1) N Paton, President of Branch, welcomed members to the meeting. A special note of thanks and welcome was given to the BVA Officer team.

Minutes of the AGM 2016

2) The minutes of the AGM 2016 were accepted as an accurate record. It was reported that there were no outstanding actions.

Welsh Branch activity – review of achievements

3) The President of Branch reminded members of Branch activity and achievements over the last year, including:

- **Brexit** – S Carr had represented Branch on the BVA Brexit Working Group, which had developed BVA’s principles for negotiating the UK’s exit from the European Union and a report detailing BVA’s lobbying position. The report had been sent to politicians, civil servants and key stakeholders, and lobbying meetings were being arranged. Where appropriate country-specific issues had been raised throughout the document, and there was a short section headed “Devolution” that made the point that different parts of the UK faced different challenges. The public affairs team would work with Welsh Branch to develop country-specific lobbying/briefing papers. Welsh Branch members congratulated BVA on the report.

- **Bovine TB** – Welsh Branch had responded to the Welsh Government consultation on a regionalised approach to eradicating TB in Wales, and the President of Branch had given evidence to the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee. An announcement was expected from the Minister on 20 June.

- **Welfare at slaughter/CCTV** – Welsh Branch had responded to the report of the Safeguarding Animal Welfare at Slaughter Task and Finish Group, expressing disappointment at the report’s conclusion that there was
insufficient evidence for making CCTV mandatory in Welsh abattoirs.

- **Stakeholder groups** - Welsh Branch had been closely involved in the work of a range of stakeholder groups including the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group and Animal Welfare Network Wales

Branch were reminded of the BVA policy priorities for 2016-2017 and were encouraged to suggest priorities for Welsh Branch for the coming year.

**Action:** Welsh Branch members to suggest agenda items for Branch Council via wales@bva.co.uk or welshpresident@bva.co.uk

**Branch Officers**

4) Members were reminded that the constitution of the Welsh Branch stated that there should be a President and a Vice President. A member should be elected to serve two years as Vice President followed by two years as President. N Paton had served as President of Branch for two years and S Carr had served as Vice President of Branch for two years. Outgoing Branch President N Paton thanked all who had supported him for the past two years, including Branch members, Branch Council, the Officer team in Wales and at HQ, and the Mansfield Street staff.

5) S Carr was proposed by G Ravetz, seconded by T Sutton and approved by Branch as President 2017 - 2019.

6) It was reported that a nomination for the role of Junior Vice President had been received from D Procter. The nomination was proposed by N Paton, seconded by S Wensley, and D Procter was elected by Branch as Junior Vice President 2017-2019.

7) Branch were invited to approve the Branch Council proposal that the elected regional representative for Wales should be formally recognised as part of the Branch Officer team. The proposal was supported by Branch and adopted.

8) Branch were invited to consider removing the role of Branch Honorary Secretary on the basis that the role had become obsolete. Branch supported the proposal. D Procter was thanked for her contributions to the role.

**Action:** Secretariat to make necessary amendments to the Branch constitution

**Branch Council 2017-2018**

9) Members were reminded that Branch Council was composed of the Officers and one representative each of the following:

13.1. the North Wales territorial division;
13.2. the South Wales Practitioners Group
13.3. a representative of the major specialist divisions (NOTE: All specialist divisions should be given the opportunity to attend);
13.4. the Young Vet Network/a recent graduate;
13.5. the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation
13.6. the University of Bristol Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
13.7. the University of Liverpool Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
13.8. the RVC Field Station in Wales;
13.9. APHA;
13.10. the immediate past president of Branch
13.11. the Wales Veterinary Science Centre

10) Branch agreed that a representative of the Animal Health and Welfare Framework
Group should be added to Branch Council.

It was noted that the RVC Field Station role should be removed.

**Action:** Secretariat to make necessary amendments to the Branch constitution

11) A special note of thanks was made to R Davies for remaining on Branch Council as immediate past president for the past two years.

12) The composition of Branch Council was ratified for 2017/2018

**Branch constitution**

13) Subject to the amendments already agreed, the Branch constitution was ratified and adopted for 2017/2018.

**Honorary Associates**

14) Members were invited to consider the current list of BVA Honorary Associates in Wales. Suggestions for parliamentarians with a strong interest in veterinary issues and animal health and welfare for recommendation to the Nominations and Awards Group (NAG) were welcomed via the secretariat.

**Action:** Branch members to make suggestions as appropriate via the secretariat

**Any other business**

15) **Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group**

It was noted that Paula Boyden and Abi Reader had recently joined the group.

16) **S Carr, President of Branch, thanked members for their attendance and contributions.**