

# **Minutes of the Eden Animal Rescue AGM 2018**

**Held at North Lakes Hotel 25<sup>th</sup> October at 7-30pm**

Registered charity: 117113    Company No: 0573515159

**Welcome:** The meeting was opened by Interim Chair Sandra Taylor and those present were welcomed to the meeting. Sandra thanked the North Lakes Hotel for the use of their facilities which were provided free of charge. The refreshments had been funded by a member. Sandra explained her association with the charity initially as a volunteer and most recently as a trustee.

**Present:** All those attending (44) were recorded on the meetings register. There were a mixture of members and non-members.

**Apologies:** Alex Bowness, Lynn Healey, Gordon and Dorothy Savage, Joan and Sandy Urquhart

## **Minutes of the previous AGM**

Those present were asked to approve these as a true record of the 2017 AGM. There were no questions raised by these minutes.

Approved by Caroline Holland and seconded by Rob Holder

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

Sandra went through a copy of the trustees report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018. A copy of which had previously been forwarded to all members.

It has been another eventful and fast moving Year for all at Eden Animal Rescue. Sandra complimented the staff and thanked them for all their hard work. Sarah Bean, Vicky Broughton, Alex Bowness and Charlotte Bean remain dedicated to the charity despite at times having many emotional and difficult situations to deal with due to the nature of our work. Lynn Healey was thanked for the work she had done in her role as Development Manager. Also thanked were the three new part-time members of staff and the fact that due to an increase in animal care staff the animals were now receiving a higher standard of care.

EAR were lucky enough to receive a large grant from Support Adoption for Pets. This has allowed us to improve the outdoor areas for the dogs and also the creation of a dog socialisation room. Thanks go to Sal Cawley for her involvement with this but particular thanks to Rob Holder who through hard work, great management and a wonderful vision has managed this project so diligently and brought it in on budget with lots of help from Richard Noble and other volunteers who have given their time so generously.

Animal charities do not receive any Government funding and so have to actively seek funding

from elsewhere. We have been very lucky in the last few years to have had both small and large legacies bequeathed to EAR and other organisations have been kind in giving us grants, thanks to Inga Voit for her tireless work in grant applications.

One of the most stable financial assets is the EAR shop. Bill Crothers and Nina Ritchie and the team of shop workers were thanked for their voluntary work. Unlike many charity shops due to the dedication of the shop team it has remained opened despite the ongoing challenge of finding volunteers to man it. Our shop remains our 'Penrith Office' and an important point of contact for those unable to get out to the centre.

Irving Butterworth was thanked for the extensive range of jobs he does at the centre, he is very much appreciated and EAR is very aware of how lucky it is to have dedicated individuals like him who remain with the charity year on year.

It has been an amazing fundraising year with lots of new events. Special thanks go to Penrith Rugby Club who have allowed us to host several events free of charge and Maire and Neville Howard who are staunch supporters and offer their land and premises once again free of charge.

One of the biggest celebrations is that due to a large legacy we have been able to pay off the mortgage on Moorlands Head Farm and we are now mortgage free. We now own MHF outright and this had been a dream of Caroline Holland who, until recently was Chair of EAR. Caroline was thanked for being instrumental in achieving this for EAR and for all her hard work and dedication to the charity. Caroline and Lynda Graham are still involved with the charity – thanks go to both for their loyal support and ongoing advice.

## **Accounts**

Inga thanked all the fundraisers past and present and also the many charitable trusts that have and still do support us. Inga said that in the present financial climate it was difficult to get support for animal charities and the world of fundraising is changing. Many charities have seen a 50% reduction in legacies. We constantly need to look at new ways to fundraise.

Moorlands Head Farm has running costs of over £200,000 a year. The vet bills alone cost approx £40,000.

We are grateful to the people who contributed funds for Kai's operation and there was also the trust that funded the operation.

The alterations to the cattery which include thermostats in each cat pen have been funded by the Animal Rescue Foundation.

Inga assured members that the trustees are custodians of public money and as such we have a

duty to spend that money wisely. We have grown significantly as a charity and are now in the process of setting up new admin systems to help us.

We are now in a good financial position with a wonderful Rescue including a 5 star cattery.

The position of Treasurer is vacant and we would welcome any interest in this voluntary position.

### **Election of Management Committee**

Sadly this year Dave Simmons (Interim Chair), Sal Cawley and Jennifer Ingle (co-opted) will be stepping down as Trustees. All were thanked for their work.

The current board of Trustees was dissolved.

Allyson Jenyon and Inga Voit have rescinded their resignations and are willing to stand again.

Those who are willing to stand again are: Sandra Taylor, Inga Voit, and Allyson Jenyon.

Two new expressions of interest have been received from Jennie Whitfield and Sue Wilkinson with letters of support from current members.

Each trustee was voted for individually:

- **Allyson Jenyon** was proposed by Chris Ellison and seconded by Fran Flower
- **Inga Voit** was proposed by Caroline Holland and seconded by Chris Ellison
- **Sandra Taylor** was proposed by Dawn Wicks and seconded by Barbara Brunton
- **Jennie Whitfield** was proposed by Sheila Lowthian and seconded by Rob Holder
- **Sue Wilkinson** was proposed by Judy Doldi and seconded by Val Barbier

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

### **Proposal to Adopt New Articles of Association**

Sandra informed the members that as the current Articles of Association are dated being written in 1997, it is timely that these are reviewed.

Three proposed amendments are to be considered:

- 1. Replace the term 'animals being destroyed' with 'euthanised' and add 'by a qualified

veterinarian’

- 2. The ‘number of members needed to be present at a meeting’ for a vote to be carried – it is proposed that we ask for this to be 10% of the total membership.
- 3. The number of Trustees that should be on the committee in order to manage the charity effectively. In the discussion document it had been proposed 3 as a minimum. The current Articles details 6 as a minimum but it was felt that 5 is a better number as it is a good number for voting being an odd number.3 was felt by some to be unsatisfactory.

Linda Graham asked how many current members we have and Sandra reported that we have approx 240 names on the membership list which we are currently reviewing for accuracy.

It was felt that amendments 1 and 2 should be changed with immediate effect and amendment 3 would be further considered.

Chris Ellison suggested that further consideration should be given to the Articles of Association so these will be revisited over the following year.

#### **Presentation from EAR Staff**

Jen Cartmell explained how she is currently working with our staff to help them with some of the dog’s behaviour issues. This work is proving invaluable in giving our staff the skills they require to deal with our more challenging residents.

As always some of our more heart warming stories were shared by Sarah Bean and Allyson Jenyon’.

#### **Patrons for Eden Animal Rescue**

Max and Paddy were introduced as Eden Animal Rescue’s patrons. Their owner Kerry gave a touching and inspirational talk, ably assisted by the entertaining dogs, about how he came to have Max, who he rescued from a sad and unstimulating life and the transformation to a very happy dog with an exceptional life.

Kerry set up a Facebook page and now has over 90,000 followers from all around the world. He has already supported EAR by holding walks in the Lake District and donating funds raised by this to EAR. The next walk is on December 2<sup>nd</sup> called Christmas Craggs and Caves, money received from this and a percentage of the Max and Paddy calendars will be donated to EAR.

Kerry has also recently received an award from the PDSA for ‘Providing Support in Recovery and Enriching the Lives of many Others’. He spoke of the work that he and the dogs do in visiting

people who are ill. He himself had a life changing accident and can empathise with people who face similar challenges.

### **50:50 club**

This has now been revised. If anyone would like to join again they can get a form from Chris Ellison. There are approximately 250 members and it is a good form of income for the charity.

**Grand Raffle:** The draw for this was undertaken at the meeting. Thanks to Kerry who drew it and to all who donated prizes and bought tickets. A list of winners will be available for anyone who would like one. The funds raised from this are approx £1500 this year.

### **AOB**

Fran Flower informed members that she had commissioned a pencil drawing of Spot to be displayed in the Rescue by the artist Dave Forte. Dave has since offered to donate this free of charge and he was thanked by Sandra on behalf of Eden Animal Rescue. Spot was a very special dog and loved by all the staff and many of the volunteers.

Chris Ellison asked for support with the forthcoming street collections and the Winter Droving day.

### **Chairman's closing remarks**

The next year continues to bring us challenges and hard work. We are aware that we don't always get things right but we will listen to concerns and respond to questions. Sandra asked people to feel free to contact any of the Trustees regarding any issues they would like to raise at any time. The members present were assured that there is a huge amount of love and passion for the charity from the new Trustees elected tonight. The charity belongs to us all and our goal is to ensure that Eden Animal Rescue survives all of us and is still here when we are all long gone.

October 2018