

**The 180th Annual General Meeting of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons was held at One Great George Street as part of Royal College Day 2023, on Friday 7 July 2023, with Council members, members of the RCVS and senior RCVS staff present.**

The President, Dr Melissa Donald, opened the Annual General Meeting and welcomed Council members, RCVS Award winners, their guests and everyone present and those watching the ceremony remotely. In her introduction she outlined that this was her last RCVS meeting in her current role and that she would be handing over the chain of office to Dr Sue Paterson.

Dr Donald said that, traditionally, at this point in previous years she would have read out the message from Queen Elizabeth II who had been a Patron and benefactor of the RCVS since 1952 before she passed away in September 2022. Dr Donald said she had the great honour of attending the late Queen's State Funeral and also congratulated Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronation in May 2023.

### **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 8 July 2022, which had also been made available online, were confirmed and approved as a correct record.

#### **1. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022**

The President formally presented the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022.

#### **2. Questions about the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts**

The President said that no questions had been received prior to the AGM and there were no questions from those present at the meeting.

#### **3. Council and VN elections**

The Registrar then turned to the results of the 2023 RCVS Council election.

The Registrar read out the report of Civica Election Services relating to the election of RCVS.

The newly-elected Council members were as follows:

Order	Nominee	Votes
1	Dr Alice McLeish	3,465
2	Linda Belton	2,725
3	Tim Hutchinson	1,571

The Registrar declared that those named were elected Members of Council for a period of four years. The President congratulated Linda Belton on her re-election and welcomed the two newly-elected

Council members, as well as newly-appointed Veterinary Schools Council appointee, Professor Matthew Jones.

Alice and Tim were invited onto the stage and officially welcomed onto Council by the President. Matthew was not able to be present on the day.

#### **4. Council retirements**

The President paid tribute to the outgoing Council members.

The first was Professor Chris Proudman, an appointee from the University of Surrey, who initially joined for a five-month term in 2020, before taking a break of one year and then re-joining Council as a Veterinary Schools Council appointee in 2021. She said that whilst on Council Chris's experience at Surrey had been brought to bear, serving on the Education Committee and the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice Subcommittee, where he had put his expertise and knowledge to good use.

Next was Dr Jo Dyer, an elected member of RCVS Council since 2015. The Registrar said that Jo, coming from a general practice background, had brought an excellent primary care perspective to a number of issues that had a direct impact on vets in clinical practice, including through her membership of various committees, not least the Standards Committee.

Finally, she said farewell to RCVS Treasurer and Past President Dr Niall Connell, an elected member since 2013, who was unable to be present on the day. Dr Melissa Donald gave a short statement in tribute to Niall, praising his leadership of the College during the difficult period of the coronavirus pandemic and his leading work on diversity and inclusion within the veterinary professions.

#### **Veterinary Nurses Council**

The Registrar announced the results of the Veterinary Nurses (VN) Council election, which saw Matthew Rendle re-elected and Simon Williams elected onto VN Council. Chair of Veterinary Nurses Council, Matthew Rendle, invited Simon onto the stage to be formally welcomed.

Matthew then thanked the retiring VN Council members. First, he thanked Claire Roberts, who had been elected in 2020, praising her contribution as the VN Council representative on the RCVS Standards Committee and as a member of the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Policy and Compliance Subcommittee, where she had played a role in promoting CPD and reflective learning to her VN peers.

He also thanked Dominic Dyer, who had served as an appointed lay member of VN Council since 2013. Matthew said that Dominic had brought invaluable experience and insight as a campaigner, policy adviser and charity worker, and had helped spread the word amongst the public about the importance of veterinary nursing.

## **Date of next AGM**

The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Friday 5 July 2024 at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

## **5. Meeting of the RCVS Council to elect President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer**

### **Apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Louise Allum
- Linda Belton
- Niall Connell
- Christine Middlemiss (Observer)
- Timothy Parkin
- Will Wilkinson
- Judith Worthington

## **Declarations of interests**

There were no declarations of interests made.

## **Approval of the Presidential Team and Treasurer for 2023/24**

Council approved the appointment of the new Presidential Team and Treasurer for 2023-2024, as follows:

President: Dr Sue Paterson FRCVS

Senior Vice-President: Dr Melissa Donald MRCVS

Junior Vice-President: Linda Belton MRCVS

Treasurer: Dr Tshidi Gardiner MRCVS

## **Date of next meeting**

The next public meeting of Council would take place on Thursday 7 September 2023 at 10am.