**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ManxSPCA**
**HELD ON 11th August 2025 7.30pm**
**AT ARD JERKYLL, EAST FOXDALE**

**Board Members and Officers Present**

| | |
|---|---|
| President | Alex Downie OBE (AD) |
| Chairman (Acting) | Phillip Dearden (PD) |
| Treasurer (Acting) | Phillip Dearden (PD) |
| Assistant Treasurer | Sue Waring (SW) |
| Board Members | Jagoda Barber (JB) |
| | Debbie Clague (DC) |
| | Taylor Gentile-Wilson (TG-W) |
| | Daren Ward (DW) |
| General Manager | Juana Warburton (JW) |
| Veterinary Surgeon | Katerina Clarke (KC) |

**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 co-opted Director Taylor Gentile-Wilson.
- Advised that Iain Bell passed on his apologies for his absence from the AGM.
- Advised that he was acting as Chairman for the time being, as a result of the former Chairman, Stuart Mills, having to resign from the Board 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: 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.

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 29th July 2024, but asked that they be formally approved. Anna Dearden proposed and Claire Barber seconded, and by a show of hands those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2024 AGM Minutes. The President also asked if those present had any questions relating to the minutes, there being none.

**Item 4: Financial Statements and Audit (Phillip Dearden, Acting 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 2024 and invited PD to speak about them.

PD summarised his background in accountancy which enables him to undertake the Treasurer role with professional expertise. He explained that the previous Treasurer, Grant Evans, had recently taken on a new, challenging role as his 'day job' and he could no longer devote enough time to his ManxSPCA directorship.
PD went on to explain that financial probity is paramount and that it needs to be demonstrated. He added that the ManxSPCA's main income streams, namely legacies and donations, are very variable and difficult to predict but they account for 80% of the Society's income. Donations are usually small amounts but the occasional large donation is very welcome. An average of £700,000 is spent on running costs, which is less than the amount spent in 2017 thanks to efficiency measures.
PD then advised that the Society's reserves have continued to accumulate giving it two years' operating costs, and providing a buffer against income volatility and any future market changes. Recent surpluses have been used to build infrastructure such as the new Cattery, solar panels, boilers, replacement ambulances, etc.
PD then advised that there is some uncertainty over Callow Mathewman being able to continue as the Society's auditor because of the recent poor health of David Callin. He added that he wished David a speedy recovery.
PD finished by ensuring that those present knew that copies of the 2024 accounts were readily available.

There being no questions, the President asked for the 2024 accounts to be formally adopted, and Georgie Dempsey-Moore proposed, and Claire Barber seconded the motion, and those present unanimously agreed.

4.2 The President advised those present that he hoped Callow Matthewman would be able to continue as the Society's auditors, but he proposed that a decision regarding future audit provision be delegated to the Society's Board.

4.3 The President asked if those present were happy to delegate the authority for remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board and asked the Members for a show of hands. Those present at the meeting unanimously approved the delegation of remuneration of the Society's auditors to the Board.

**Item 5: 2024 Operational Report (Juana Warburton, General Manager)**

The President asked the Members to receive and adopt the 2024 Operational Report and asked the General Manager, Juana Warburton, to comment on it.

JW thanked those present for attending, and went on to talk about the biggest challenge faced by the team at Ard Jerkyll over the past twelve months – namely the euthanasia of the American XL bully type (XLB), Charlie. She explained the circumstances surrounding Charlie's admission to the Kennels; the battle fought by the Society (fully supported by the Board) to save Charlie's life and overturn the destruction order placed on him by the courts; the legal position held by Government bodies (given the Isle of Man does not have breed-specific legislation); and the eventual untimely euthanasia of a lovely young dog.

She added that a positive had come out of Charlie's death - the Society had taken a risk and decided to 'go public' about his euthanasia so that the Manx community could be warned about bringing similar dogs to the Island, thinking they are Staffie crosses, only for them to suffer the same fate as Charlie.

JW then asked Mike Fenrir to describe how another dog in our care, Bandit (who also had a destruction order placed on him as an XLB) was eventually saved. Mike explained how the Kennels team assessed Bandit and worked with the Constabulary to ensure that he had a happy outcome; and that he was now on trial (pending adoption) with a local family who have experience of bull breeds.

JW then asked Krysia Boruch to explain how muzzles were being used by the Kennels team. Krysia outlined the Society's affiliation with the Muzzle Movement which not only provides comfortable, brightly coloured muzzles in various shapes and sizes, but also promotes the message that good dogs wear muzzles and they are not a sign of a difficult or dangerous dog.

JW then asked for Emma Hartmann to describe Sandy the cat's amazing recovery from a near-fatal road traffic accident – his complex surgery and post-operative journey. Emma also summarised the number of animals in the care of the Society in 2024, and the statistics associated with them; and Megan Marsh gave an overview of the small animals and birds that were admitted during the year.

There being no questions, the President then asked the Members to adopt the 2024 Operational Report. Anna Dearden proposed, and Karen Mills seconded. The President then asked the Members for a show of hands, and those present at the meeting unanimously approved the adoption of the 2024 Operational Report.

**Item 6: 2024 Veterinary Report (Katerina Clarke, Point of Care Vets)**

The President introduced KC to the Members, and invited her to comment.

KC described that she and her team visit Ard Jerkyll at least once a week to undertake routine health checks and vaccinations, and surgical procedures as required. January and July are the busiest times of year.
KC went on to explain that a worrying trend was developing in that only a handful of cats being admitted were vaccinated, and 37 dogs had no veterinary records. There had also been a higher than usual number of cats needing to be euthanised either because they were injured, very ill, or had tested positive for FIV (a form of feline AIDS).
KC then elaborated on the statistics contained in her written report, and finished by saying that she and her team enjoyed their collaboration with the team at Ard Jerkyll.

There being no questions, the President then asked the Members to adopt the 2024 Veterinary Report and asked for a show of hands. Those present at the meeting approved the adoption of the 2024 Veterinary Report.

Richard Rake stated that this had been the best AGM he had attended, and expressed his thanks to all concerned.

**Item 7: Election of Members to the Board of Management**

The President advised that DC and SW were retiring by rotation and seeking re-election, and that TG-W, who had been co-opted onto the Board earlier in 2025, was seeking election. He then asked them to introduce themselves (which they duly did).

The President asked the Members for a show of hands and those present at the meeting approved the election of TG-W, and the re-election of DC and SW.

Before the conclusion of the meeting, JW highlighted the role played at the Society by many unsung volunteer heroes and named Enid Watson in particular, giving her an orchid as a small gesture of appreciation.

JW then asked the Members present to confirm that Stuart Mills and his wife, Karen, be approved as Life Members, which they duly did.

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 21.00.

**Appendix 1**

Apologies received:

R & J Bujko
G Dale
I & M Galloway
P Hall
A Hunter
D Main
K & P Quirk
N Pascoe
C & S Roberts
J Street
E Wilson