

## **Minutes of the Northern Ireland Branch AGM,**

6 February 2019 7pm, Four Seasons Suite, Galgorm Resort & Spa

### **Attendees**

Seamus O’Kane (NI Branch Senior Vice President)  
Alan Gordon (NI Branch President)  
Aurelie Moralis (NI Branch Junior Vice President)

Esther Skelly-Smith  
Ruth Moreno  
Fiona McFarland  
Sandra Dunbar  
Pat Hart  
Greg Koulianos  
Cathal Carr  
Greg Koulianos  
Susan Cunningham

### **In attendance**

Michael McGilligan (BVA, dialling in)  
Jo Gibson (Vet NI)  
Simon Doherty (BVA President, dialling in)

### **Apologies**

Ron Martin

### **Minutes from previous AGM 2018**

Members noted the minutes of the last meeting, which were accepted as an accurate record. No actions remained outstanding.

### **Branch Constitution**

Members ratified the constitution subject to no amendments.

### **Branch President and Senior Vice President**

Members were reminded that as per the constitution of BVA NI Branch there shall be a President, a Junior Vice President (JVP) and a Senior Vice President (SVP).

Members noted that Seamus O’Kane had completed two years as Senior Vice President of BVA NI Branch. Seamus was thanked for his invaluable contribution to Branch in his time as an Officer.

Following her year as JVP, Aurelie Moralis was proposed as BVA NI Branch President. This was seconded and agreed by Branch.

### **Branch Junior Vice President**

Members noted the nomination form for Susan Cunningham as Branch Junior Vice President. There were no further expressions of interest.

Susan Cunningham was proposed as BVA NI Branch JVP and seconded. Members congratulated Susan on her election as Branch JVP

### **Branch Council Membership**

Members noted the BVA NI Branch Council membership.

The Chair noted the current vacancies. Sandra Dunbar noted she was standing down as DAERA Veterinary Service representative. Stanley McDowell noted he would want to stand down as AFBI Veterinary Sciences Division representative.

It was noted that BVA Scottish Branch had recently agreed to add up to three recent graduates and three General Practice vets to their Council to bring fresh ideas and support new people to come forward to take up roles. The Chair noted that it was agreed at a NI branch council teleconference in July 2018 that it would be useful to expand Council in NI in a similar way.

It was noted that if anyone was interested in becoming a member of NI Branch Council, they were advised to email [northernireland@bva.co.uk](mailto:northernireland@bva.co.uk).

### **Honorary Associates**

Attendees noted the list of BVA Honorary Associates in Northern Ireland. It was noted that NIVA had decided to remove Ian Paisley MP, from its list of Honorary Associates. Attendees then discussed whether to renew Ian Paisley's position as a BVA Honorary Associate. To canvass opinion in the room, the Chair asked for a show of hands: for renewal (3); against renewal (15); and abstentions (2).

Simon Doherty explained the process for renewing Honorary Associates. Every honorary associate is, on the recommendation of Council, eligible for re-election as an honorary associate at the next AGM of the Association following appointment or re-appointment. The advice of Northern Ireland Branch would be sought ahead of this.

Simon Doherty also noted that consideration should be given to engaging other Northern Ireland Parliamentarians.

### **NI Branch activity update**

Members noted the activity of BVA NI Branch Council over the past year with reference to BVA's priority areas and were invited to suggest additional steps to take forward work on these priority areas.

### **Any other business**

The Branch Officers thanked members for their attendance and contributions.