ATTENDANCE

1) Present:
   Grace Webster – Branch President
   Melissa Donald – Branch JVP
   Robert Anderson – Branch Honorary Secretary
   Kathleen Robertson – regional representative
   Sandy Duncan – VPHA
   Sheila Voas – CVO
   David Logue – Ayrshire
   George Caldow - SRUC
   Stephen Anderson – Moredun
   Frank Stephen – North of Scotland
   Freda Scott-Park – HIVSS
   Dr Amy Jennings - the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
   Vivienne Mackinnon- APHA
   Niall Connell
   Randolph Richards
   Michael Park

   Not Present:
   Graham Bell – Dumfries and Galloway
   Keith Chandler – BEVA

   Apologies:
   James McKeown – AVS
   Ronnie Soutar – FVS
   Jenny Helm – Glasgow
   Paul Burr – BCVA
   Tricia Colville – BSAVA
   Rob Kelly – recent graduate
   Sean Wensley – BVA Senior Vice President

   In attendance:
   Gudrun Ravetz – BVA President
   John Fishwick - BVA Junior Vice President
   Hayley Atkin – Policy Officer
   Sally Burnell – Director of Media, Policy and Strategy

MATTERS ARISING

2) The Branch President reported that unfortunately the scheduled meeting with Roseanna Cunningham had been cancelled last minute. BVA Public Affairs team would work to reschedule in the autumn. The BVA team would be meeting with the CVO and NFUS the following day.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3) The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 16 June 2016 were accepted as an accurate record.

BRANCH CONSTITUTION

4) No issues were raised. The constitution was ratified and adopted for 2017/2018.

BRANCH OFFICERS

5) Election of incoming Branch President
   M Donald was proposed by G Ravetz, seconded by K Robertson, and approved by Branch as Branch President 2017-2019.
   G Webster was thanked for her invaluable contribution to Branch in her time as Branch President.
BRANCH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

6) Members were invited to consider the proposal to increase practitioner representation on Council, and remove the position of Honorary Secretary.

7) Members agreed that there was a need for more practitioner input on Branch Council that represented the geographic breadth of Scotland, as well as a need for more representation from younger vets. It was felt that there were several disincentives regarding engagement with Branch Council, including time out of practice and the expense of attending meetings.

8) Members agreed in principle to:
   - Creating more places for practitioner reps on Branch Council;
   - Exploring options to pitch participation in Branch Council at local events;
   - Increasing engagement between Branch and younger Scottish members

Action: G Caldow to pitch engagement with BVA Scottish Branch at SRUC GC meetings with young vets

Action: All Council to encourage colleagues and young members to engage with Branch and if interested in being a practitioner member of Branch Council put them in contact with Secretariat

Action: Scottish Branch Officer team to do a 5 minute Branch Council engagement pitch at relevant CPD events, including Tayside and VetTrust Branch Officers

Action: BVA Secretariat to consider ways to generate nominations for more practice representatives for ratification at the 2018 Scottish Branch AGM in consultation with the Branch Officer team. This may include using the CRM system to assess where the membership is located and where representation is needed.

9) Members thanked R Anderson for his three year-term as Honorary Secretary. Members still felt this position was valuable and R Anderson was proposed and seconded to remain in the role until 2018, at which point the role and nominations will be revisited.

10) 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
   - **SVS**—SVS will nominate a representative at their international meeting in Harrogate and communicate this back to Branch
   - **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: BVA Secretariat to identify contact at Food Standards Scotland and approach

11) The Branch President highlighted the need for Council members to be active in their participation and drew attention the Branch Council’s non-attendance protocol. BVA Secretariat would be writing to representatives who had not complied with this protocol to confirm their membership on Branch Council and seek alternative representation where relevant. The composition of Branch Council was ratified for 2017/2018.

HONORARY ASSOCIATES

12) Members questioned whether it was possible to nominate Honorary Associates
eminent people engaged with the veterinary agenda as well as those in elected office. S Burnell confirmed that people other than politicians could be Honorary Associates and highlighted that Branch Council must also think as to the type of engagement we would have with these people as Honorary Associates and how we could ensure that this engagement meaningful and done regularly.

Action: BVA Secretariat to circulate role description and criteria for the Honorary Associate role to Branch Council for suggested additions to the Honorary Associate list with supporting rationale.

UPDATE ON WORKING GROUPS

13) The Branch President reminded members that BVA policy was now formulated through time-limited working groups, with a small membership. Although working groups did not always have a designated Scottish representative, Scottish representatives with areas of specialist expertise would be consulted where appropriate.

Current working group updates:

- **Brexit** – the working group consulted with Branch on the development of their report (Sandy Duncan was Branch rep). Branch members were invited to identify key principles, challenges and Scottish specific implications to report back to the BVA Brexit working group, as well as inputting into the various iterations of BVA’s Brexit Report.

- **Surveillance** – convened to develop a BVA position on surveillance. The group heard from B Hosie at their first meeting in relation to surveillance issues in Scotland.

- **Farm Assurance** – convened to develop a BVA position on humane, sustainable animal agriculture that includes the importance of animal welfare in sustainable development.

- **AMR** – convened to discuss target setting and gather information on actual usage across animal sectors

SCOTTISH BRANCH UPDATE

14) The President of Branch reminded members of the aims of Scottish Branch and updated members on Branch activity across the 2016/2017 association year, including consultation responses, Government engagement, BVA policy priorities and participation in relevant stakeholder groups. Branch President also highlighted that she would be giving evidence to the Environmental, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee at the end of May regarding the proposed exemption to tail docking legislation.

15) It was noted that Branch was still looking for a mixed-practitioner representative to sit on the Scottish Veterinary Zoonoses Group based in the central belt.

Action: BVA Secretariat to contact Branch members to ask for expressions of interest to sit on Scottish Veterinary Zoonoses Group

16) The Regional Representative now had a dedicated email address Scotland@bva.co.uk

17) It was noted that Branch Officers were looking to schedule a meeting with SSPCA and hoped to meet their new CEO at the Highland Show

AOB

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