

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lucky Ewe held on Monday 25th March 2024 at 19:00 in the Old Parish Centre, Cupar and via Zoom

Members present: Joan Brown (Chair), Norma Alari, Anja Armstrong, Alana Paterson-Brown, Kenzie Clark, Jill Dawson (Treasurer), Abby Doig, Libby Elliot, Deirdre Grant, Lorna Hirst, Craig Holmes, Andrew Kennedy, Carol de Klerk, Marcel de Klerk, Willie Lang, Euan McLeod, Chloe Patrick, Patrick Steffens, Mary Ellen Robertson, Gwyneth Thom, Sarah Whittle and Mary Gibbon (Secretary)

Apologies: Kate Black, Susan Bowie, Patrick P-Brown, Bruno P-Brown, Wendy Chamberlain, Sarah Davidson, Joanne Foley, Ruth McGowan, Bill Pagan, Stuart Paterson, Willie Rennie, Susan Usher

Welcome

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th April 2023

The above minutes were approved: proposed by Libby Elliot and seconded by Alana Paterson-Brown.

Chair's Report

Main Points:

Joan presented the report to the AGM and detailed the progress and successes achieved by Lucky Ewe in 2023/24. The emphasis continues to be on growing the charity, building a strong foundation with interns, partners and funders and establishing pathways for intern progression.

- Lucky Ewe has had a busy year with 46 interns benefitting from placements on the farm. At present we have 17 adult volunteers giving on-farm support and 8 trustees who are helped by many other supporters. Our membership has increased from 69 to 92 individuals, with 5 associate members: Howe of Fife Rotary, Sustainable Cupar, Windward Education, Bell Baxter High School and Kilmarnock School. We have 871 Facebook followers, 1,978 followers on Instagram and 726 on TikTok.
- Over the winter we delivered our second SCQF4 in Rural Skills and helped 7 more young people (17 now in total) transition into further education and training. This year we have handed out 27 Saltire Awards for those in the 12 – 25 age group making a substantial regular volunteering contribution, and 8 more certificates will go to our current CAMHS volunteers.
- The charity continues to receive generous core funding from the National Lottery, Robertson Trust, and Fife Voluntary Action amongst others. We are very grateful to all our funders and especially for private donations from our supporters.
- This year Lucky Ewe received recognition from Dr Alex George, UK Mental Health Ambassador within the Department of Education, and from Rishi Sunak, the Prime Minister, making Lucky Ewe a Point of Light, for the charitable work we do. Treasurer, Jill Dawson, was honoured as a Coronation Champion last summer and with trustees Alana, Libby and Abby met Queen Camilla and First Minister, Humza Yousaf at the Holyrood Garden Party.
- The Scottish Government asked Lucky Ewe to host a workshop at their *Supporting Mental Health and Wellbeing in Our Communities: Emerging Practice* event in Perth. This was to share our journey and good practice with councils and charities across Scotland and was very well-received.
- Staffing has been rejuvenated this year with Craig Holmes, in the Farm Operations post since September, leading the team; Gillian Smith, working with interns and their families in Support and Development, and Kerry Nimmo providing Administrative Support. Alyssa Gowans has moved on after 3 years as our founding Administrator. Alyssa set up all our systems and, crucially, created the payroll system, dealing with everything to do with HMRC and pensions. Alyssa receives our grateful thanks, and we wish her all the very best in her future career.
- We continue to develop Lucky Ewe's network of onward transitions for our interns. Fife Zoo has been the most recent local business to welcome an intern, who is thoroughly enjoying the

experience of working with exotic animals and who will benefit immensely from this when he takes up his place on NC Animal Care at SRUC in the autumn. Places at St Andrews Aquarium are also in development, and our neighbouring estate, Teasses, is providing work experience with their cattle. We plan to develop another four onward-progression placements this year.

Treasurer's Report

Accounts for Lucky Ewe's accounting period ending 31 March 2023 were submitted to OSCR in November 2023 and are available to view on Lucky Ewe's website www.luckyewe.org.uk. Our Independent Examiner was Accountant Katherine Gregory.

Jill took us through the salient points, indicating Lucky Ewe's successful income and spending growth over the last three years. Fundraising through our Christmas market, potato sales and lamb sales brought in around £2,000 and these monies will go towards our reserves fund. Jill pointed out that we are now in the 3rd and final year of our funding from the Robertson Trust (£27,000 over 3 years) and the National Lottery Community Fund (£85,122 over 3 years). We have provided these two funders with ongoing feedback during this time, and we plan to make further applications to them this year. Libby reported that Fife Voluntary Action are liaising with us regarding the extra costs of our move to Stratheden. As of 1st March 2024, Lucky Ewe's bank balance stood at £99,578.07, much of which has been allocated by funders for specific purposes, including a UT vehicle which is proving very useful on the farm.

Grants over £500 received since the accounting period ending 31 March 2023 including unrestricted funding:

April 2023 Foundation Scotland, Cervus Trust £5000
June 2023 The Robertson Trust £9,00023
June 2023 National Lottery Main Grants £1,418.5114
July 2023 National Lottery Main Grants £14,185.0810
Aug 2023 All response media £73828
November 2023 People's Postcode Lottery Trust £19,862
January 2024 National Lottery Main Grants £14,468.809
February 2024 Fife Council, Douglas Bader Memorial Fund £23,87726
February 2024 Youth Action Fife, Youth 1st, for hen house £2,00026
February 2024 CMHWB grant, FVA project mgt./fundraising £12,563

Motion regarding delay to Lucky Ewe's transfer to Stratheden

Last year's AGM minutes state 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." and Lucky Ewe members passed the motion to go ahead and take up the lease of land at Stratheden under the Community Asset Transfer legislation.

Unfortunately, 14 months later, we are no further forward and the lease terms proposed by NHS Fife betrays its unwillingness to engage with Lucky Ewe to achieve agreement: NHS Fife persists in disallowing any access for any vehicle across their campus, nor will they allow Lucky Ewe to make connection to water or electricity supplies on their campus. NHS Fife refuse to offer a lease until we give them full details of how we are going to afford and build a new road. As is well known, funders require a signed lease before they will consider releasing grants for feasibility and planning, as well as construction costs.

It appears that NHS Fife's aim is not to comply with Community Empowerment legislation (our right to the land was ratified in January 2023) and to continue to put up hurdles to our rightful asset transfer.

This intransigence, [bearing in mind that as a Partner in the ***Fife Health & Social Care Strategic Plan, 2019 – 2022*** one of its priorities is "*Working with communities, partners and our workforce to effectively transform, integrate and improve our services*" and bearing in mind that NHS Fife "*requires*

a partnership approach involving all relevant areas within NHS, the third and private sector, ... our wider communities," is puzzling. The Director of Fife Health & Social Care Partnership is quoted as saying: "I'm committed to communities and partnership working, and I have been part of Fife Health and Social Care Partnership from the beginning."] A partnership is on the doorstep and NHS Fife does not appear willing to welcome it. Lucky Ewe is certainly committed to its community and its partnerships: the move to Stratheden land will allow us to expand our charity and fulfil our mission values.

The motion proposed that "Lucky Ewe, within the terms of our lease with NHS Fife, will, within one year of taking up the lease, install our own water and electricity supplies and create a rough access route from the top road prior to receiving funding to build the required access route, on the proviso that the lease agreement between NHS Fife and Lucky Ewe is finalised by 1st May 2024, and allowing us entry to the land."

The motion was unanimously passed by Lucky Ewe members, a 92 member body.

Election of Trustees

After proposal by Carol de Klerk 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, Hazel Fletcher, Elizabeth Elliot, Susan Usher and Mary Gibbon. Lucky Ewe continues to seek new trustees to develop the charity and to act as vice-office bearers.

Speaker

Thank you to Craig, Lucky Ewe's Farm Operations Leader, who delivered an informative presentation on types of Rare Breeds suitable for Lucky Ewe.

Saltire Awards

Congratulations to Patrick Steffens and Chloe Patrick who received their framed certificates for achieving over 200 volunteer hours with Lucky Ewe.

Volunteer of the Year Award

This year's award was given to Gwyneth Thom in appreciation of the 200 hours generously given over the past two years as a volunteer farm- support worker for Lucky Ewe. Gwyneth was also delighted to receive our much-sought-after Lucky Ewe medal.

Thanks and Conclusion

On behalf of trustees, Joan thanked everyone for 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 four years.

There was no other business and the meeting finished at 20:45.