

Minutes of the Meeting of Lucky Ewe Trustees held on Wednesday, 6th March 2024 at 19 Crossgate, Cupar and via Zoom at 19:00

Trustees present: Joan Brown, (Chair), Alana Paterson-Brown, Jill Dawson, (Treasurer) Abby-Leigh Doig, Hazel Fletcher, Susan Usher, and Mary Gibbon, (Secretary)

Apologies: Libby Elliot

Attending: Kerry Nimmo

Joan welcomed Kerry, our new administrator, to Lucky Ewe.

Matters Arising

SRUC Paddocks: Joan reported that the paddocks belong to the adjoining Golf Course. Further discussion regarding their use by Lucky Ewe will follow when we move to our Stratheden site.

Lucky Ewe 4th Birthday: Susan will bring a cake to Bonnyton on 13th March to mark the occasion and Abby will create a 4th Birthday picture/collage for posting on social media.

Item 1: Administration

Alyssa and Kerry have had five 3-hour sessions working together on the handover. This is precipitating a smooth transition and is greatly appreciated by trustees. Alyssa throughout her time with Lucky Ewe has always gone that extra mile, providing excellent administrative support, particularly when confronted by deadlines and the many challenges thrown up in the last three years. Trustees are arranging a lunch to mark Alyssa's leaving. Mary will liaise with Alyssa regarding a suitable date.

Item 2: Farm Operations

Hazel reported that the pregnant ewes are all thriving. Due to Craig's determined husbandry, for the first time there are no poorly feet in any of the sheep. Plans for the nursery are being refigured and meanwhile strawberries have been planted and swallow boxes set up.

Item 3: Intern Support and Development

We have nineteen interns attending weekly and the Auchmuty Group will be back at Bonnyton with Jill the week beginning 11th March 2024.

The SCQF Level 4 Rural Skills group will meet for their last session on Thursday 7th March and David has invited everyone after the class to Number10 for hot chocolate. Seven candidates have completed the course and will receive their SQA qualification at a later date.

It was agreed that regular use of intern-review paperwork was necessary in that the in-depth conversations generated by this encourages self-reflection and onward transition.

Item 4: Funder Liaison

Our Year 3 award from Fife Voluntary Action has been approved and £12,563 was paid in on 23rd February 2024. This money will allow us to advertise for and employ a Project Manager on a short-term contract. Mary completed the end-of year Report for the *Improving Lives* award and we have received our next payment of £14,468.80. This Award is now in its final

year. In a meeting with Corne from the National Lottery, we were advised that new funding will be in place in September 2024 and Lucky Ewe will be eligible to apply for a new funding grant, meanwhile we will apply for *Awards for All* funding.

Jill reported that the lease for our new site must be signed before we can apply for funding from the Foyle Foundation.

The meeting agreed a number of actions:

Mary will complete the two end-of-year reports which are now due for Foundation Scotland and the Robertson Trust.

Joan will apply to the Gannochy Trust for funding which provides up to £30,000 per year for three years. This would be used for salaries. The deadline is 3rd May 2024.

Libby will contact St Andrews University Community Fund.

Item 5: Community Development, PR and Marketing

The Finance Group will draw up an advert for the post of Project Manager; a rough draft by Joan will be circulated to all trustees for the final edit. It was agreed to ask Ellen McCance to read through the draft and advise.

Item 6: Volunteer Support and Development

Hazel will sign up for the Volunteer training course run by Fife Voluntary Action. Details can be found on their website.

Any Other Business

Hazel reported that Bruce from Pillars Hercules is retiring and is keen to help us in an advisory role. This was welcomed by the meeting.

Arrangements for the AGM on 25th March 2024 at the Old Parish Centre are in hand. Jill and Joan will email their respective reports by 15th March.

Kerry will email out invites to all our contacts.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 21:00.

The next trustee meeting will be held at 19:00 on Wednesday 5th June 2024 at Crossgates, Cupar.