

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA
HELD ON 14th September 2020 7.30pm
AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE

Board Members 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)
General Manager	Juana Warburton (JW)
Veterinary Surgeon	Alice Forster (AF)

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 from Members [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.

Item 3: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 1st July 2019 (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

3.1 The President confirmed that he had already approved the minutes of the AGM held 1st July 2019. He added that those present were more than welcome to ask questions about the minutes, or other matters, once the AGM agenda had been covered

Item 4: Receive and adopt the 2019 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 2019 Annual Report and Financial Statements and asked the Treasurer, Debbie Clague, if she wished to speak about them.

DC advised that 2019 had been a disappointing year financially, largely due to the legacy income being well below what had been budgeted for. However, controllable expenses continued to decrease, and costs closely monitored. The deficit means that the Society has needed to draw upon its reserves,

which fortunately it is able to do. DC also acknowledged the importance of the Scheinberg family's continued financial support.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements. Anna Dearden proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, and this was seconded by Rosie Scott. 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 note that Callow Matthewman and Co. are to be reappointed as auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting.

4.3 The President asked if those present were happy to delegate the authority for remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board. Debi Michelson proposed that the authority be delegated to the Board, and this was seconded by Ann Vickers. 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 2019 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)

The President asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2019 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW thanked those present for attending, and she advised that a familiar face at past AGM's, Lyn Renshaw, had left the employment of the Society in December 2019 to work in an office environment. Lyn had judged the Fun Dog Show the day before, when it was also pleasing to see the new overflow car park in full use.

JW reflected that 2019 seemed like a lifetime ago, given the COVID-19 pandemic but that, in summary, her view of the Society's status is that it is sailing in calm waters as a steady ship. She added that there was a continued need to focus on costs, not least because income from boarding is now much diminished, and that new income generating ventures were being developed.

She then presented three videos showing the work of the Society over the past 18 months, stressing how 'story-telling' is such an important part of the Society's work – making sure people know what it does.

The first video showed the Society's new Daycare for Dogs service, which is growing slowly and being managed with existing resources both in terms of staff and premises.

JW advised that the pandemic had enabled the Society to undertake a review of its prices and its services, and that a smaller team was coping well with the demands placed upon it. The rehoming of animals has continued throughout 2020, and the throughput is high with a very small number of adoptions failing. However, homes were still being sought for three larger dogs who have been with the Society for some time.

JW went on to describe how the pandemic had also enabled the Society to increase its income in terms of donations and legacies, and that it should be able to put funds back into its reserves at the end of the year, thus helping to shield it from possible future economic challenges.

JW then introduced a second video about a kitten called Anastasia, showing her miraculous return to health thanks to the dedication and expertise of the staff who looked after her, night and day.

JW then introduced the third video about a seal pup rescue, although she stressed that moving seal pups was a very last resort.

JW finished by saying how grateful she was to work with such a supportive Board, and she thanked Sue Waring, in particular, for all her hard work. She also thanked the amazing team of staff, many of whom were present at the AGM.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2019 Operational Report. Phillip Dearden proposed that the 2019 Operational Report be adopted and this was seconded by Ann Vickers. 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 2019 Operational Report.

Item 6: 2019 Veterinary Report (Alice Forster, Practice Director, Milan Vets)

The President invited AF to comment.

AF then described how 2019 had been a relatively quiet year, with routine vaccinating and neutering taking up most of the veterinary time.

The pandemic meant that the weekly routine veterinary visits to Ard Jerkyl were suspended for a period of time, with phone consultations taking place and emergency treatments being undertaken at the Douglas surgery. All is now back to normal.

AF continued by saying that the ManxSPCA staff were doing a really good job, and that veterinary costs were being kept as low as possible because issues were being spotted early. JW added that all adopted animals left Ard Jerkyl with four weeks of free pet insurance with Petplan, and this enabled owners to pay for any health issues that might develop, such as dental ones. Even though pre-existing conditions are not covered by insurance, the staff are being very upfront with potential new owners about an animal's health issues, but this doesn't seem to be affecting adoption rates.

In response to a question from the President about the prevalence of strangles on the Island, AF stated that this disease had not been an issue for a couple of years. She added that the incidence of kennel cough had also gone down, largely due to boarding establishments being closed. A current trend, she said, was owners being concerned about their dog's attachment issues.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2019 Veterinary Report. Rosie Scott proposed that the report be adopted and this was seconded by Debbie Clague. 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 2019 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 confirmed that she, Jacqueline Street, was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

7.3 The Chairman confirmed that Sue Waring was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

JS and SW were unanimously re-elected to the Board by a show of hands of those Members present.

The President clarified that there had been 13 proxy votes, all in favour of the motions.

The President asked if the Members had any questions, and there being none he drew the meeting to a formal end, and thanked those present for attending.

The formal proceedings closed at 20.45.

Appendix 1

Apologies received:

Winifred Ball

Jan Bujko

Patrick and Lynda Fitzgerald

Geoff Gelling

Helen Jackson

Anne Hunter

P & K Quirk

Richard Rake