ATTENDANCE

1) Present:
   - Melissa Donald – Branch President
   - Grace Webster – Branch SVP
   - Robert Anderson – Branch Honorary Secretary
   - Emma Callaghan – Regional Representative
   - Kathleen Robertson – SPVS
   - Colin Mason – BCVA
   - Sheila Voas – CVO
   - David Logue – Ayrshire
   - Stephen Anderson – Moredun
   - Freda Scott-Park – HIVSS
   - Vivienne Mackinnon- APHA
   - Ronnie Soutar – FVS
   - Sandy Duncan – VPHA
   - James McKeown – AVS
   - Jenny Helm – University of Glasgow
   - John Fishwick – BVA President
   - Gudrun Ravetz – BVA SVP
   - Hayley Atkin – Policy Officer
   - Mandy Ryan – Head of Media and Public Affairs

   Not Present:
   - Graham Bell – Dumfries and Galloway
   - TBC - BEVA Representative

2) Apologies:
   - Tricia Colville – BSAVA
   - Rob Kelly – R(D)SVS
   - Sean Wensley – BVA Senior Vice President
   - Matthew Erskine – Recent graduate
   - George Caldow - SRUC

MATTERS ARISING

2) The Branch President reported that Branch Officers were attending several stakeholder meetings either side of the AGM with SSPCA, NFUS and the CVO team. These meetings will occur bi-annually alongside meetings with Cabinet Secretaries.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3) The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16 May 2017 were accepted as an accurate record.

BRANCH CONSTITUTION

4) Some concerns were raised as to whether it was appropriate for BVA Scottish Branch to set terms of office for divisional representatives. It was however recognised agreed that terms of office are best practice in terms of ensuring appropriate and effective governance. The constitution was ratified and adopted for 2018/2019.

BRANCH OFFICERS
5) **Election of Branch Junior Vice President**

K Robertson was proposed by S Voas, seconded by G Ravetz, and approved by Branch as Branch Junior Vice President 2018-2019.

G Webster was thanked for her invaluable contribution to Branch in her time as Branch Senior Vice President and would continue on Branch Council as PVS representative going forward.

**BRANCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

6) Members were invited to consider the proposal to increase practitioner and recent graduate representation Council

7) Members agreed the proposal to advertise for up to 3 practitioner and recent graduate vacancies during the BVA committee vacancy recruitment period for 2018.

8) All agreed that the recent interest in standing for Regional Representative was a positive indication of a desire to engage with Branch that should be harnessed. Members also felt that a Scotland-specific update in BVA communications would be useful.

**Action:** BVA Secretariat to advertise for up to 3 practitioner representatives and up to 3 recent graduate representative vacancies during the committee vacancies and nominations period for 2018

9) The Branch President highlighted that there are currently vacancies on Council for:

- **Food Standards Scotland**—a contact needs to be identified, not filled since last AGM
- **Animal Welfare Foundation regional representative** AWF are reviewing the way that engage and nominate representatives at a regional level, AWF will keep us informed of the outcome of this review and a nomination for this position

**Action:** V McKinnon and S Voas to continue to try to secure a FSS representative

**HONORARY ASSOCIATES**

10) Members suggested the following parliamentarians and people of eminence to be considered for Honorary Associate status:

- Jim Hume, Convener National Rural Mental Health Forum (ex-MSP)
- Emma Harper MSP (SNP)
- Maurice Golden MSP (Conservative)
- Ed Mountain MSP (Conservative, Convener of Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee)

The suggestions would be fed back to the media and public affairs team for further consideration.

**Update on BVA policy, lobbying and media**

11) The Branch President updated members on BVA’s ongoing work on its policy priorities for 2018:

- **Brexit**—BVA had responded to numerous consultations, including Scotland specific inquiries and BVA Officers had been called to give evidence in front of the Efra Select Committee. BVA continued to contribute to the Defra-led Veterinary Capability and Capacity Project
considering workforce issues.

- **Surveillance** – BVA recently published its position on veterinary scanning surveillance (animal health and disease monitoring). Some concerns were raised about BVA being too aspirational in its call to protect funding for scanning surveillance. Overall, the surveillance working group’s outputs were well supported by members.

- **Farm Assurance** – The BVA farm assurance group had developed an overarching position on farm assurance schemes and the crucial role of the vet to safeguard animal health and welfare within these. In April BVA Council had signed of the working group’s UK Farm Assurance Schemes poster, which would be published in summer 2018.

- **Education and widening access working group** – BVA Policy Committee agreed to convene a working group to refresh the BVA position on vet schools, the number of vet school places, funding and widening access.

As a member of the BVA farm assurance working group, R Soutar reiterated to Branch Council members that they could feel confident that devolved perspectives and issues are appropriately represented and captured throughout the BVA working group process.

**SCOTTISH BRANCH UPDATE**

12) The President of Branch reminded members of the aims of Scottish Branch and congratulated members on successful Branch activity across the 2017/2018 association year. Activities included numerous consultation responses, Government engagement and legislative wins (a ban on aversive training devices and wild animals in travelling circuses), as well as participation in relevant stakeholder groups.

13) Members discussed the Defra call for evidence on a proposed ban on live exports for slaughter. It was agreed that this proposal oversimplified the wider determinants of welfare involved in the transportation of animals and could result in unintended consequence for industry in Scotland. Branch were assured that the specificities of the Scottish situation would be captured in the BVA submission to this call for evidence.

**AOB**

14) Branch Council thanked the Scotland CVO for allowing use of the room at Saughton House