking volunteering duties at Tesco, and said that she and the Board wished to acknowledge all that Rosie has done to fundraise for the Society over many years by making her an Honorary Life Member. The President then presented Rosie with a floral gift to mark the occasion.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2018 Operational Report. Phillip Dearden proposed that the 2018 Operational Report be adopted and this was seconded by Richard Rake. 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 2018 Operational Report.

Item 6: 2018 Veterinary Report (Katie Druggan, Practice Director, Milan Vets)

The President asked Katie Druggan to comment. KD said that after nine years as a vet at Milan she had taken over from Ray Cox as a director, after his retirement from the practice.

KD then commented on how 2018 had been a relatively quiet year, with routine vaccinating, neutering and chipping taking up most of the veterinary time. The fact that the Society can now do its own microchipping is a great help.

KD described how infectious feline diseases were still prevalent, but that a new policy had been introduced whereby Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) positive cats were not routinely put-to-sleep, provided that they were temperamentally suited to living out their lives as indoor cats, in single cat households (so as not to spread the disease).

KD continued by stating that there had been no infectious episodes in the Kennels during the year; and the slight drop in neutering numbers was potentially as a result of more public awareness meaning animals were coming into the Society already neutered, as well as a more targeted approach to feral cat neutering.

KD finished by saying that there had been no prosecutions in relation to animal welfare over the 12 months, and that she had found working with the Society very rewarding.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2018 Veterinary Report. Rosie Scott proposed that the report be adopted and this was seconded by Geoff Gelling. 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 2018 Veterinary Report.

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

The President asked the Chairman to introduce the next item, being the elections to the Board of Management.
7.1 The Chairman then asked Geoff Gelling to introduce himself. GG described how he had a banking/financial services background stretching back over several decades, and that in between his current work commitments he looks after a flock of 41 pet sheep (having started off with two lambs). GG added that he hoped to bring stability to the Society.
7.2 The Chairman confirmed that Debbie Clague was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.
7.3 The Chairman confirmed that Phillip Dearden was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

GG, DC and PD were all unanimously elected/re-elected to the Board by a show of hands of those Members present.

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

Rosie Scott asked whether income was generated from Playbarn bookings, and JW replied that it was (with the hourly hiring rate being £20). Rosie also asked whether the Cattery boarding had been considered, and JW replied that it had but that very strict rules applied (e.g. the rescue and boarding cats had to be kept separate, with separate entrances and washing of bedding, trays, etc). She added that the design of a replacement Cattery would include the ability to have a number of boarding pens.

Heather Reeves asked about the Society's thoughts about dogs being brought in from foreign countries, and whether there should be better regulations. JW replied that this was an area of concern for several reasons: the dogs are potentially carriers of zoonotic/infectious diseases; they are often 'street dogs' who need freedom, and who do not make good house dogs; and the money spent on bringing them to the UK/Island is possibly going to unscrupulous traders (when it should be spent on neutering programmes in the countries concerned).

Rosie Scott asked whether the Society thought legislation should be introduced regarding road traffic accidents involving cats, making it a legal requirement to report the incident, as with dogs. JW replied that enforcement of such a law would be difficult, although it would be a step in the right direction, and she agreed with Rosie that microchipping would help.

The President then gave his thoughts about why the Animal Welfare Act had not yet been passed through Tynwald, and he explained that Brexit planning had taken priority.

Alan Ormsby asked if there had been any trends in the first half year of 2019, and DC replied that the trends were looking positive but that legacies were still key.

Resolutions

1. To approve the Annual Accounts for 2018:
Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 9; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

2. To approve the Operational Report 2018:
Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 9; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

3. To approve the Veterinary Report 2018:
Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 9; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

4. To approve Geoff Gelling to the Board of Management:
Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 9; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

5. To approve Debbie Clague to the Board of Management:
Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 9; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

6. To approve Phillip Dearden to the Board of Management:
Votes in person: For 23; Against 0; Abstentions 0
Proxy Votes: For 9; Against: 0; Abstentions: 0
The resolution was carried.

The formal proceedings closed at 20.45.

Appendix 1

Apologies received:

Jan Bujko
Steve and Barbara Burrows
Gillian Cowley
Val Crane
Georgina Dale
P Hall
Georgina MacLaurin
Hilda Mander
Liz Noble
Marian Shaw
Malcolm and Vivienne Wenn