

(Draft) MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA
HELD ON 19th July 2021 7.30pm
AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE

Board Members and Officers Present

President	Alex Downie OBE (AD)
Chairman (Acting)	Phillip Dearden (PD)
Company Secretary	Phillip Dearden (PD)
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Waring (SW)
Board Members	Daren Ward (DW)
	Stuart Mills (SM)
	Lyn Renshaw (LR)
General Manager	Juana Warburton (JW)
Veterinary Surgeon	Alice Forster (AF)

Item 1: Formal convening of meeting (Phillip Dearden, Acting Chairman of the ManxSPCA)

The Acting Chairman of the Board:

- Called the meeting to order at 19.30pm and welcomed all persons attending.
- Introduced the President and Directors / Charity Trustees of the Society. He noted that Debbie Clague, Treasurer, had provided her apologies due to ill health.
- Convened the meeting and proposed the President as Chairman of the meeting, which was unanimously approved by those present.

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 by JW.

Item 3: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 14th September 2020 (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

3.1 The President confirmed that he had already approved the minutes of the AGM held 14th September 2020. 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 2020 Annual Report and Financial Statements (Phillip Dearden, Acting Chairman)

4.1 The President then asked the Members to receive and adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 and invited PD to speak about them in DC's absence.

PD thanked Debbie Clague and Callow Matthewman and Co. for preparing and auditing the accounts, respectively, and added that 2020 had been a good year financially. He advised that an unusual item appears in the accounts – namely the gifting to the Society of a commercial property, Pascoe's in Tromode. The property has not yet been sold and so does not represent cash, but the tenant is considering her options with a view to giving up the tenancy in the near future.

PD went on to say that the Society had been able to build up cash reserves of circa £700k as a buffer for the leaner years that may come along, given donations can fluctuate, and that he was comfortable with the Society's financial position.

PD concluded that 2020's costs had been relatively low due to the pandemic affecting volumes of activity in some areas, and that future costs would increase in line with the volume of activity.

The President invited those present to ask questions.

Q – Regarding wills, is there any action being taken to encourage younger people to nominate the ManxSPCA?

PD responded that the Society's legacy strategy was, admittedly, aimed at the more mature members of the population, and that engagement with a younger audience was essential. Social media would be a key mechanism to do this, as it will be when encouraging people to become Members of the Society.

Q – Has Pascoe's been valued and is it worth selling?

PD responded that, yes, the site had been valued at £380k and that the Board's preferred course of action, once the tenancy has come to an end, would be to sell rather than develop the property. He added that the lease is a four year one, with a break clause.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements. Jacqueline Street proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements, and this was seconded by Anna Dearden. 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 reiterated the Society's thanks to David Callin of Callow Matthewman and Co. 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. Amanda Griffiths proposed that the authority be delegated to the Board, and this was seconded by Anna Dearden. 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 2020 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)

The President asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2020 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW thanked those present for attending, and invited them to watch a video that would give a pictorial overview of the year.

JW went on to describe how the pandemic had enabled the Society to increase its income in terms of donations and legacies, and echoed PD's comments about how this had resulted in funds being put back into reserves, thus helping to shield the Society from possible future economic challenges.

Although not an item from 2020, but one relating to 2021, JW noted how disappointing it had been that the Animal Welfare Bill had not been approved by Tynwald, and she read out Geoffrey Boot's letter outlining what would happen next – in summary, the proposed Bill would be re-introduced, amended, as quickly as possible after the elections. She added that one of the reasons that MHKs rejected the Bill was that the results of the public consultation on it had not been provided to them in advance of the vote.

AD advised that a lack of time had been given as the reason. He added that it was sad that there wasn't a veterinary team in DEFA now, as part of an animal welfare division, and that animal husbandry did not seem to be a priority. He urged those present to keep pushing MHKs to make sure the revised Bill is included in the legislative programme.

JW went on to comment that the Society's two charity shops had been closed, in line with the law, for several months in 2020, but that they are now back open and making a profit. The Tearooms also had to close during the pandemic, and offered a takeaway service instead.

Q – Has the ManxSPCA approached the banking sector regarding dormant bank account balances being donated to charities?

PD replied that he would take this forward.

Q – Does the ManxSPCA benefit from the Manx Lottery Trust?

JW replied that the Trust had been good to the Society over the years, with the most recent funding being for outdoor seating and tables for the Tearooms

Q – Does the ManxSPCA undertake theatre collections?

JW replied that, yes, the Society does these when invited to do so, once or twice a year.

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 2020 Operational Report. Rosie Scott proposed that the 2020 Operational Report be adopted and this was seconded by Claire Baker. 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 2020 Operational Report.

Item 6: 2020 Veterinary Report (Alice Forster, Practice Director, Milan Vets)

The President invited AF to comment.

AF then described how 2020 had been a year when lockdown had meant that cases had to be prioritised, and the weekly routine veterinary visits to Ard Jerkyll had to be 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, with routine vaccinating and neutering taking up most of the veterinary time, alongside keeping on top of cat 'flu'.

AF continued by saying that the ManxSPCA staff were doing a really good job, and that they had gone above and beyond in 2020; and that veterinary costs were being kept as low as possible because issues were being spotted early.

There being no questions, the President then asked the Members to adopt the 2020 Veterinary Report. Claire Baker proposed that the report be adopted and this was seconded by Anna Dearden. 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 2020 Veterinary Report.

Item 7: Election of members to the Board of Management (Phillip Dearden, Acting Chairman of the ManxSPCA)

The President asked the Acting Chairman to introduce the next item, being the elections to the Board of Management.

7.1 Stuart Mills, who was co-opted onto the Board in 2020, was seeking election.

7.2 Lyn Renshaw, who was co-opted earlier in 2021, was seeking election.

7.3 Daren Ward was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

7.4 Phillip Dearden was retiring by rotation and seeking re-election.

The Acting Chairman invited the co-opted members to introduce themselves.

SM gave an overview of his 39 years in banking, with many of them spent in the area of operational risk. He added that he had reviewed risk at the Society and suggested several changes; that he and his wife had two dogs of their own; and that they had spent the last two and a half years volunteering for the Food Bank.

LR advised that she had been involved with the Society for 27 years, firstly as a volunteer, and latterly as the Centre Manager. She added that she was committed to the Society's future success and to supporting its staff with her experience, and that she was pleased to be back having left in 2019 to take up an Office Manager role.

DW also added a few words about his experience in financial services and marketing; and PD said that after 30 years in an office he was now 'doing things he likes'.

Michael Josem proposed that SM, LR, DW and PD be elected/re-elected, and Amanda Griffiths seconded; and all four were unanimously elected/re-elected to the Board by a show of hands of those Members present.

The President said that it was good to see so many ManxSPCA team members present, giving up their time to attend; and he asked Jacqueline Street to come forward, as the former Chairperson of the Society. He thanked her for steering the Society through some difficult years, and for the hard work she had put into her role. JW echoed the President's words, and presented JS with a gift.

Sue Waring and Claire Baker were also thanked for their voluntary contributions to the Society.

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:

S Bryan
D Callin
D Clague
G Gelling
P Hall
P & M Halliday
L & C Main
A May
D Michelson
P & K Quirk
C Sugden
R Rake
A Vickers
M & V Wenn