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## **Association of Government Veterinarians AGM 2018 Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018 17:00**

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

Theresa Phillips	Jane Clark	Adrienne Conroy
Alan Macphee	Jane Gibbens	Liz Kelly
Fred Landeg	Anthony Ridge	Cath McVicar
Mick Park	Christine Middlemiss	Jim Scudamore
Kate Sharpe	Frank Busch	Nigel Gibbens
Rebeca Garcia		

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

The following new member proposed by Jane Clark and seconded by Nigel Gibbens was accepted unanimously.

Miguel Arranz Carrero

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

Jason Aldiss  
Linda Smith  
Sheila Voas  
Lindsay Rochford

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

The minutes of the last AGM (March 2017) 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 and noted that it was her last address as President. She made a special note of thanks to Linda Smith who had held the fort as the previous President for 3 years. Linda has now left AGV Council. The AGV continues to grow and its survival is due to the commitment of its members and Council. A key point in this is our close relationship with VPHA, originally suggested by Linda and John Lawrence.

We have now held seven joint conferences with VPHA, all successful in generating interest in our association and in boosting our funds.

We have reinvigorated our links with BVA and worked with them in a number of different areas; contributions to their Governance review; attending BVA committee and council meetings and responding to consultations, including bTB, animal sentience



and mandatory CCTV in abattoirs (among others). This has both raised the profile of AGV and given us the opportunity to relay our views on a number of relevant topics.

We have strong links with GVS and this is proving helpful to both organisations. Kate thanked GVS and the cross-Government support they provide.

The report of the joint AGV/VPHA November 18 conference appeared in the Veterinary Record.

Kate highlighted the forthcoming Vet:Stay, Go, Diversify seminar at which we shall be represented and thanked Anthony Ridge for his help in organising this. We shall also be speaking at the BSAVA Careers event, with thanks to Adrienne.

The AGV twitter account #AssocGovVets has been passed to an AGV Council member and we shall continue to use this to raise our profile. It has already been successfully used to launch the survey on veterinary wellbeing.

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

The Treasurer's report for the calendar year 2017 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 continues to be improved by the surpluses from the joint AGV/VPHA conferences. Our major item of expenditure is on EASVO subscription and attendance costs. Subscriptions are due in May and the latest analysis is on the website shows 79 paying members. We contributed to the BVA surveillance report. AGV is currently carrying a deficit of £5-800/annum, but we hold a surplus. On the day of the AGM the balance of the current account stood at £13,210.

Questions were raised on the need to carry a reserve and whether the subscription rate needed to increase. These questions will be further discussed by Council and members.

Anthony Ridge has now taken over as Treasurer for the Association, with many thanks to Fred for his sterling work for AGV.

There being no further questions the accounts were accepted.

## **8. Secretary's Report**

Membership report for 2017 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. AGV members present were of the view that more could be done to inform the full membership of the work being done by Council on behalf of the Association. There was discussion around the lack of visibility of some of the Council's work on behalf of members, for example in responding to consultations. JG suggested a possible minimum should be to list the consultations AGV were invited to respond to, ideally with a 'respond by' date on our website (stating the date the Council needed comments by), so that members could contribute if they wished. It was agreed that more use of links to consultations and responses could be put on the AGV website. In addition GVS and AGV could cross link each others' websites.



## 9. Election of the AGV Council

The nominations for Officers and Council members did not exceed the available posts. Officer posts and Council members were elected *en bloc*, proposed by Jane Clark and seconded by Nigel Gibbens. All were elected unanimously without objection.

### Officers

<b>President</b>	Rebeca Garcia
<b>Senior Vice President</b>	Kate Sharpe
<b>Junior Vice President</b>	Liz Kelly
<b>Secretary</b>	Liz Kelly
<b>Treasurer</b>	Anthony Ridge

### Council Members

Adrienne Conroy	Joana Crisostomo
Katherine Grace	Jane Gibbens
Amanda Carson	Jane Clark
Lindsay Rochford	Michael Park

AGV welcomed the two new Council members, Jane Gibbens and Lindsay Rochford, with many thanks to those leaving Council, John Lawrence, Fred Landeg and Linda Smith. Kate also thanked Cath McVicar for holding the fort on EASVO for a number of years before Jane Clark took over as our representative.

Rebeca Garcia accepted her nomination as our new President and the chain was passed to her from Kate. Rebeca thanked Kate for her great work for AGV and for the support she had given to her. Rebeca chaired the rest of the meeting.

## 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 is now President of EASVO and thanked Kate for her nomination and Nigel Gibbens (then UK CVO) for his supporting letter. She additionally received support from BVA and RCVS. The Presidency is for a two year period from November 17.

She has attended five General Assemblies (held in Nov and June each year) in her two year period. Her ‘Back to Office’ report is emailed to all members and a reduced report



is placed on the AGV website. Jane thanked Council colleagues for their comments on EASVO papers and noted that AGV comments were reflected in EASVO positions.

Jane has attended FVE General Assembly in her role as President of EASVO and is now part of the UK Coordination Group, which includes BVA and RCVS.

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 discussed some options for funding the continued work at EASVO as the subscription fee has increased to the full membership rate and the attendance times will increase. It was agreed that Council would discuss the options for funding, including looking to BVA for support.

Jane was congratulated on her Presidency.

Jane raised the VetCee dossier of competence for veterinary public health qualification. Much discussion ensued on the potential interest in the qualification, which would be recognised across Europe. It was questioned whether it duplicated some qualifications already available for state vets. Jane will circulate further information to Council and members asking for their views.

Jane lastly raised the EASVO/UEVH work on safety of OV's and will look to link with Rebeca's work on vet wellbeing.

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

Rebeca spoke on the AGV Government vet wellbeing strategy and the launch of the survey. She encouraged all UK government employed vets, working as civil servants or under contract, to complete it. The survey link (<https://t.co/Lxr4xMqao0>) is now active and will be circulated to all members and appear on AGV and GVS websites. Rebeca, Frank Busch (GVS) and Christine Middlemiss (UK CVO) have recorded videos to highlight the survey, available soon. Rebeca clarified that this is not a Government survey.

With great sadness, the deaths of John McKenzie and Tony Edwards were noted by the meeting. Alan Macphee spoke in memory of John, a past President and Secretary of the AGV.

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

Rebeca said that these were exciting times for AGV and a period of great change. She looks to make our Association more prominent and in particular for her time as President to focus on wellbeing, raising the profile of Government vets and raising the profile of AGV. She thanked members for attending and looked forward to her time as President.

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

The next AGM will be held at the Autumn (November) joint AGV/VPHA Conference, date to be advised.