Welcome and introductions

1) M. Donald welcomed members to the BVA Scottish Branch AGM 2019 and thanked all for supporting her during her presidential term.

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. The Branch Officer team had also had a productive meeting with Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs, earlier on in the day.

Minutes of AGM 2018

3) The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15 May 2018 were accepted as an accurate record.

Branch Constitution

4) M. Donald noted that the Branch Constitution had been amended to include ‘up to 6 General Councillors’ to reflect the recent appointment of 6 Branch Council members by the Nomination and Awards Group.
5) The constitution was ratified and adopted for 2019/2020.

Branch Officers
6) Election of the Branch President
   K. Robertson was proposed by R Soutar, seconded by T Colville, and elected by Branch Council as Scottish Branch President 2019-2021.

7) M. Donald was thanked for her enthusiasm and brilliant contribution to Scottish Branch during her presidential term.

Branch Council Membership
8) K. Robertson thanked new members of Branch Council for their engagement since their appointment in September 2018.

9) K. Robertson highlighted that there are currently vacancies on Council for:
   • Food Standards Scotland—contact needs to be identified, not filled since last AGM
   • Animal Welfare Foundation - Members identified Catherine Ellis as a potential AWF representative

   Action: HA to ask AWF to follow up with Catherine Ellis as potential representative for AWF

10) Branch Council membership was ratified and adopted for 2019/2020.

Honorary Associates
11) S. Burnell reminded Branch Council members that they were encouraged to suggest parliamentarians with a strong interest in veterinary issues and animal health and welfare as Honorary Associates for Scotland.

   Action: Branch Council members to suggest potential Honorary Associates for inclusion in papers for the Nominations and Awards group in August.

Update on BVA policy, media and lobbying.
12) Members received an update on BVA Brexit activity from BVA President, Simon Doherty.

13) S. Doherty updated that there continued to be a high volume of BVA work centring on Brexit, spanning animal health and welfare, workforce, certification and the supply of veterinary medicines. On the back of its Brexit and the Veterinary Profession and No Deal and the Veterinary Profession publications, BVA has produced an 8-point plan for surviving a no-deal Brexit for members

14) G. Hateley also updated that he was on the BVA bTB working group and could field Scotland-specific views where necessary.

15) Members were encouraged to feed in views on any Scotland-specific issues to consider when BVA is setting its policy priorities for the 2019/2020 association year.

Update on BVA Scottish Branch activity
16) The President of Branch reminded members of the aims of Scottish Branch and congratulated members on successful Branch activity across the 2019/2020
K. Robertson noted an increase in Branch membership from 2073 to 2185.

17) **Branch e-news**

Members were told to expect the bi-annual Scottish Branch e-news on Tuesday 28 May. Feedback on the content was welcomed. R. Anderson commented that the weekly e-news from BVA was very useful, so Branch e-news should aim to replicate this format.

18) **Royal Highland Show**

M. Donald noted that Branch Officers would be supporting the Young Vet Network groups at their Royal Highland Show drinks reception hosted by Norbrook and that BVA would also have a presence on the RCVS stand.

19) **Member engagement event**

K. Robertson updated that Branch would be working with the SSPCA to provide a member engagement event/CPD evening in the autumn.

20) **Stakeholder Groups**

Members received updates on the following stakeholder groups:

- **Scottish Veterinary Zoonoses Group** – R. Pizzi reported that he had attended his first meeting on this group and would continue to share reports of the meetings.

- **Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare** – T. Colville reported the greyhound welfare was still high on the agenda, discussions were also ongoing regarding the welfare of poultry in enriched cages. BVA and BVPA had drafted a letter of clarification in response to this debate.

- **VETTrust** – K. Robertson reported that VeTTrust would be held 11-12 June 2019.

- **Livestock Health Scotland** – K. Robertson reported that the calf mortality and live fluke projects had reported some interesting findings that would be shared with Branch Council in due course. A new fertility project was also being scoped.

- **Scottish Veterinary Delivery Landscape** – K. Robertson reported that a new support line, modelled on Vet NI, was going to launch at VeTTrust in June. S. Voas added that there was currently a vacancy for Chair of the communications stream.

- **National Rural Mental Health Forum** – M. Donald reported that she continued to attend meetings to share best practice of supporting mental health in rural communities. M. Donald had recently written a BVA blog to promote the Farmwell Scotland resources for Mental Health Awareness week, which had been well received by many stakeholders.

- **HIVSS** – F. Scott-Park reported that BVA President, Simon Doherty, had recently visited HIVSS practices and the University of the Highland and Islands.

- **SSPCA - Tackling the puppy trade working group** – E. Callaghan reported that this working group was growing with representation from several other key welfare organisations. There would be a second push of the #buyapuppysafely campaign in the autumn, Branch Council would be kept informed.

- **Farmed Fish Health Framework group** – R. Soutar continued to represent FVS and BVA on this working group.

**Action:** Any member of Branch Council interested in being involved in the VDL Communications Stream please contact Sheila Voas.
AOB

21) J. Risk noted that it would be useful for Branch to explore video conferencing for future meetings.

Action: J. Risk to send link to video conferencing platform for Secretariat to explore further.

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