

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA
HELD ON 17th July 2023 7.30pm
AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE

Board Members and Officers Present

President	Alex Downie OBE (AD)
Chairman	Phillip Dearden (PD)
Company Secretary	Phillip Dearden (PD)
Treasurer	Debbie Clague (DC)
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Waring (SW)
Board Members	Daren Ward (DW)
	Stuart Mills (SM)
	Lyn Renshaw (LR)
	Laura Bailey (LB)
General Manager	Juana Warburton (JW)
Veterinary Surgeon	Fiammetta Lenarduzzi (FL)

Item 1: Welcome (Phillip Dearden, Chairman of the ManxSPCA)

The Chairman of the Board:

- Called the meeting to order at 19.30pm and welcomed everyone attending.
- Introduced the President and Directors / Charity Trustees of the Society, including a co-opted Director, Laura Bailey.
- Touched briefly on the current status of the ManxSPCA, with 2022 having been an excellent year financially (continued control over costs, effective use of resources, and generous donations and legacies), enabling it to build for the future.
- Convened the meeting and proposed the President as Chairman of the meeting, which was unanimously approved by those present.

Item 2: Apologies and Quorum (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

The President of the ManxSPCA 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.

JW paid tribute to Ann Vickers, who died in October 2022 at the age of 90. She reminded those present of Ann's contribution to the ManxSPCA, not least funding the building (the Play Barn) that the AGM was taking place in. Ann was a valued Board member for many years, and a dear friend to many people.

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 (Alex Downie, President of the ManxSPCA)

3.1 The President confirmed that the Board had already approved the minutes of the AGM held 11th July 2022, but asked that they be formally approved. Claire Baker proposed; Jacqueline Street seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2022 AGM Minutes.

Item 4: Financial Statements and Audit (Debbie Clague, Treasurer)

4.1 The President then asked the Members to receive and adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2022 and invited DC to speak about them.

DC reiterated PD's comments that 2022 had been a good year financially, with some unexpected and large legacies; but she also warned that the ManxSPCA cannot rely on legacies going forward. DC added that base costs are lower than they were several years ago.

DC then went on to explain that the ManxSPCA's reserves policy now allows for at least 24 months of operating expenditure. She added that the Society's healthy financial position has enabled it to plan items of capital expenditure such as replacing the wooden Cattery pens, upgrading boilers and installing solar panels. Staff remuneration is reviewed annually, and now includes a pension scheme.

DC then commented that the charity shops had done well, and she thanked the volunteers for their hard work. The Tearooms had also had a profitable year.

DC advised that the Board were currently reviewing investment options for the future.

And lastly, DC thanked SW for continuing to do so much work with the day-to-day operational aspects of the Society's finances.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the Annual Report and Financial Statements. Georgina Dempsey-Moore proposed; Claire Baker seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

4.2 The President advised the Members that Callow Matthewman and Co. had indicated their willingness to be reappointed as auditors until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting, and asked for formal approval. Debi Michelson proposed; Jacqueline Street seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting unanimously approved Callow Matthewman's continuation as the Society's 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. Claire Baker proposed; Jacqueline Street seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the delegation of remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board.

Item 5: 2022 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)

The President asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2022 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW thanked those present for attending, and said she hoped that Members had enjoyed the 'Year in Pictures' review that they had received. She emphasised the range of animals that the Society helps, from the smallest bird to the largest horse, and she thanked the amazing team of staff and volunteers who make this possible – many of whom were present. JW also thanked the Board for their unfailing support and encouragement.

JW then advised that this year's AGM would be a bit different, and more interactive. She introduced Mike Fenrir, Senior Animal Care Officer, and Krish Boruch, Fundraising and PR Co-ordinator (also a

qualified canine behaviourist) to explain the basic training that the rescue Kennels undertakes with dogs. KB brought in a rescue dog, a bouncy border collie called Tank, and she and MF demonstrated some basic commands and why they were important. They also explained the particular needs of border collies, and how the Society is asked to rehome them more than any other breed.

AD asked whether there had been an increase in dogs with behavioural problems, and MF replied that there was an increased trend of anxious dogs whose owners are giving up on them. JW added that the 'pandemic puppy' phenomenon had resulted in the Society having a number of 'teenage' dogs in its rescue Kennels (i.e. two to three year olds) who had become more onerous to manage, and who were often owned by first-time dog owners who were now not working from home.

MF added that dogs were being brought to the Island in various ways, sometimes as foreign rescues, and that owners were picking them up 'unseen' from the boat.

When asked about the progress of the Animal Welfare Bill, JW replied that she had recently asked the Chief Vet, Amy Beckett, for the up-to-date position. AB advised that she hoped the Bill would be given Royal Assent in the autumn of 2023; and a consultation on codes of practice relating to horses, dogs and cats would be issued soon, so that they can be laid before Tynwald as soon as the Bill is passed.

The President then asked the Members to adopt the 2022 Operational Report. Ann Hunter proposed; Jacqueline Street seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands, and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2022 Operational Report.

Item 6: 2022 Veterinary Report (Fiammetta Lenarduzzi, Veterinarian, Milan Vets)

The President invited FL to comment.

FL described the difficulties of recruiting and retaining vets, and how shortages at Milan had meant that the Society also used Point of Care to undertake spays and neuters. She added that while much of the work undertaken with ManxSPCA animals was routine, on occasions more complex clinical interventions were required.

FL then described the challenging operations required by Cooper the Dog de Bordeaux, and Evvie the three-legged cat – with both animals making remarkable recoveries. [Full details are in the Veterinary Report]

There being no questions, the President then asked the Members to adopt the 2022 Veterinary Report. Ann Hunter proposed; Jacqueline Street seconded. The President asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting approved the adoption of the 2022 Veterinary Report.

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

The Chairman advised that SM and LR were retiring by rotation and seeking re-election, and that LB, who had been co-opted onto the Board earlier in 2023, was seeking election. He then asked LB to introduce herself.

LB gave a brief overview of her career in finance and, more recently, in the technology sector; and she said she hoped to add value to the Board. She listed her many pet animals, and invited Members to contact her if they wanted to discuss anything in more detail with her.

The President asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting approved the election of LB, and the re-election of SM and LR. JW advised that eight proxy voting forms had been received.

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
J Bujko
G Dale
P Hall
M Josem
D Main
N & J Pascoe
K & K Quirk
C Sugden
E Watson
M Wilkinson