**SVS Executive Committee Meeting (via zoom)**

**19th May 2020**

President Nick Hart opened the meeting at 19.35

**Present:**  Hazel Rice (HR), Yoav Alony-Gilboa (YA), Heather Stevenson (HS), Tricia Sutton, (TS), Amanda Carson (AC), Nick Hart (NH), Amy Jennings (AJ), Moyna Richey (MR), Mark Thompson (MT), Clare Phythian (CP), Phillipa Page (PP)

**1. Apologies:** Rachel Foster

**2. Specific Items:**

**a) Action points from previous confertel (29/4/20)**

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| **Action Point** | **Person Responsible** | **Completed** |
| Contact Nicola Fletcher/Emma Borkowski with funding offer  Write to all applicants | HS | Y |
| Contact Fiona Lovatt about FHC webinars | NH | Y |
| Transfer funds to Moredun | TS | Y |
| Reply to Sara Pedersen regarding AVS funding | NH |  |
| Circulate document on pig antibiotic prophylaxis/metaphylaxis  Comment on sheep antibiotic prophylaxis/metaphylaxis | NH  ALL | Y |
| Comment on changes to 6 day standstill | ALL | Y |
| Contact Cheltenham hotel | HR | Y |
| **General Reminders** |  |  |
| Nominees for awards 2020 |  |  |
| New JVP/committee members 2020 |  |  |

**b) SVS rep to liaise with AVS and FAVS –** In light of the increasing number of vet schools, and the potential to have to deal with multiple people, NH requested a volunteer for this role. Will also need to contact Sara Pedersen (BCVA) regarding SVS decision to support FAVS rather than AVS. AC enquired if BCVA and GVS had reached a decision on this and NH confirmed that they had not. AC has suggested that GVS also support FAVS. AJ volunteered to take on this role and will speak to Sara Pedersen and ask for contact details from Edinburgh FAVS.

**Action: AJ**

c) **Autumn meeting –** HR had contacted the hotel in Cheltenham who were advising not to decide whether or not to cancel the autumn conference at present. HR noted that we may lose our £5000 deposit if we cancel it outright at this point. NH proposed that we should cancel it and hold the spring 2021 meeting in Cheltenham. HS and MT supported this suggestion and AC is happy to hold 2021 meetings in Cheltenham and Cumbria. (The cancelled spring 2020 meeting due to take place in Belfast will now be held in May 2022). YA confirmed that the dairy sheep and goat conference will not take place in 2021. HR will contact Cheltenham hotel again and find out if we will lose any money by re-booking for May 2021.

**Action: HR**

d) **International meeting in Spain** – this has been postponed from 2021 until 2022.

e) **OGM/AGM 2020 –** HR noted that the constitution requires both an OGM and an AGM to be held each year. AJ suggested holding a round table type discussion followed by the OGM fairly soon to give members an opportunity to talk about current issues. TS noted that the OGM requires a quorum of 10 and proposed that it could be held via zoom in June or July. CP agreed to host this meeting and a date of Monday June 22nd was fixed. AJ mentioned collaborate as an alternative to zoom. Members will be informed via newsletter (see g).

NH is keen that the handover of presidency to AC is marked in some way and proposed arranging something at the NSA sheep event in Malvern which has been scaled back and postponed until Monday 19th October. HR will ask NSA if they can provide us with the facility to hold a meeting. NH noted that NSA are planning a barbeque at the end of the event and we could have a round table discussion then the AGM.

**Action HR**

f) **Sheep antibiotic prophylaxis/metaphylaxis –** AJ commented that she had nothing to add to AC and RFs’ responses to this. MR raised the issue of administration of antibiotics to store lambs prior to transport to reduce death rates. AC commented that we need to be clear that the document is intended to produce guidelines that promote best practice. NH felt that a change in the mindset of vets was required and that there is a risk that the final legislation will make prophylactic use illegal. Guidelines produced are intended for the decision makers and there will be a few instances where antibiotic prophylaxis is targeted and acceptable e.g. pre caesarean. MT explained that his practice talks to farmers about worm control, trace element status and vaccination pre-transport when providing antibiotics. AC voiced concern about the amount of antibiotic resistance that is being seen. NH reminded the committee that the document has to be forwarded to Fiona Lovatt within the next week for circulation to RUMA and VMD.

g) **Newsletter to members** – HR confirmed that not all members have an email address and that this will have to go by post. AC suggested including a survey monkey poll in the newsletter asking opinions on whether to hold the AGM online or at Malvern. The link to join the OGM via zoom will be included in the newsletter. AC agreed to start writing the newsletter. It will include a request for prospective new committee members.

**Action: AC**

h) **New office bearers –** AC has approached Rudolph Reichel to take on the role of secretary. Suggestions for new JVP were requested and HR will circulate a list of previous committee members. NH suggested Jennifer Duncan or Rose Grogono-Thomas. TS suggested Graeme Baird.

**Action: HR**

i) **Website upgrade –** HR has been contacted by Basestation (who maintain the SVS website) to let us know that there is a need to upgrade Drupal 7 in November 2021. HR suggested that we could look at improving the website at the same time. The cost can be reduced if we use some of the same functions that are being built into the new Moredun website. TS noted that after the international in Harrogate it was agreed that money should be invested in improving the website. HR noted that Basestation have said that the website currently doesn’t get a lot of traffic. AC asked if a private discussion forum could be built in to use as an alternative to Yahoo. This would have a password and members would be sent alerts when discussions were posted. YA noted that it is difficult to attract a lot of traffic to a website but there are forums attached to the XLVets website. AJ suggesting linking the website to the twitter feed. Setting up a small working group was proposed but not progressed at this time.

**Action:HR**

j) **Elanco letter –** Matt Colston (Elanco) had asked if SVS would submit the previously circulated letter to the Vet Record. NH was not in favour and the committee agreed. NH will contact Matt.

**Action:NH**

k) **POM V wormer classification –** NH informed the committee that there was a proposal to explore making anthelmintics POM V in Northern Ireland. This information came from BCVA who are keen to look at this possibility in the rest of the UK. PP felt it could have a negative effect on farmer engagement if they were forced to go through vets. NH noted that vets would more likely supply a prescription than sell them and would need to prove better than SQPs.

l) **Sheep pathway meeting –** NH had attended two recent meetings which apply to England only. It is likely that vets will need to be accredited in order to carry out health and welfare assessments on farms. The requirement for these assessments may become compulsory after a few years. Farmers will need to pay for this visit although a small amount of grant money may be available to make improvements.

m) TS has sent a card on behalf of SVS to Sam Mansley as his son has passed away.

**Date of next meeting** – the OGM will be held as a zoom meeting on Monday 22nd June. CP confirmed that she was happy to host.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 21.00

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| **Action Point** | **Person Responsible** | **Completed** |
| Contact Sara Pedersen and FAVS | AJ |  |
| Contact Cheltenham hotel with regards to postponing Sept 2020 meeting until May 2021 | HR |  |
| Contact NSA to see if they can provide us with meeting facilities on 19th October in Malvern | HR |  |
| Draft newsletter | AC |  |
| Circulate list of past committee members | HR | Y |
| Liaise with Basestation re website | HR |  |
| Contact Matt Colston about letter for Vet Record | NH |  |
| Host OGM zoom meeting | CP |  |
| **General Reminders** |  |  |
| Nominees for awards 2020 |  |  |
| New JVP/committee members 2020 |  |  |

H. Stevenson

Hon. Secretary