



Registered charity no: 232222

## **York & Harrogate Branch Annual General Meeting**

**Date & Time** - 28.10.2021 7pm

**Huntington Memorial Hall**

### **Committee Welcome**

The meeting commenced at 7pm - David Blueman introduced himself as chair of the meeting and conducted a safety briefing.

Thanks were given to the Huntington memorial hall for use of their facilities.

The chair welcomed all of the branch members in attendance to the AGM on behalf of the committee.

It was noted the meeting due to the pandemic covers an extended period from 26th June 2019 until October 28<sup>th</sup> 2021.

It was also noted that over that time the activities of the branch have been significantly impacted.

The chair reshared the order of agenda - which has been online for members to view :

- 1. Notification of absentees (Peter Gorbert)**
- 2. Report from Committee (David Blueman)**
- 3. Approval of previous minutes(David Blueman).**
- 4. Financial Report (Peter Gorbert)**
- 5. Approval of Independent Examiners (Peter Gorbert)**
- 6. Election of Committee (Dan Tomlinson)**  
**where each nominee will introduce themselves to the branch members**
- 7. And we have time at the end of the meeting for AOB and questions**

### **1. Record of Absentees**

**Brigit Rix, Graham Collett and Anita Metcalfe offered their apologies.**

The committee asked the attendees to take a moment to remember the members and supporters who have sadly passed away in the last two years.

The committee also offered thanks to the previous trustee boards - since June 2019 we have had many movements in the board and have seen the departure of Frank Preston, one of our most long standing and stalwart trustees. The committee noted the recent decision not to re-stand for election of the incumbent chair Sarah Wass and Trustee Gemma Carsey - the remaining committee would like to offer our thanks for the work done by those trustees who have left over the intervening period.

## **2. Report from Committee**

As previously referenced this AGM covers the period from 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 until today 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

During that period the branch has faced several challenges outside of the pandemic including a restructuring program that resulted in some redundancies to establish a more sustainable Branch and Retail overhead cost base.

Financial figures for 2020 were referenced - which demonstrate the improvement made in the cost base again these figures are impacted by the pandemic as have been the incomes during the year.

At a headline level on the financial position, the committee is confident the branch has done its utmost to manage its cost base and establish itself in a more sustainable position from which we believe we will see the benefit post COVID.

This process was not without its challenges and we as trustees would like to thank the branch and retail teams for their support through this period of change.

The committee would like to give thanks to the volunteering groups the fundraising teams and animal home volunteers who throughout very difficult period have continued to support the York and Harrogate branch of the RSPCA, fundraising has been a real challenge with many traditional channels closed down during COVID so the committee is hugely grateful for the efforts that teams have made in supporting the branch.

When COVID restrictions are lifted there is still significant work to be done to increase the revenue stream of the branch – whether through improvements in retail which will be driven by the new retail managers Hannah White or in finding new streams in fundraising to complement the great work already being done by volunteers (thanks again given) which is being coordinated by Lizzy Parry.

Finally the chair recognised the great work done by the branch team lead by Ruth McCabe who cared for animals and continued to rehome over the period resulting in over 200 virtual home visits conducted

Alice Wilson RSPCA Inspector provided a short insight into the work of the inspectorate and how the restructuring has also impacted the national team and continues to do so - the area of the region having expanded while the number of inspectors has reduced from 9 to 5.5 (forecast in 2022).

### 3. Approval of previous AGM minutes

Proposed Susan Foster

Seconded Jean Snelling

***Previous minutes were approved***

### 4. Financial Report - to receive the 2020 accounts

£000's	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Branch Income	985	575	603	750	679	999
Branch Expenditure	888	916	1100	1243	1046	787
Profit (Loss)	97	(341)	(497)	(565)	(365)	214

Peter Gorbert presented an overview of two sets of accounts 2019/2020 - the cost saving exercise reduced expenditure from £1,200,000 M to £ 800,000 this efficiency has been achieved by losing ancillary and administration roles alongside savings to the vet care and medication cost via a tender.

It was noted that though a large proportion of 2020 income has come from a legacy, the more sustainable basis of the accounts should allow the branch to retain legacies and use to refurbish the branch / site.

The branch will continue to pursue grants - having received approximately 150K from Covid related grants in 2020 which significantly helped avoid a deficit.

Peter gave huge thanks to staff who have worked through this significant drop in support team and continued to rehome animals.

We are investing more money in retail, looking at extending fund raising beyond our normal channels.

Looking to the future for 2022 we will be forecasting a 200K deficit.

Proposed Susan Foster

Seconded Samantha Scholey

***2019 & 2020 Financial Reports were approved***

## 5. Approval of Independent Examiners - Garbert & Elliot

Peter explained we had moved to the independent examiners in 2019 and found them more efficient and cost effective than their predecessors and so the branch proposed to retain their services.

Proposed David Hardwick

Seconded David Blueman

***Continuation of independent examiners was approved***

## 6. Election of Trustee Committee

There are seven trustees who have come forward for election to the trustee board

Each trustee briefly introduce themselves prior to the vote

	Candidate	Proposer	Seconder
1	David Blueman	Samantha Scholey	Jean Snelling
2	Ben Carroll	David Blueman	David Hardwick
3	Andrea Dryburgh	David Hardwick	Samantha Scholey
4	David Hardwick	Samantha Scholey	David Blueman
5	Anita Metcalfe (absent).	Samantha Scholey	David Hardwick
6	Samantha Scholey	David Hardwick	Jean Snelling
7	Jean Snelling	Samantha Scholey	David Blueman

Dan Tomlinson Branch Partnership Manager (North) circulated voting ballots to the members present eligible to vote.

On counting the vote DT confirmed that all Candidates were duly elected

List of Candidates Elected :

David Blueman

Ben Carroll

Andrea Dryburgh

David Hardwick

Anita Metcalfe

Samantha Scholey

Jean Snelling

## **7. AOB**

Susan Foster asked whether we are active in or collecting from Harrogate area

Peter confirmed that Harrogate continues to be part of the branch and that fundraising activities were being planned in that area for 2022.

Sandi Cole asked a question on the success of onlining re homing

Peter responded that the process was working and that it had been helped by the perfect match and process of home visits - the York & H return figures are low - and confirmed that home contacts after 6 weeks and again at 3 months are carried out.

Supplementary question was asked regarding adoption process

Peter confirmed that all animals are now on the website - and the form online but where an individual has no computer access then the staff can help individuals completing the form.

Question was asked regarding fostering process - Peter confirmed this is being looked at going forward - but we will need system and process

Meeting was closed 19.51

David Hardwick Trustee Secretary 30th October 2021