

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lucky Ewe SCIO held on Monday, 25th April 2022 at 19:00 in the Old Parish Centre, Cupar and via Zoom

Members present: Joan Brown (Chair), Norma Alari, Haley Austin, Alana Paterson-Brown, Sarah Davidson, Jill Dawson (Treasurer), Abbey Doig, Caroline Doig, Lindsay Graeme, Andrew Kennedy, Colin Marshall, Elena Shanks, Alyssa Sickerdick, Ann Woodage, Heather Young and Mary Gibbon (Secretary)

Attending: Bill Arnott, Speaker: Royal Education Trust and President of Scottish Association of Young Farmers; Willie Lang

Apologies: Nicola Bunting, Jenny Donoghue, Jen Gallier, Nicholas Gibbon, Lisa Hawkins, Lorna Hirst, Margaret Robertson, Mary Ellen Robertson, Brenda Steffens and Patrick Steffens

1: Welcome

Joan opened the meeting and welcomed members and attendees to the AGM.

2: Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th February, 2021

The above minutes were approved: proposed by Mary Gibbon and seconded by Alana Paterson-Brown

3: Chair's Report

Joan presented the Report to the AGM and detailed the progress and successes achieved by Lucky Ewe in 2021/2022.

Lucky Ewe has received multi-year award funding which enables us to employ five part-time staff and allows us to continue with our expansion plans. The National Lottery Community Fund and the Robertson Trust in particular have provided long-term funding to employ staff but we have also received funding from other organisations to buy farm equipment, livestock feed, PPE and all the various items needed for the charity. Other income from generous private donors and from Lucky Ewe's fundraising in the local community provides additional support.

Lucky Ewe membership has increased from 34 to 42 and over the year, 41 Interns have benefited from their sessions at Bonnyton Farm with 18 active volunteers becoming regular support workers.

Our partnerships with local service providers have grown too. *Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service* brings beneficiaries every week to group sessions at the farm and offers advice to families on how to access Lucky Ewe. Five secondary schools, as well as *Pupil Support Services*, send young people to us and *Auchmuty High School* enjoys a group session of farm work and woodwork, with a member of teaching staff attending, every week. *Local GPs, Includem, Link Befriending, Fife Forum, Enable, Care Visions and Skills*

Development Scotland have all referred and supported interns and links to *FC Employability Service* and *Social Work Service* are particular areas we plan to develop this year.

In April 2021 we amended the constitution to meet the requirements of the NHS legal team, in particular to limit our membership to people who live in Fife and in May our five policy documents, outlining the ethos and management of the charity, were written and approved by Trustees and can now be viewed on our website www.luckyewe.org.uk

The ethos of Lucky Ewe involves working with interns and volunteers in a spirit of what Carl Rogers defined as ‘unconditional positive regard.’ This means providing a safe, non-judgemental and supportive work environment where practical tasks are achieved in a relaxed, thorough and effective way. Staff and volunteers are genuine and empathic towards Interns. The predominant intention is to build confidence by offering the Interns the experience of success in the workplace; the long-term goal through doing this is to offer Interns support for their transition to their next steps in life.

It is important that we, the charity’s Trustees, Volunteers and Staff, maintain focus on this ethos while we carry out all the work that goes into running Lucky Ewe. An additional major challenge this year has been maintaining this focus while living with the uncertainty of our CAT request to NHS Fife; we have answered the many searching questions relating to this and hope to hear of a decision in May 2022.

At the heart of the Chair’s report is the acknowledgement of the fantastic effort put in by our Interns, Volunteers, Trustees, Supporters and Staff. Their practical, financial and always positive support has meant we have continued to develop and grow as a charity. Thanks go in particular to Susan and Peter Beaver, Duncan and Barbara Pickard, Willie Lang, John and Kym Johnson, Ali and Ben McLean, Andrew Swain, as well as all the other members and friends, too numerous to mention, who have given Lucky Ewe their support this year. You have our grateful thanks. We could not do it without you.

The Chair’s Report has been sent to all members and is also available to read in its entirety on our website www.luckyewe.org.uk

4. Treasurer’s Report: 9th February 2021 to 21st April 2022

Jill took the meeting through the Treasurer’s Report. Accounts for Lucky Ewe’s first accounting period, ending 31 March 2021, were submitted to OSCR in December 2021 and are attached.

At the period end, cash funds stood at £23,509, of which £21,401 was restricted. Our Independent Examiner was Accountant Anna Chworow. Lucky Ewe is currently preparing its next set of accounts for period ending 31 March 2022, due for submission to OSCR by December 2022. Our bank statements are available to view on request.

Reserves Policy: our bank account balance at 21 April 2022 stood at £53,294.63, most of which has been allocated to us for specific purposes. Our aim is to maintain a 3 to 6 month operating reserve and our current target for reserves is £40,000. We believe it’s realistic to raise £5,000 per year through careful money management, attracting ‘no strings attached’ funds, donations from private individuals and fundraising events to achieve our operating reserve in 8 years.

Financial commitments and outgoings

Our current insurers charge £800.00 per annum for public and employer liability, and this policy will be ongoing.

Utilities: Lucky Ewe uses very little electricity with no heating at the moment, minimal lighting since we are working during daylight hours, and a short seasonal milking using 1.5kw electric motor. Electric fencing uses very little electricity. We harvest rainwater from the stock tunnel roof and only use mains water to clean milking equipment, in WC facilities and during periods of drought.

Currently we budget £360 per annum for the above services in total. Other current outgoings include personal protection equipment (PPE) and tools, workshop operational costs and admin costs.

Fundraising

Lucky Ewe's work lies at the intersection of employability, mental health and youth work – areas which are highly attractive to funders, as reflected by our track record. An increasing number of funders, including our existing funder the Robertson Trust, offer unrestricted funding, recognising its importance to charities. For other work, a 10% overhead charge is normally added to funding bids, to cover any indirect costs. Our track record is such that we have developed confidence in our fund-raising ability and many people from all walks of life see the value in what Lucky Ewe is trying to achieve. They want to see us succeed and so they support us.

Lucky Ewe was initially employing a fundraiser for larger grant applications who charged us 10% of all grants received. We terminated this contract in Feb 2022 and all charges due have been paid to him. Future funding is now being pursued by a fundraising committee within Lucky Ewe, which will allow us to retain the full amount of future grant awards. We are trialling this new approach now, since funding has been secured for the next 3 years, allowing us to strengthen the skills in-house. A significant part of this strategy is funder stewardship: developing strong relationships with existing funders and retaining existing donors is much more efficient than pursuing new funding leads.

Our fundraising committee also oversees successful community fundraising events throughout the year. Our Christmas fundraiser raised £1100+ in December 2021 and our most recent event was a coffee morning on 16th April 2022 at Age Concern Cupar, which raised over £700. Lucky Ewe also receives private donations, which are a valuable addition to our unrestricted funds and are always gratefully received.

Grant Income

A significant part of the charity's income is from grants and Lucky Ewe will continue to seek grant income. A list totalling successful grant applications over £800 is attached and is also posted on the Lucky Ewe website

Funding from Statutory partners

We actively seek to work with statutory partners and this can result in funding. For example, Developing the Young Workforce (Fife) highlighted, as a case study, pupils from Auchmuty

High School, Glenrothes, who were on work placements at Lucky Ewe. This led to an award by DYW of £500 for PPE to Lucky Ewe which we used to purchase overalls, jackets, wellies, boots etc. We have opened communication with Fife Employability Service (Andy Brown) and are part of their Rural Skills Consortium. This partnership will generate placements and income going forward. Skills Development Scotland is 'on board' with Lucky Ewe, after a presentation by the charity to all local Career Officers in March 2022. They are now making referrals and helping to develop our 'brand awareness' and will help Lucky Ewe towards additional funding where possible.

The Treasurer's Report can be accessed in full on the Lucky Ewe website.

5: Election of Trustees

After proposal by Andrew Kennedy and seconded by Willie Lang, all present trustees were re-elected. Trustee Board now comprises: Joan Brown, Alana Paterson-Brown, Jill Dawson, Elizabeth Elliot, Mary Gibbon and Richard Young.

6: Guest Speaker

Bill Arnott of the Royal Highland Education Trust and President of the Scottish Association of Young Farmers gave a most interesting talk about his work with the above organisations. RHET covers twelve areas and deals with 130 schools in Fife: its aim is to educate young people about farming in relation to food and the environment, to bring more young people into farming and agriculture and to develop relationships with farms to enable this to go forward. Bill also suggested excellent sources for Lucky Ewe as regards work placements for our interns. It was agreed to invite Bill to Lucky Ewe farm.

The meeting thanked Bill for his time and illuminating talk.

7. Any Other Business

- Joan reported that Lucky Ewe was delighted to be presented by Cllr Margaret Kennedy with a Certificate of Recognition, on behalf of the people of Fife, for our exceptional service to the community throughout the Covid pandemic.
- Our Health and Safety officer, Graeme Dawson, recently carried out a satisfactory audit at Lucky Ewe farm.

8. Thanks and Conclusion

On behalf of Lucky Ewe Trustees, Joan thanked everyone their attendance at the AGM, both in person and via zoom and reiterated our thanks for the unstinting support given by all members and friends of Lucky Ewe over the last two years.

The Meeting concluded at 20:00