



## **Note AGV AGM 2017 Teleconference Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 16:30**

### **1. Record of Attendees**

Amanda Carson	Jane Clark	Adrienne Conroy
Simon Doherty	Jane Gibbens	Liz Kelly
Fred Landeg	John Lawrence	Cath McVicar
Mick Park	Rob Paul	Jim Scudamore
Kate Sharpe	Linda Smith	Levon Stephan
<b>Proxy Vote:</b>	Joana Crisostoma	

### **2. Acceptance of New Members**

The following new members proposed by Kate Sharpe and seconded by Fred Landeg were accepted unanimously *en bloc*.

Christine Middlemiss	Lindsay Rochford
Linda Evans	Andy Patterson
Joana Crisostomo	Simon Doherty
Anthony Ridge	Michael Park
Helen Jukes	Katherine Grace
Liz Kelly	

### **3. Apologies for Absence**

Frank Busch	Theresa Phillips
Viv Milan	Ed Varley
Sheila Voas	Joana Crisostoma (proxy vote)
Rebeca Garcia	

### **4. Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes of the last AGM (September 2015) are posted on the AGV website.

### **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **6. President's Address**

Kate Sharpe reported on a successful year during which we had continued to increase our membership and she welcomed those joining the Association since the last AGM.

We have continued to work closely with VPHA and have run three successful joint conferences aimed at demonstrating the wider role of vets in society and that there are valuable and stimulating veterinary careers outside clinical practice.

The Joint Conference 'Vets and Industry- a profitable partnership' was held in November 2015. We included a Vet futures session and were joined by the BVA chair of the relevant work stream and member of BVA Policy.



In April 2016, the joint conference was 'Vet Public Health-a hands on approach' and in November 2016 'Sustainability and Veterinary Surveillance in an ever-changing world'. All of them were well attended, attracting an average of 100 attendees, raising our profile and improving our bank balance. Delegates include GB CVOs, Veterinary Director of APHA and BVA presidents.

The BVA President, Gudrun Ravetz attended the AGV/VPHA conference in November and was impressed by the enthusiasm of the audience and the wide scope of the agenda and the discussions about how the profession could contribute to sustainable agriculture, One Health/One welfare etc. Reports of the joint conferences were placed on the AGV website and they were also reported on in the Veterinary Record.

We also took the opportunity to give a presentation to raise the profile of Government Veterinarians in the careers stream at the London Vet Show (LVS) in November 2016. Rebeca Garcia and Kate Sharpe spoke on One Health/One welfare at the LVS and stimulated some very good interest and discussion. Subsequent to the LVS talk, Lord Gardiner referred to one health/one welfare on his speech at the BVA dinner on 7<sup>th</sup> February.

Apart from the conferences, we have taken advantage of the new BVA governance process and have had AGV members on the nominations and awards committee and we were pleased to have Kate Sharpe elected to serve on the BVA Policy Committee.

We also have AGV representation on the Antimicrobial Resistance and the Surveillance working groups. The latter is chaired by our President.

We have actively used these links between the BVA and its specialist Divisions and have contributed to consultations on TB, contingency planning, One Health, Assurance Schemes, Pet Travel and also on Brexit. Rebeca Garcia and Kate Sharpe recently attended a roundtable hosted by the BVA and RCVS at Westminster Palace. We used this to emphasise AGVs concerns about effect of Brexit on resources given the number of EU national vets working across Government and the consequent risk to animal health, public health and animal welfare standards.

In an attempt to further raise our profile, we have recently opened an AGV twitter account #AssocGovVets.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report for the calendar year 2016 was published on the AGV website. The accounts had been examined and certified correct by Alan McPhee and Alan Eames and the Treasurer was grateful for their time in doing this. Our income had been substantially boosted by the surpluses from the joint AGV/VPHA conferences. The treasurer thanked Jane Clarke for successfully negotiating a reduction in our annual subscription to EASVO. In an effort to smooth the hand over to the new Treasurer the Nationwide Building Society account had been closed and all the funds transferred to the Current account. On the day of the AGM the balance of the current account stood at £13,031.41. There being no questions the accounts were accepted.



## 8. Secretary's Report

Membership report for 2016 had been published on the AGV website. The report had been produced in May of each year when the bulk of membership accounts had been deposited. The decline in paying members appeared to have been reversed.

## 9. Election of the AGV Council

The nominations for Officers and Council members did not exceed the available posts. There were individual elections for each officer post and Council members were elected *en bloc*. All were elected unanimously without objection.

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Kate Sharpe	<i>(Elected individually each officer proposed by Jane Clark and seconded by Cath McVicar)</i>
<b>Senior Vice President</b>	Linda Smith	
<b>Junior Vice President</b>	Rebeca Garcia	
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Kelly	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Linda Smith	

### Council Members

Adrienne Conroy	Joana Crisostomo	<i>(Block vote Proposer Kate Sharpe Seconder Linda Smith)</i>
Katherine Grace	John Lawrence	
Amanda Carson	Jane Clark	
Anthony Ridge	Michael Park	

## 10. European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO)

Jane Clark reminded the meeting that The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of veterinary organisations from 38 European countries. It has four sections, each representing key groups within our profession: Practitioners (UEVP), Hygienists (UEVH), Veterinary State Officers (EASVO) and veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI). BVA/RCVS are members of FVE and AGV is a member of EASVO and VPHA a member of UEVH – there is more information on the FVE website - <http://www.fve.org/>

A big thank you to Cath McVicar for her sterling work in maintaining our "seat at the EASVO table" while we were unable to fund full membership – the UK is always made very welcome at EASVO because of her work.

Jane Clark has attended three General Assemblies (held in Nov and June each year) and there are high level 'Back to Office' reports available on our website and, members also receive a copy of her detailed contemporaneous notes – please do not hesitate to contact Jane if you have any questions on the reports.

Jane also thanked VPHA for their financial and general support in helping AGV to re-establish our full membership of EASVO and was sure that we would continue to work together so constructively. Jane will continue to negotiate for our membership fee to be related to the size of our profession (in government) rather than our population.



We are members of the UK Coordination Group for FVE and are therefore linked into the useful European Veterinary discussions and consultations. We respond to consultations and questionnaires on a variety of subjects including those where we have, in the past, not had direct expertise such as VMD for AMR she gave a big thank you to all who have contributed to that process.

Key issues that we have discussed over the last 18 months have been:

- The new EU Animal Health Regulation and the Official Food and Feed Controls proposal.
- Principles of Veterinary Certification
- Surveillance
- One Health
- Animal Welfare issues
- Pressure on OVs and the difficult working environment that many face
- And recently - Brexit

It is very encouraging to continue to be welcome in these meetings and to remain linked in to European Veterinary matters. There were no questions from the floor.

#### **11. Any other business**

No items of any other business notified to the Secretary by the deadline 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2017. With great sadness, the death of Avril Hannam was noted by the meeting.

#### **12. President's Closing Remarks**

Kate Sharpe noted the continuing challenges and opportunities ahead as we move towards Brexit. She said that we would continue to work to raise the profile of Vets working in Government and that we are in a good position to do so with increasing membership and with Council now back at full strength.

She would like to know if there was anything members felt we could do better. Was a need for more communication? Should there be an opportunity for members to contribute to consultations where they have particular expertise or interest? She hoped to find a way to survey members' wishes to include topics for future conferences. In the meantime, members should feel free to contact her or any member of council directly with any thoughts and suggestions.

She closed the meeting thanking everyone for their attendance and with a reminder for the joint VPHA/AGV spring conference to be held in Cambridge on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2017. 'Controlling tapeworms, established and emerging' Details on the AGV website. She hoped to see members there.

#### **13. Date of next meeting**

To be advised.