

Minutes of the Meeting of Lucky Ewe Trustees held on Monday, 3rd April 2023 at 19 Crossgate, Cupar and via Zoom at 19:00

Trustees present: Joan Brown (Chair), Alana Paterson-Brown, Jill Dawson (Treasurer), Libby Elliot and Mary Gibbon (Secretary)

Apologies: Abby Doig

Attending: Gemma Burnside

Joan introduced Gemma who attended as a prospective trustee.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising and the previous Minutes were approved.

Item 1: Annual General Meeting

The Meeting discussed plans for the AGM on 20th April 2023 in the Old Parish Centre, Cupar. All arrangements are in hand, and it was agreed that, as well as emailing all relevant contacts, an alert would go out on Facebook.

Item 2: Stratheden: lease conditions

There are nineteen points attached to our leasing land from NHS Fife. Some are straightforward and some are more complicated. We have been awarded £3000 from DTAS for work related to asset transfers and will use this sum to hire a solicitor with experience of community asset transfers. Joan will investigate.

It was agreed that trustees would look carefully at the conditions attached to the lease and email points for discussion by 14th April.

Item 3: Recruitment Planning

Colin will leave his post as Interim Farm Manager in June 2023 and will need to be replaced. The eventual transfer to Stratheden means that we need someone not only capable of leading interns, staff and volunteers, but also someone particularly experienced in farm management to facilitate the move. We will need a multi-skilled Farm Operations Leader capable of working on their own initiative, with excellent farming credentials, good agricultural qualifications and sound leadership ability.

It was agreed that Joan and Jill will draw up job specifications and circulate for input to other trustees by 24th April 2023. The closing date for applications will be on Friday 5th May and shortlisted candidates will be invited for a farm visit on Tuesday 9th May. At the visit, candidates' comments and questions will be addressed. Interviews will be on Monday 15th May and the appointment committee will comprise Lucky Ewe Trustees and a consultant.

Item 4: Farm Update

Joan took the meeting through ongoing business at the farm. Jen, Jenny and Colin are all moving on this year; Jen to grow her gardening business, Jenny to a job nearer home, and Colin to Skye. We wish them all well and hope that they will keep in touch with Lucky Ewe. We have two new farm/admin workers, Franki and Caroline.

Cheesemaker, Mary Ellen Robertson, will receive our Volunteer of the Year Award.

Item 5: Sub-committee Updates

Education: The SCQF Level 4 Rural Skills course has finished with ten successful candidates receiving their certificates. Interns have also successfully completed Princes Trust and Saltire Awards.

The sub-committee will meet in May to plan for the next cohort of the Rural Skills course in 2023.

Funders: Jill and Libby have applied for the People's Postcode Trust and the decision will be forthcoming on 28th April. Mary will continue to monitor and provide update Reports to funders.

It was agreed to buy the Directory of Social Funding: Alyssa to buy.

Fund-raising: Libby reported that the stall for the Fife Show on 28th May has been booked and Jill's gazebo is available. Libby, Abby and Caroline met and discussed a number of ideas for fundraising including collecting at Tesco on 3rd June, a possible Quiz Night, and Sponsoring a Ewe.

It was agreed to have our Christmas Market on 9th December this year: Alana to check dates.

Item 6: Purchase of milking parlour

It was agreed that Joan will send a cheque for £1,200 to the vendor: this will complete the payment of £4,800 in total for the milking parlour. Bob Brown will set up the newly purchased shed beginning 8th April.

Any Other Business

Libby reminded trustees that the Lottery Winners group are visiting Lucky Ewe on Tuesday, 4th April at 10:30am. STV will be interviewing.

Jill reported that Graeme will complete the annual System Management Review.

Jill suggested that the First Aid course run for staff at Auchmuty High School would be suitable for Lucky Ewe. Jill to investigate and follow up with Alyssa.

The next Trustee Meeting will be on Monday, 26th June 2023

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