

## **Minutes of the Eden Animal Rescue AGM 2017**

**Held at Penrith Rugby Club 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7-30pm**

Registered charity: 117113    Company No: 0573515159

**Welcome:** The meeting was opened by Chairwoman Caroline Holland and those present were welcomed to the meeting. Caroline thanked the Rugby Club for the use of their facilities and also Chris Ellison for providing the refreshments.

**Present:** All those attending were recorded on the meetings register.

**Apologies:** Dorothy Savage, Nikki & Paul McDowell, Liz Kinghorn, Nina Ritches, Bill Crothers

### **Minutes of the previous AGM**

Those present were asked to approve these as a true record of the 2016 AGM. There were no questions raised by these minutes.

Approved by Rob Holder and seconded by Audrey Taylor

### **Trustee's Annual Reports and Accounts**

Caroline Holland went through a copy of the trustees report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. A copy of which had previously been forwarded to all members.

It has been an incredible and fast moving Year for all at Eden Animal Rescue. Caroline thanked the many people involved in making this year a success. It is recognised that many people give up heaps of their spare time and energy to help Eden Animal Rescue achieve its many goals and care of the many animals that come to us.

New Targets the charity was aiming for in this new financial year were:

*Complete all the building work at Moorlands Head Farm for a summer move.*

*Complete the schedule of works required to allow us to vacate our Hardendale premises.*

*Continue to work with the grant applications task team to secure further funding for the building project.*

*Continue to grow the fundraising arm of the charity to support the day to day running costs, which were covering 2 sites.*

*Develop a team for creating landscaping and outside space for the whole site.*

*Re-evaluate our systems and procedures for animal care once at the new facilities at Moorlands Head Farm to ensure we work efficiently and to very high standards of care.*

*Support both staff and volunteers whilst working over 2 sites and the stresses and strains of moving the animals and settling them into their new homes.*

*Investigate VAT registration.*

Building work at Moorlands Head farm started to take shape from April 2016 and the Grand Opening day which took place on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> was a momentous and memorable day for all involved.

During this year 85 dogs, 223 cats and kittens and 4 small animals were rehomed.

Caroline gave special thanks were given to Nina Ritchie and Bill Crothers and their dedicated shop team who continue to work extremely hard.

Rob Holder was also thanked for his outstanding work on the landscaping of Moorlands Head Farm. The time he has given along with his truly wonderful vision is outstanding. The site is looking wonderful and we look forward to further gardening projects over the many years to come.

The number of fundraising events was huge for this financial year with the need in particular to support the 2 sites with both rent and loan repayments going out of the account for several months. Caroline thanked everyone involved in the organisation, running and attendance of the many events held.

Grant applications this year were hugely successful. Notable grants included those from Tesco who awarded us money to develop the garden areas and Support Adoption for Pets gave us much needed funds to support the build work of the kennels and more recently the paddock and dog socialisation areas.

Sarah Bean, Vicky Broughton and Alex Bowness remain with the charity and we are extremely grateful for all the staffs' hard work. Without our staff and volunteers the charity would not survive and each and everyone is thanked for what they do. New volunteers are always needed so hopefully the new site will attract many more.

Hardendale was finally closed in November 2016. The conditions built into the lease were immense but they bravely worked their way through this schedule of dilapidation. A huge thank you goes to Tony Wolfe and his team for dealing with the complex closure of this site.

**Finances:** An unaudited financial statement was made available for all for the year ending March 2017.

Caroline explained that this financial year had been very complicated with the building costs and the closing costs of Hardendale intermingled with the general running costs for the year.

Funds in the bank and building society as of the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 were £351,090. This amount includes £122,000 set aside to cover 1 years operating costs in case of any unforeseen events so we can continue with our work.

We became VAT registered in February 2017 which resulted in a net refund of £70000. This money allowed for the extra funds need to complete the build costs and replace funds that were used to

close down the business premises at Hardendale. Thanks go to Eileen Kershaw and Tony Wolfe for all their financial support this year.

We also received a major legacy of £70,000

Many thanks also go to Neil Graham who continues to work producing the shop accounts and transferring funds to the main account along with paying the shop bills.

Caroline asked that should anyone have any questions regarding the finances to please contact her.

### **Election of Management Committee**

Sadly this year Chris Ellison and Dawn Wicks will be stepping down as Trustees. Their contribution has been outstanding over many years. Both will be continuing as volunteers. A presentation was made on behalf of the remaining Trustees to thank them.

The current board of Trustees was dissolved.

Those who are willing to stand again are: Sal Cawley

Caroline Holland (Chair)

Allyson Jenyon

David Simmons

Sandra Taylor

Inga Voit

There were no other nominations.

A unanimous vote of confidence was then recorded to elect the above individuals to serve as Trustees for the following year.

Caroline also introduced Lynn Healey our new development manager who started her role on 18/9/17. It is hoped Lynn's role will be able to take some of the pressure off the current Trustees as it has been an exhausting year for them. It is also hoped that Lynn will really help drive the charity forward and ensure high standards are maintained as well as establishing new projects, fundraising opportunities and business relationships.

### **Our Golden Oldies and Long stay animals**

Allyson Jenyon and Sarah Bean with contributions from Vicky Broughton and Alex Bowness then gave a very warm and entertaining talk on some of our current residents and some of the unusual circumstances in which animals come into our care. This included the entertaining story of Vicky and Alex 'catching kittens' on a farm in less than favourable conditions!

It is recognised that often our staff go above and beyond to save and rescue some of the animals that come to us. Our longer stay animals are very special to both staff and volunteers and every

effort is made to ensure we create the best home for them we can. The dog socialisation room is proving a big success and thanks go to all those who have donated items for this area.

Vicky explained how she will work with the dogs that have behavioural issues and some of these success stories were shared at the meeting. Sadly Spot and Rocky remain in our care and these two long stay residents are still waiting for that special home that is right for them.

The special story of Molly was shared. The money needed for Molly's heart surgery was raised and this has now been undertaken successfully. She formed a very special bond with her fosterer Jen Ingle and this was where she now found her forever home.

Charlotte Bean was also introduced to the meeting as our newest member of staff. Charlotte has successfully completed her animal care course at Newton Rigg. She is already showing her amazing talents in working with our 'less friendly' felines and gaining their trust so that they can be successfully rehomed as pets.

Sarah Bean thanked all our volunteers and the Trustees for their support over the last year which has been busy and challenging for all.

Current numbers of animals are: Dogs 17 + 12 waiting list

Cats 44 + 19 waiting list

Kittens 24

Rabbits 4

**Grand Raffle:** The draw for this was undertaken at this meeting. Thanks to all who donated prizes and bought tickets. A list of winners will be available for anyone who would like one.

## **AOB**

Our next 2 forthcoming events are the New to you Sale on 11<sup>th</sup> November and the M&Co fashion show on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Chairman's closing remarks**

The next year continues to bring us challenges and hard work. The aim is to concentrate on reducing our mortgage and we will be paying a further £50,000 off this soon.

A second cattery remains a future priority and it is hoped to be one of our future major projects. Raising the much needed funds for this will be very important in the near future.

The charity is still looking for a Treasurer so if anyone is aware of anyone who has the skills and time to undertake this role and perhaps would like to join us for a trial few months please ask them to get in touch.

***Caroline thanked everyone once again for their support of this special charity and also to all those who had come along to the meeting tonight.***