

# **Minutes of the Meeting of Lucky Ewe Trustees held on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 19 Crossgate, Cupar and via Zoom at 19:00**

**Trustees present:** Joan Brown (Chair), Libby Elliot and Jill Dawson

**Apologies:** Abby Doig, Alana Paterson-Brown, Mary Gibbon

**Attending:** Hazel Fletcher, Susan Usher

## **Matters Arising**

Forty-seven interns have attended Lucky Ewe so far in 2023 and we have eleven active adult volunteers.

Joan contacted Fife Rural Development Fund which is now closed to applications.

### **Item 1: Update on farm activities and intern progress**

Trustees are seeking clarity on why some interns are not attending so regularly and why some sessions are not full.

We have four new adult volunteers with more to follow.

**Action:** Caroline will monitor attendance trends and advise trustees accordingly.

### **Item 2: Fife Rural Development Fund**

- We missed the deadline to apply for the above, however some underspend may be available in October 2023. Joan will contact FRDF to indicate our interest in applying for this. The underspend needs to be used by end of February 2024.

#### Postcode Lottery application

- Trustees will meet at Cuparmuir on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 10am to work up the Post Code Lottery resubmission. It will then be uploaded on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 to the Postcode Lottery site.

### **Item 3: NHS Fife: update on Stratheden move**

Neil McCormick, NHS Fife Estates, has advised that R Dawson will quit the land in Stratheden in October when his harvest is in. He could not say what condition the land would be left in.

**Action:** Joan will email R Dawson asking that he replace the gates and repair fences and walls before leaving. Copy to N McCormick

Fife NHS Board will decide on issuing a new CAT decision notice, offering a lease, at their next meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Thereafter, negotiation of lease will begin with David Harley and Kate Black of Rollos Solicitors, who are acting for Lucky Ewe. Community Ownership Support Service will provide a grant towards legal fees.

#### **Item 4: Farm Operations Leader post**

A Farm Operations Leader has now been appointed from a strong field of candidates with Craig Holmes taking up his post on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Trustees will consider and advise Craig what budget he will have going forward.

#### **Item 5: Utility Vehicle 5.**

The utility vehicle is helping to engage our interns, but the planned training day was withdrawn at the last moment.

**Action:** Alyssa will approach Tayforth Machinery Ring to set up a new training day for staff and volunteers.

#### **Item 6: Liaison with SRUC re Animal Care students**

Joan met with Kirsty Hardie and Denise Turpie of SRUC *Animal Care* to discuss the possibility of bringing *Intro to Animal Care* students to Lucky Ewe for a 2-hour session working with the livestock. Joan advised that Lucky Ewe could not offer this provision without recompense, since our funders would query our small charity giving services *gratis* to a well-established Institute of Higher Education. Joan has costed the hourly costs for basic provision at Lucky Ewe and advised Kirsty.

SRUC may consider a service level agreement to mutual benefit with Lucky Ewe. Trustees agreed that close relations with SRUC will benefit our charitable aim to support transitions. Meanwhile, Animal Care students will attend the next two Monday afternoons purely as visitors.

#### **Item 7: Fife Voluntary Action**

Jill and Joan met with Maureen Burgess and Sharron Redpath from FVA on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2023 and the following points were noted:

- we should hold a celebration and development day, perhaps in November and FVA will help.
- the draft lease should be sent to FVA to check it does not contravene charity law
- we should grow our associated membership

**Action:** Alyssa will contact the following partners, inviting them to join as associated members and attaching our membership forms:

SRUC, CAMHS, Howe Rotary, Cupar Rotary, Sustainable Cupar, Windward Education, YMCA, Age Concern, Balgove Larder, Sunshine Kitchen, Options in Life, CLEAR, Overrankeillour Garden.

Schools who send interns: Auchmuty, Madras, Balwearie, Falkland House, Levenmouth Academy, Bell Baxter, and Waid Academy.

## **Any Other Business**

*The Directory of Social Change Grant Making Trusts 2024* edition has arrived. This will be considered at the next Finance meeting.

Caroline will advise Induction Days for SCQF4 Rural Skills course which starts on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Abby will develop a greater social media presence for Lucky Ewe.

Hazel and Susan were invited to join the Trustees' group as co-opted members and both kindly accepted.

## **Meetings**

Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023

General Training in 365, 7pm Community Voice, BYOLaptop

## **Staff Meetings**

Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023: afternoon, time tbc

Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## **Trustee Meetings**

Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023: Stratheden lease

Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

## **Fundraising Group**

Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023: Postcode Lottery Prep Community Voice at 10:00am.

Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023: 9.30am uploading Post Code application, venue tbc.

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023: Christmas Market prep

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2023: Christmas Market Event

There was no other business and the Meeting closed at 21.03