

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lucky Ewe SCIO held on Thursday, 20th April 2023 at 19:00 in the Old Parish Centre, Cupar and via Zoom

Members present: Joan Brown (Chair), Norma Alari, Alana Paterson-Brown, Nicola Bunting Jill Dawson (Treasurer), Sarah Davidson, Abby Doig, Caroline Doig, Libby Elliot, Amy Ross - Henderson, Lorna Hirst, Cherry Kelsey, Margaret Kennedy, Gwyneth Thom, Chloe Patrick, Fiona Patrick, Mary Ellen Robertson, Naomi Robertson, Catherine Stewart, Caroline Weinberger and Mary Gibbon (Secretary)

Attending: Willie Lang, Tom Davidson

Apologies: Pete Beaver, Susan Bowie, Franki Campbell, Jen Gallier, Nicholas Gibbon, Andrew Kennedy, Colin Marshall, Bill Pagan, Stuart Paterson, Duncan Pickard, Brenda Steffens, 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 25th April 2022

The above minutes were approved: proposed by Willie Lang 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 2022/23. The emphasis continues to be on growing the charity and building a strong foundation with interns, partners and funders.

- Lucky Ewe has had a very busy year with 46 interns benefitting from placements on the farm and 34 volunteers providing both on-farm and backroom support. We have received generous funding awards, bought in new equipment, fundraised at farmers markets and other local ventures, hosted an open day, welcomed new interns, liaised with partnerships and developed a pre-entry accredited course for internees.
- We have developed our volunteer programme with trustees attending a very useful training course run by Fife Voluntary Action on managing volunteers. As a result, Lucky Ewe now has a system to pay volunteers' travel expenses and to provide clothing and equipment for them, making our charity more inclusive of adult volunteers.
- We restructured our on-farm employment posts and the new part time farm manager post was filled by a current employee. We now employ five part-time staff which 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 for all the other items needed for the charity. Income from generous private donors and from Lucky Ewe's fundraising in the local community also provide additional support. Funders were sought so that we could provide a pre-entry level accredited course at the farm and this year we created an SCQF 4 Rural Skills course; our webpage also now shows progression routes to other providers for our interns.

- Our partnerships continue to grow with referrals from local service providers. *Link Befriending, Fife Forum, Enable, Care Visions and Skills Development Scotland* have all referred and supported interns; *FC Employability Service* and *Social Work Service* are links we plan to develop this year.

We had a huge boost in March this year when we learned that our appeal for community asset transfer of land and a building at NHS Stratheden has been upheld; we are now awaiting the amended Decision Notice from NHS Fife. This is a major milestone, considering all the obstacles we have had to overcome, and makes worthwhile the tenacity and effort of Lucky Ewe trustees, volunteers and our wider community of supporters. This successful appeal is the start of the next stage of realizing the Lucky Ewe vision.

The Chair's Report has been sent to all sixty-nine of our members and is available to read in its entirety on our website www.luckyewe.org.uk

4. Treasurer's Report: 22nd April 2022 to 16th April 2023

Accounts for Lucky Ewe's accounting period ending 31 March 2022 were submitted to OSCR in December 2022. They are available on Lucky Ewe's website ('About Us' section). Our Independent Examiner was Accountant Katherine Gregory.

Lucky Ewe is currently preparing our next set of accounts, for the period ending 31st March 2023 and due for submission to OSCR by December 2023. At the period end 31st March 2022, cash funds stood at £47,671, of which £41,840 was restricted. On 16th April 2023, our bank account balance stood at £63,690.91, much of which has been allocated by funders for specific purposes. Our bank statements are available to view on request.

Grant Income

A significant part of the charity's income is from grants. Large single instalment grants received from Jan 2022 are as follows:

- Gannochy Trust: Jan 2022, £5000.
- Bank of Scotland Foundation: Jan 2022 £7500, augmented in Sept 2022, total £8250.
- FVA: Jan 2022, £9965; April 2022, £5000; Dec 2022, £19,300.
- Foundation Scotland: Feb 2023, £2,220.

Awards with future instalments

We have the security of 3 years of funding as follows:

- Robertson Trust Award £27,000 over 3 years, currently in second instalment period.
- National Lottery Community Fund £85,122 over 3 years, currently in second instalment period.

Applications in progress

An application to the Peoples' Postcode Trust has recently been made requesting an unrestricted grant of £19,862, with a decision expected by the beginning of May 2023

Reserves Policy: The charity's policy is to hold reserves equivalent to 6 months running costs; our current target for reserves is £40,000. We hope to raise £5,000 per year through

careful money management, attracting 'no strings attached' funds, donations from private individuals and fundraising events etc to achieve our operating reserve in 8 years. £800 has so far been allocated to our reserves, with permission from our funder Fife Voluntary Action. It is intended to augment this from our current unrestricted funds prior to submission of our March 2023 accounts.

Financial commitments and outgoings

Our main ongoing financial commitment is for salaries; other ongoing expenses are equipment and PPE, insurance, farm costs and consumables, insurance, admin and office costs, fundraising event costs, farm rent, and transport.

Financing our intended move to the Stratheden site

In October 2020 Lucky Ewe successfully applied to the residual Douglas Bader Garden monies held by Fife Council towards Stratheden set-up costs. This money, £21,706, is being held on our behalf until needed, and while it will not cover the full cost of setting up at Stratheden, it will be very helpful. The Treasurer's Report can be accessed in full on the Lucky Ewe website.

5: Election of Trustees

After proposal by Norma Alari and seconded by Lorna Hirst, all present trustees were re-elected. The Trustee Board now comprises: Joan Brown, Alana Paterson-Brown, Jill Dawson, Abby Doig, Elizabeth Elliot and Mary Gibbon.

Lucky Ewe continues to seek new trustees to develop the charity and to act as vice-office bearers.

6: Motion regarding Lucky Ewe Community Asset Transfer to Stratheden

"This Meeting agrees that Lucky Ewe SCIO will proceed to negotiate with NHS Fife to lease the land at Stratheden, Cupar." This motion was unanimously approved.

7. Volunteer of the Year Award

This inaugural award was given to Mary Ellen Robertson in appreciation of the 497 hours generously given over the past two years as chief cheesemaker for Lucky Ewe. Mary Ellen also received our much-sought-after Lucky Ewe medal.

8. Refreshments and Q&A

Refreshments provided an opportunity for everyone to chat, discuss Lucky Ewe matters and to get to know their fellow members.

9. Thanks and Conclusion

On behalf of trustees, Joan thanked everyone their attendance at the AGM, and reiterated our thanks for the unstinting support given by all members and friends of Lucky Ewe over the last three years. Mary also gave a vote of thanks to Joan for her hard work and leadership over the last year.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 20:30.