

Jacob Sheep Society

Minutes of a Council Meeting held via Zoom

11am Thursday 4th March 2021

Present:

Mr Lyndon Trumper (Chairman)

Mr Ron King (President)

Mr John Emberton (Vice Chair)

Mrs Pat Black (Treasurer)

Mr Clive Richardson (acting Field Officer & for the Northern region)

Mrs Lucy Thompson (Central RCM)

Mr Paul Colhoun (Ireland RCM)

Mrs Barley Gould (Southern RCM)

Ms Lisa Hutchins (South West RCM)

Miss Melanie Harper (Scotland RCM)

Mrs Carys Lewis (Wales RCM)

Mr Charlie Coe (Eastern RCM)

Ms Lorna Hendey (for part of the meeting – Merchandise)

Mrs Kay Carpenter (for part of the meeting – Social Media)

Mrs Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

Dr Nicola Fletcher (shadowing Mrs Simmons and Tay Sachs advisor)

1. Welcome.

Mr Trumper welcomed everyone to the meeting and said he was pleased that so many Council members had been able to join and thanked them for their efforts. He thanked Mrs Simmons for organising the agenda and gathering the reports and Mrs Thompson who had hosted the meeting. Council agreed. He welcomed Ms Hendey and Mrs Carpenter and thanked them for attending to present their reports.

Mr Trumper paid tribute to Gordon Connor the late Field Officer. Gordon deservedly had had considerable achievements with the breed as well as in his good work in the role as Field Officer. Mr Trumper had been in touch with Mrs Mary Connor and Miss Mairi Connor and wished to record the Society's condolences to them. Council agreed.

There followed a short silence in memory of Gordon.

2. Apologies.

Mr G Wood (Northern RCM)

3. Merchandise Report

Mr Trumper introduced Ms Hendey thanking her for her work on the report which had previously been circulated. Ms. Hendey thanked Terry Barker, Lesley Partridge and Bob Bramley for their help with the production of the new items and advertisements. She asked that any creative people within the regions particularly with Adobe Photoshop skills come forward as she felt it would be good to expand the artwork volunteers.

Ms. Hendey told Council it would be helpful if merchandise could be approved at both Council meetings, November and March. This was agreed.

The items approved at the November meeting will be available in the shop by the time the advertisement for them goes out.

Ms. Hendey said that she was taking into consideration the cost of postage when introducing new items into the merchandise.

Ms. Hendey had circulated a proposal to improve the management of regional merchandise; Mrs Black had looked at this proposal and told Council she was prepared to trial the new system. It was agreed that it was important that Ms. Hendey keeps control of the merchandise and Mrs Black the finances.

The JSS has been given an EORI number so merchandise can be sent to Ireland.

4. Social Media Report

Mr Trumper introduced Mrs Carpenter and thanked her for sending a report which had been previously circulated. Council agreed with Mrs Carpenter that social media has been a useful promotional tool and a critical way of communicating during the restrictions imposed during the Covid lockdown.

Mrs Carpenter proposed several points for Council to consider for the future; including that there should be a social media co-ordination group to control the JSS UK pages in all types of social media and oversee all Regional Facebook Pages. The group would know all the passwords and therefore control all JSS UK social media accounts in the future. She suggested that the group be: Mrs Kay Carpenter, Mr Paul Colhoun and Miss Melanie Harper. There should be a member in each region responsible for social media and the members currently doing this have agreed to continue.

Each region's Facebook Page should have 2 members that are administrators of the account, one of which must be in the co-ordination group. Administrators must not feel the need to answer all questions but forward them to the appropriate person. Twitter and Instagram accounts should be set up and run by social media co-ordinator group.

Council agreed to the proposals.

Mr Trumper said he thought the proposal would work well as it was important that control is kept so that all material on JSS social media is appropriate.

Mr Emberton asked if Council thought the Forum on the website should be removed as it was no longer active. Following discussion it was agreed that it would be removed from the website.

Council discussed the addition of a Q & A section on the website with links to appropriate authorities if necessary. It was agreed this would be a good idea.

The name of the social media accounts was discussed and Mrs Carpenter agreed to research the names available to the Society.

Council thanked Mrs Carpenter for her work.

5. Agree the Minutes of 5th November 2020

The minutes were agreed. Proposed by Mr Trumper; Seconded by Mr King.

6. Matters Arising.

Mrs Gould said that the books 'The First 10 Years' had been sent to RCMs not to GRS.

Mr Richardson said he had spoken to Mr Harkness about his letter of complaint and assured him that the inspection process would be tightened up. Mr Harkness is not going to take the matter further and does not expect any redress. Council expressed their thanks to him.

7. Correspondence

No correspondence had been received.

8. Field Officer's Report

Mr Richardson had previously circulated his report.

Show and Sale Inspections.

The Show and Sale inspection guidance has been updated and is on the website. It has not been possible to use the same two inspectors for all the Sales and contingencies are in place should travel restrictions change due to Covid regulations.

Judges' Assessment Panel

There are two candidates who got through the assessment panel in 2019 but have not yet been able to shadow a judge. It is hoped that there will be the opportunity to do this in 2021. One candidate is waiting for an assessment and Mr Richardson is hoping to be able to arrange this during 2021

The Judges' Assessment panel which is up for review in November currently comprises; Mr Clive Richardson, Mr Robert Locker and Mrs Jean Simmons, who are also the three inspectors as per the Byelaws, with Mr Wyn Harries and Mr Scott Dalrymple as reserves

Tay-Sachs

The response to Tay-Sachs subsidised test charges has been good; Mr Richardson thanked the Tay-Sachs committee for their work and particularly by Dr. Fletcher.

Members have raised the subject of sheep being sold at Official Sales knowing that one of the parents is a carrier; Council discussed how to prevent this. It was generally agreed that a sheep 'tested as carrier' should be identified. It was decided that the Tay-Sachs committee look into this and make recommendations to Council in November so that any new rules would come into effect for 2022; Council agreed that blood samples already sent in to date could not be subjected to changed rules.

Regional Events

Mr Richardson asked that RCMs let him know of any events in the regions in 2022 which are due for a judges' seminar.

Judges.

Mr Richardson will review the judges' attendance to seminars discounting the years effected by Covid restrictions.

John Milner Trophy

Mr Milner has offered a cup to the Society for a wool related competition. Council discussed the fleece competitions and it was agreed that a lamb fleece competition should be held each year where the trophy would be presented to the winner if John approved.

Mr Trumper thanked Mr Richardson for his continued work as Acting Field Officer. Council agreed.

9. Chairman's Report

Mr Trumper thanked all the Officers of Council and the RCMs for their work and commitment to the Society. The past year had been strange and he had hoped that 2021 would be better but so far the Covid regulations were still in place. Mr Trumper told the meeting that this was his last as Chairman and he thanked Council for their support. During this difficult time when no one was allowed to meet and socialise he was grateful for all the efforts that had been made to keep the JSS going. He said when he had come to the Chair he had had a steep learning curve as he realised the amount of work that is done behind the scenes and the level of commitment that is made to the Society by Council members. He remembered commenting that it was a big ask that the Society made that Council members do so much work and that he thought it might prove more difficult to find people in the future to fill the positions; however this had not been the general view of Council at the time. He was pleased that the treasurer's role was now being changed so that the book keeping element was going to be done with professional help. He said he hoped that as a good strong society he hoped the JSS would not struggle in the future. The love of the Jacob sheep is what unites the Society and that is what will move the Society forward as everyone continues to work together. He was pleased to see that the Society had on-going developments with Tay-Sachs, merchandise and social media.

Merchandise Co-ordinators position on Council.

Ms Hendey had asked Council to discuss her position on Council. Mr Richardson asked Council to note the Articles which dictate the roles on Council. Following a brief discussion Council agreed that the Officers would consider the position within the Articles and report back to Council in November.

Mr Colhoun thanked Mr Trumper for all his work as Chairman. Council agreed.

10. Vice Chairman's Briefing

Mr Trumper told the meeting that Mr Emberton had put a lot of work into these big issues for the Society and he was grateful for his work. Council agreed.

Mr Emberton said that he wanted to make all changes necessary to the Articles at the same time so he still needed Council to consider various points.

Following the last meeting Mr Emberton had taken advice and learned that the only vote taken at AGMs was the re-appointment of the Reporting Accountant, this was no longer a legal requirement if Council so wished he could remove the Articles which requires such a vote. Agreed.

Brexit Issues

Mr Emberton had been working with Dr Fletcher and Mr Colhoun on the matter of registering pedigree sheep from the EU in the Society's flock book. He said that it would be necessary to set up a legal entity, a company resident in Ireland. Mr Colhoun said there were many complicated issues to deal with and he had spoken with a contact at the Department of Agriculture and found that very useful. It was agreed that Mr Emberton would speak to her and discuss Company Law in Ireland to take the matter forward. They would then liaise with Ms Henson at Grassroots on the separation of

members in the Irish Republic into a separate database. The Grassroots software has been approved by the Irish authorities and the only alternative would be to work with Sheep Ireland in producing a flock book which would be much more expensive. Mr Colhoun said that he felt it was important that the Ireland membership was told how to register their sheep once everything was in place rather than discussing possibilities which could lead to confusion and he does not wish to see a North and South division in Ireland. Council agreed.

It was agreed that Mr Emberton, Dr Fletcher and Mr Colhoun continue to work as they see fit to enable the Ireland members to be able to continue to register their sheep with the same rights within the Society as UK members. Mr Trumper said he thought that it was import that Ireland members remained fully inclusive. Council agreed.

Conflict of Interest.

This had been initially on the November 2019 agenda when Mr Black had raised concerns in a letter to Council. It was agreed that Mrs Simmons would find all references to the matter and update the Officers involved so that the necessary changes to the Byelaws could be considered at the November meeting.

11. Nominations:

Nominations received:

Vice Chair; Mrs Janet East. Unopposed

Central Region; nominated candidate had withdrawn.

South West Region; Ms Lisa Hutchins. Unopposed

Eastern Region; Mr Charlie Coe. Unopposed.

Northern Region; Ms Claire Bentham. Unopposed

Council nominations for President: Mr Ron King proposed Mrs Jean Simmons. Council considered the proposal and agreed that Mrs Simmons should be the President elect taking over from Mr King at the AGM. Mrs Simmons thanked Council for the honour and said she hoped that she would be as good in the role as Mr King had been.

12. Treasurers Report

Mrs Black had previously circulated the full report which will appear in the Spring Journal and the Summary of Financial Activities. She said that as there had been little activity due to the Covid restrictions the financial activities and performance had been reduced. There is a gross excess of income over expenditure of £7,438 compared with £7,841 in 2019 and the net surplus is £4,277 against £8,666 in 2019. Mrs Black said she was not surprised that the gross income has reduced by £20,000 to £51,012 from £71,959 in 2019. Expenditure has also decreased by almost the same amount to £44,574 from £64,118. The investments, which Dr Strong continues to advise Council on, are very important to the Society and due to having 60% of the money in an interest only

account the devastation that Covid and the resulting worldwide market could have made was avoided. Following the steep market decline in March £51,000 of the Society's cash was invested into an equity fund which yielded a 20% increase. All the Society's reserves which include investments and assets stand at £268,770 from £264,493 in 2019. Full details and analysis can be found in the full set of Accounts which Mrs Black asked Council to approve. Agreed and the accounts can be duly signed by the Chairman and returned to the Accountants for filing.

Mr Colhoun proposed a vote of thanks to Dr Strong for his foresight in moving the £51,000 to the equity fund. Council agreed.

Mrs Black told Council that following the AGM she would begin to work with the accountants who will take over the book work from May. The accountants use software which will link directly to the bank accounts and GRS software all this should be fully up and running by the end of the year.

Council discussed the need to find a treasurer to replace Mrs Black in 2022. It is hoped that with the book keeping taken off the treasurer more people may be willing to do so. Mrs Simmons asked if it would be possible for someone to take the treasurers role on Council as a volunteer but be paid to do the book keeping separately. Mr King suggested that an email be sent out to all members following the AGM with a letter from Mrs Black explaining the role of treasurer and that book keeping was no longer expected to be done by a volunteer. Council agreed that this would be a preferable way forward and the letter will be sent.

Proposal to Change the Name of Council to Board of Directors and the RCM title to Director of the Region.

Mrs Black said she thought that the term Council may appear old fashioned and that Board of Directors is more accurate as Council members are all Directors of the Limited Company and Trustees of the Charity. Council generally agreed but the RCMs all felt that the title Director of the Region sounded too formal although it was important that members realise that they are directors and are bound by the Articles and Byelaws. It was agreed that in formal written documents Council would be replaced by The Board of Directors but RCMs would retain their title. This change must be made in the Articles. Mrs Black has written an article in the Journal explaining the structure of the Society to members.

13. Office Report

Mrs Simmons said that this would be her last meeting as Assistant Secretary she wished Council and the Society well in the future. Hand over continues with Dr Fletcher and Council agreed that there was no need to impose a time scale on the handover process. Dr Fletcher had asked Council to consider allowing her to appoint a deputy who could attend Council meetings if should not be able to attend. Council discussed this and agreed that in future an Assistant Secretary will be able to nominate a deputy. This will be added to the Articles. Mrs Kay Carpenter has agreed to take over the ordering and sending out of rosettes and Council agreed that she can do this. Council agreed that Mrs Simmons write to GRS asking them to reinstate the members search on their website as Council and the membership find it useful. Council agreed that as members are asked permission if their details can be published when they join the member search does not create a Data Protection issue.

14. Reports from the Regions

The RCM reports having been previously circulated brought the following to Council.

Ireland Region.

Mr Colhoun asked Council to consider making a member in Ireland who had been a member for 50 years an Honorary Member of the Society. Mr Richardson told Council that there were currently 28 people who had been members for 50 years although Council did think that long serving members should be acknowledged but that it would not be possible to make them all Honorary Members. Following discussion it was decided that the RCMs would be invited to design a certificate; Mr King as President will choose one to be used by the Society to commemorate 50 years of membership.

The Ireland committee asked Council to reconsider the rule allowing only Tay-Sachs bred clear rams to be sold at Official Shows and Sales. Council discussed the possibility of implementing the rule. As testing was now done twice a year with the results given in time for members to enter the sales it was decided to look at the numbers tested during 2021 and make a decision in November in time for the 2022 tests and sales.

Scotland Region

Miss Harper paid tribute on behalf of the region to Gordon Connor and Marion Leithead, two massive losses in the region in a matter of months; Council offered their condolences to the region. Miss Harper told Council that the Royal Highland Show has been cancelled and they are attempting to do a 'live stream show'. Events in the region were being cancelled due to Covid but she tried to keep in touch with members via social media.

Eastern Region

Mr Coe said he had spoken to members who would support Tay-Sachs testing for all tups; members tended to have concerns about the total cost of testing including the vet fees when the results were unknown. He told Council that GRS had decided that they would no longer administer the Show and Sale at Melton so he was considering how to organise the sale. Mrs Simmons and Mr Richardson offered to liaise with him to help organise the event.

Wales Region

Mrs Lewis said she was in discussions to organise alternative competitions for Young Handlers in particular for a senior class of 16 – 18 year olds to include an interview panel discussing animal health and breed points etc and she suggested that regional heats could be held which would encourage youngsters who are good stock persons as well as having potential members for the judges panel etc. Council thought this would be a good idea.

Southern Region

Mrs Gould said that it was still hopeful that the Kent County Show would go ahead and that she would be able to organise a flock competition in the region.

Central Region

Communication; Mrs Thompson had been asked to request that important information is sent out to all members via email as the time lag for information in the Journal was too great in some cases. Council felt that it would not be possible to guarantee that all information was emailed out so could not commit to the proposal.

Website; The CR Committee had agreed that some information was difficult to find on the website; Council agreed that an overseer was necessary to keep the website up to date; RCMs should contact Terry Barker and have the regional pages brought up to date.

Competitions; Mrs Thompson had been contacted by a member who did not have access to email and requested that any competitions advertised in the Journal have an alternative form of contact; telephone number or address for entry forms. Mr Richardson said where ever possible he would include them.

South West

Ms Hutchins said that she had been in contact with members in the region in hopes of forming a committee and perhaps holding an Open Day. She was trying to encourage members in her region to join in and was in contact with new members.

15. Communications Update

Mr Richardson said that the Journal was at the proof stage. The Handbook would be published again this year and go out with the autumn Journal. Mrs Thompson asked if there was a way of showing different names of joint members alphabetically. Mr Richardson said he would ask GRS.

16. AGM Update

AGM 2021

The AGM will be held via Zoom 24th April 2021 Council members will take part; those retiring from Council at this meeting and those joining.

Mr Trumper told Council that he had been asked by a member if it would be possible for other members to be able to join the Zoom AGM. Council discussed this and with regret decided that sufficient IT facilities were not available to be able to facilitate this. Mrs Simmons said that members could write to her up to 72 hours before the meeting and the letter will be read out at the meeting.

AGM 2022 Progress Report

Mr Colhoun said that the hotel and visits were all arranged for the weekend of 22nd – 24th April 2022. He outlined the events of the weekend for Council who agreed that it was worthy of a large number of members attending. A buffet dinner and entertainment will be held on the Friday night following a full day of activities and he recommended that members arrive on the Thursday and the Ireland region will be providing buses from the airport at two set times. If other members fly in at different times Ireland region members will be helping to provide transport. He had costed out the visits and there would be coach travel from the hotel to all the visits throughout the weekend and back to the airport on Sunday. All visits are only 5 miles away from the hotel so very little coach travel over the weekend. Once you get off the plane everything will be taken care of, you just have to get to

Belfast. Some members may prefer to drive over and come via boat; it is only 60 miles from port to Omagh. The AGM will be held on the Saturday morning followed by a visit and the gala dinner in the evening. There will be a visit and lunch is arranged for the Sunday. The booking forms are going to be included in the autumn Journal rather than the usual winter edition to give members the opportunity to book flights to Ireland early. Council congratulated Mr Colhoun and his committee on the organising of a really superb weekend which they were all looking forward to having missed the 2020 and 2021 weekends. The Ireland region committee can assure all members attending that it will be an AGM weekend you won't forget and along with the opportunity to see some fantastic sheep there will be lots of surprises along the way. Definitely one not to miss and plenty of Guinness will be drunk over the weekend. I would encourage all members to book your flights early to get them cheap. Please feel free to give Paul a ring if any advice needed about travel arrangements.

Mr Colhoun clarified the position of invitations extended to non members: everyone who attends any of the events over the weekend will be expected to pay and will not join the AGM

AGM 2023

It was decided that the AGM weekend will be held in the Central region.

17. AOB

Mr Trumper said that he thought Council should arrange for an award or prize be given in memory of Gordon Connor, Council agreed. Mr Trumper and Miss Harper will liaise with Mrs Connor and Miss Connor to find an appropriate way of commemorating him.

Mr Colhoun asked that the Shows and Sales in both Northern and Southern Ireland could give a prize in memory of Gordon where he has worked so hard to improve the sheep forward. Agreed.

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Trumper for all his sterling work as Chairman for the past three years. Council agreed. He also thanked Mrs Thompson for hosting the meeting.

18. Time and Place of Next Meeting.

11am Thursday 4th November 2021 at the Carlton Club, London.