

# Jacob Sheep Society

## Minutes of a Council Meeting held via Zoom

11am Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### **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 Jean Simmons (Assistant Secretary)

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

### **1. Welcome**

Mr Trumper welcomed everyone to the Council's first virtual meeting and thanked them for joining. He expressed the Society's sorrow upon the death of Marion Leithead. Marion had been RCM Scotland, served the Society as Chairman and as President. Council agreed that she would be sadly missed. A brief period of silence followed as a mark of respect.

He thanked Mrs Thompson for hosting the Zoom meeting and Mrs Simmons for her work preparing for the meeting. He welcomed the new RCMs to Council; Mr Charlie Coe for the Eastern Region and Ms Lisa Hutchins for the South West; Dr Nicola Fletcher, shadowing Mrs Simmons and Ms Lorna Hendey Merchandise Coordinator.

### **2. Apologies.**

Mr G Wood (Northern RCM) Mr G Connor (Field Officer)

### **3. Merchandise Report**

Ms Hendey had previously circulated her report to Council. She thanked Bob Bramley and Terry Barker for their continued help with the merchandising. Ms Hendey told the meeting that; contemporary design tea towels and cotton shopping bags commissioned by Bob Bramley were available from the web shop. Mrs Weaver has taken over the production of the Society Calendar from Lesley Pope whom she thanked for all her work producing the calendar for many years. The 2021 calendar is now available

Ms Hendey explained that the reduced sale of merchandise was to be expected with reduced opportunities to sell due to events being cancelled due to Covid regulations. However sponsors of

virtual shows and fleece competition had purchased merchandise as prizes. An advertisement in the journal for new items and special offers had also stimulated orders.

Ms Hendey presented the Merchandise Summary to Council and it was agreed that Ms Hendey and Mrs Black would liaise to produce the final version. Postage and packing are now included in the price of the item and Ms Hendey has recycled packaging rather than buying new which reduces cost to the Society.

Older merchandise: mugs and notelets are being sold under good value offers in a bid to reduce the stock. The book 'The First 10 Years' takes up valuable merchandise space and is sadly dated so Ms Hendey sought permission to dispose of them. Following discussion it was decided that Grassroots would be asked to take them and send them out in the new member packs.

Clothing: Mr Richardson asked Ms Hendey if she would like him to send her details of a company he had found which would provide embroidered JSS clothing. The company would organise the sale of all the goods with an annual percentage of sale paid directly to the JSS

Ms Hendey asked Council to consider that some changes could be made to make the management of regional stock easier, following discussion it was decided that Ms Hendey and Mrs Black would liaise to bring a proposal forward to the March meeting.

2021 Merchandise: Council approved the purchase of 100 scarves at £900. The scarves are super soft made from cotton, linen and viscose with a pattern along the edge designed by Mrs Lesley Partridge. Council approved the purchase of 50 colouring books and 50 baseball caps at £225. Agreeing that they would make a good purchase for children.

Council agreed with Ms Hendey that with three new items to add to the shop the advertisement in the next Journal should attract sales and congratulated her on her ideas

Mr Trumper proposed a vote of thanks to Ms Hendey adding that her enthusiasm would add vigour to the merchandise shop. Council agreed.

Ms Hendey left the meeting at this point.

#### **4. To Agree the Minutes from March 2020**

Mrs Simmons asked that she could correct the date of item 15 from 2022 to 2020 and change the numbering of items as there was two items numbered 8. Council agreed. The minutes were formally agreed and duly signed. Proposed by Mr King; seconded by Mrs Black.

Mrs Simmons asked that she could sign the minutes pp for Mr Trumper in order that they can be pasted into the minute book. Mr Trumper and Council agreed.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

Mr Richardson asked Mr Emberton if the email addresses for Council members work for the JSS were ready for use, Mr Emberton explained that he was readdressing the matter and would hope to have them active in the near future.

Mrs Black had agreed that she would liaise with GRS in order to obtain statistics on the various payment methods used by the membership; she told the meeting due to the Covid situation she had not done so but she felt that this was not an appropriate time to discuss increases in membership fees. Council agreed.

The discussion on the AGM 2021 was now null and void as it had been firstly moved to the Southern region and then had been cancelled due to the uncertainty of the Covid situation. Mr Charlie Coe has since been appointed as RCM for the Eastern region.

## **6. Correspondence**

Mrs Simmons told Council that a letter had been received from Mr Harkness a member from Ireland. He complained to Council that a ewe lamb he had purchased at the Official Society Sale at Skipton which had passed the inspection there was found to have 5 horns.

The matter of inspection being on the agenda under the Field Officer's section and Mr Colhoun having asked Council to consider this complaint in his report the discussion about Mr Harkness's complaint was moved to join the next item

## **7. Field Officer's Report**

Mr Richardson said he liaised regularly with Mr Connor the Field Officer and that his thoughts were with him as he had been unable to join the meeting due to a hospital appointment. Council agreed and sent their good wishes to Mr Connor and his family.

Show and Sale Inspection: Council discussed the complaint made by Mr Harkness, about the inspection of sheep generally and with particular regard to the spacing of horns on sheep. It was agreed that the fifth horn and the fusing of the horns on the ewe lamb purchased by Mr Harkness should have been noticed by the inspectors. Mr Harkness was not asking for redress from the Society but Council agreed that he was owed an apology and assurance that the inspection of sheep would be duly brought up to a higher standard. Mr Richardson agreed to contact Mr Harkness.

It was agreed that the acting Field Officer would review the inspection guidance and consult with Officers of the Society before sending a draft of an up dated guidance to Council for consideration.

The logistics of inspecting at Shows and Sales was discussed and it was decided that two inspectors who should both inspect the whole of each sheep with an adjudicator present to make any final decision should the inspectors not agree on a particular point on any of the sheep would be the method used.

Council agreed that sheep being entered for Show and Sales can only be inspected at the event itself when the sheep has been brought forward. Vendors should not seek an opinion as to whether their sheep would pass inspection prior to sale day from inspectors or Officers of the Society.

A discussion followed about the trimming of horns; Council realises that it is common practice for welfare reasons, in both 2 and 4 horned sheep, to prevent the horns causing the sheep unnecessary suffering.

Authority for organising Regional or National Events/Activities/Competitions: Council agreed that all activities held for the Society should only be held with the permission of the RCM and the approval of the Chairman. Mrs Black told Council this was essential practice to ensure events held on behalf of the JSS are held within the rules and responsibilities of the Society. Mrs Thompson had asked for Council, in her report to consider that events were brought to the attention of all members as she had received complaints from members that they had not been aware of events which had only been advertised on Social Media. Mr Coe told the meeting he had received complaints from some of his region's members too. Council agreed that all events should be advertised in the Journal where

possible; when not possible the use of GRS emailing/posting should always be used to inform members alongside the Social Media platforms. An article will be written explaining this to members in the Journal and Mrs. Black will update the RCM Guidelines to include this information.

Tay-Sachs Report from the Sub-Committee: Dr Nicola Fletcher has been liaising with LGC Laboratories on behalf of the Society, but Mr Richardson told the meeting that the contract with the laboratories has run out and needs addressing. Council discussed the costs of the testing in relation to batch numbers. It was agreed that two batches a year would be cost effective and helpful. Dr Fletcher advised Council to stay with LGC as their results were very reliable. It was agreed that Dr Fletcher would liaise with LGC to renew the contract with the best prices and dates for the JSS.

The method of sending tissue/blood samples to the laboratory was discussed FTA cards which are used at present require a vet to take the sample whereas tissue tags are used by the members, however LGC would need to validate the test if used and mistakes could be made accidentally. It was agreed that the Society will continue to use FTA cards

Council discussed the cost of testing for members and to what extent the Society should subsidise the cost, whether this should only be available for testing males and for a limited period. It was agreed that the Society should subsidise the testing to some degree to encourage members to have their sheep tested and that Mrs Black will work with the Tay Sachs Sub-Committee to decide on the extent of it. She told the meeting the cost to the Society in the previous financial year had been £923

Council discussed the best way to encourage members to have their sheep tested and it was agreed that education was important so that members could make careful decisions about their breeding policies and good rams were not unnecessarily culled. Dr Fletcher said that a Q & A section had been in the Autumn Journal.

It was agreed that a report is to be made to Council in March and then to communicate with all members with the information.

Registration of Lambs from Embryo Transfers: Council agreed that there was no more risk of the wrong parentage being recorded from embryo transplanted lambs than from natural birth lambs and that the paperwork involved is so stringent that a mistake is less likely; therefore Council would not require DNA testing to be done on lambs born from ET. The Pedeweb system has the facility to note the litter size as multiples and whether produced by AI/ET/natural.

It was agreed to accept lambs for registration produced by Embryo Transfer.

## **8. Chairman's Report**

Mr Trumper thanked Council members for all their work during the year. He said he had been grateful for the support of RCMs and particularly thanked them for organising events and engaging the membership during the past 6 months. Mr Emberton, he said, had worked on some very complicated matters for Council and he was indebted to him for the work and the reports he had prepared for Council.

## **9. Vice Chairman's Briefing**

Proposed Amendments to the Articles: (report previously circulated) Mr Emberton told the meeting that the amendments were necessary to allow virtual general meetings. The government had put in place emergency legislation which had allowed the virtual AGM to take place but there were no provisions in the Society's Articles for them at present; therefore he recommended that the amendments be made before December 31<sup>st</sup> to take advantage of the legislation in place until then rather than hoping for an extension in time for further meetings. Council agreed.

Mr Emberton explained he had based the additional clauses for the Articles upon 'model articles' published by Companies House. The right for Proxy voting will also be added at this time.

He proposed that

1. That Council discuss the new clauses and agree any suggested changes. Agreed
2. That the adoption of the new clauses be put to an Extraordinary General meeting to be held on a date that will permit the required 14 days notice of the meeting and the proxy voting papers to be distributed with the Winter Journal. Agreed
3. That Council should schedule a very brief meeting on the day and time of the EGM to simply record the result of the vote. Agreed.

Mr Emberton and Council then discussed the amendments he had prepared and agreed the changes with Council ready for sending to the membership for adoption.

Brexit Issues: arising from an email received on 20<sup>th</sup> October from DEFRA's Zotech – Extending Breeding Programmes Following EU Exit; Mr Emberton had collated all the information from Libby Henson at Grassroots and Phil Stocker, chief executive at the NSA and prepared a report to Council which is a very full and detailed;

In brief: Our UK paperwork will no longer be accepted by EU states as evidence of the pedigree status of our sheep when in transit or on arrival at an EU destination. It is DEFRA's plan to submit applications for all currently recognised breed societies (this does include JSS) in the UK for 3<sup>rd</sup> country recognition. DEFRA needs to be voted as a 3<sup>rd</sup> country supervision body and this will not be done until we are a 3<sup>rd</sup> country after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Most importantly the registered sheep in Eire cannot be recorded in the Flock Book of a breed society in a 3<sup>rd</sup> country. Mr Emberton's research found that a wholly owned subsidiary company could be setup by the Society in Eire which could register the sheep living there however it looked likely to cost 2,000 – 3,000€ to do so. Grassroots in the meantime had been working on the same thing and an email was received from them 25<sup>th</sup> October setting out their plans for a multibreed Flock Book holding company in Eire; called British Breeds in Europe (BBinE) Mr Emberton circulated the email with all the details. Mr Emberton responded expressing the interest of the JSS participating in BBinE. The NSA and GRS have organised a webinar by invitation for breed societies where the aims will be to update all breed societies on the general challenges facing the future trade of breeding animals. Mr Emberton was awaiting the date of the meeting.

The cost of GRS setting up the multibreed Flock Book would be spread across all the participating breed societies. GRS estimates that the ongoing annual cost to the JSS is likely to be only 5 - 10€ per member on BBinE a cost which will be charged to the Society by GRS which Council agreed to be very cost effective and will spread across the whole membership. GRS is hoping to have the set up of

the BBinE in place before the year end. Mr Colhoun said he hoped that the registration process would not create additional paperwork or costs for the members in Southern Ireland. He was assured that the additional fees would be spread across all membership and the registrations would be done through GRS. Mr Emberton has registered the Society's very strong interest in BBinE and will be the Society's contact

Mr Trumper said that the Society was very fortunate to have Mr Emberton and GRS to take this forward. Council agreed and thanked Mr Emberton for his work.

#### **10. Nominations:**

Nomination papers will be sent out in the Journal for; Vice- Chair, Northern RCM, Central RCM, South West RCM & Eastern RCM. Although Ms Hutchins for SW and Mr Coe for Eastern had just been appointed by Council to their positions they were required to be nominated by their regions to continue on Council.

#### **11. Treasurers Report**

Mrs Black presented a draft of the 19/20 Accounts which had been previously circulated. She said that she was not surprised that the income was down as there had been little activity within the Society and this was offset by the expenses of the trustees being down for the same reason. No bursaries have been paid out. Expenses were also down from Breed Promotion but it had been agreed that Kent County will hold the money for the stand over for 2021. Mrs Black reported that there are at present 882 members made up of 835 ordinary members, 45 life members (sadly a decrease of 3 Mrs Leithead, Mr Preller and Mrs Baines) and 2 honorary members. 87 members had joined in the last year 80 had resigned and 4 lapsed memberships had been renewed. These figures represent about the same turnover of members normally expected.

Investments Review: Dr Jerry Strong continues his watching brief and working with Mrs Black the report had been previously circulated. The worldwide market declines could have devastated the Society's investments however Dr Strong had prepared for this with 60% of the Society's money in an interest only account. Following the steep market decline in March, in April 2020 we purchased £51,000 of units in CCLA Investment Fund using proceeds from the CCLA Deposit Fund.

There has been an overall Capital value decline of £3,200 or (-)1.5% which considering the Covid situation is acceptable. As a charity the JSS is required to use M&G (Charifund) and/ or CCLA (COIF) for equity investments. The £51,000 which was transferred to the CCLA Investment Fund (COIF) outperformed the M&G Charifund so it was a good move; CCLA increased 13.8%, M&G declined 25% but Dr Strong doubts that the divergence will continue and he proposed that the Society increase their investment with M&G Charifund by £40,000. Council discussed the proposal with thoughts that Brexit and possible changes in America would have an unknown influence it was agreed that Mrs Black would liaise with Dr Strong; they would watch the markets carefully if it did seem to prove that M&G were improving and that money should be moved Mrs Black would inform Council and the funds could be moved.

Mr Trumper thanked Mrs Black and Dr Strong for their work Council agreed.

## **12. Office Report**

The report had been previously circulated. Mrs Simmons said that she was pleased to be working with Dr Fletcher and would be liaising with her until she takes over at the 2021 AGM. The NSA has been very active via webinars for their members and working is for the sheep industry as a whole during the Brexit period.

## **13. Reports from the Regions**

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

### **Ireland Region.**

Mr Colhoun reported that the Official Ireland Sales had both been superb. The request of funds for attending the shows 2021 was agreed but will be deferred until Mr Colhoun knows which, if any, will go ahead. Two issues from the region, Tay –Sachs and the complaint from a member had been dealt with on the agenda. He asked Council to consider appointing two inspectors who can inspect at all the Official Sales rather than a different inspection team at each sale. It is felt in his region that the same inspection team would work together and provide the same level of consistency at all shows. They suggested that non Jacob judge/member inspection team may be better as there would be no issues them knowing any of the members. Mr Richardson said that the idea of two inspectors doing all the shows was sound and he would discuss it with Mr Connor but felt it was unlikely that two judges could be found who could attend all 7 Official Sales. He felt that inspectors from outside of the breed would not be aware of the finer points and also that the Society would have no control of other judges. Council agreed.

### **Scotland Region**

Miss Harper asked for the cost of Scots Sheep (NSA) be met if it went ahead 2021. Agreed. Miss Harper agreed to work with Council members and Mrs Carpenter on Facebook Jacobs UK. The Scotland committee had expressed an interest in organising an in-lamb ewe sale to be held at Carlisle. Council discussed this and felt there would be insufficient sheep forward to warrant an Official Sale. Mr Emberton said that if an unofficial sale was held and proved to be successful they would then be able to ask that the sale was monitored by the Society for quality and quantity and further consideration of becoming an Official Show and Sale.

### **Eastern Region**

Mr Coe told Council that he was hoping to form a committee and organise events in the future. He had been pleased that the Sale at Melton had gone ahead which he had attended and sold sheep at and met up with members. He thanked everyone who had been involved with organising the sale.

### **Wales Region**

Mrs Lewis suggested that the forum section of the JSS website be used to answer questions RCMs receive; this would encourage other users and additional information could be added on a monthly basis. Information on the forum would help with education of members and be useful to RCMs sharing their queries. Council agreed sharing information would be beneficial, Mr Emberton said a forum needed constant momentum to be successful Council discussed the use of social media for contact and education. Mrs Lewis suggested a FAQ section be added onto the website. Mr Trumper said that any advice given would need management and control. It was agreed that Mrs Lewis liaise with Melanie Harper who runs Facebook Jacobs UK and Kay Carpenter to plan further.

#### Southern Region

Mrs Gould said she regretted that the 2021 AGM had been cancelled but she and the committee did not wish to host the weekend 2023 she thanked everyone who had been involved with organising the event saying she was very grateful for their work. Council agreed.

#### Central Region

Mrs Thompson had two issues which were dealt with on the agenda. Kay Carpenter had asked that the Twitter account be set up again. Council discussed and it was agreed that Mrs Carpenter is asked to work with Miss Harper and make a definite proposal at the March meeting. Hayley Higginson would like to offer a trophy for the overall photographic winner at the National AGM. Council accepted her kind offer.

#### South West

Ms Hutchins told Council she has contacted new members in her region and is keen to meet them. She is hoping to hold an Open Day and a Flock Competition in 2021. She asked that costs could be covered if she took the JSS stand to a show 2021 being dependant on there being sufficient help available. Agreed. A SW member had suggested that a sales page be added to Facebook, Miss Hutchins agreed to liaise with Miss Harper.

### **14. Communications Update**

Mr Richardson told the meeting that the next Journal was number 100; Council agreed that this was an important milestone. Although the printers were now in lockdown he said the printing was done and they would soon be ready for posting out. Mr Emberton asked if there was time to add the voting papers for the EGM; if there is the papers will be sent with the Journal otherwise GRS will be asked to send them to all members. Mr Trumper thanked Mr Richardson for all his work on the Journal and communications. Council agreed.

### **15. AGM Update**

Council agreed that although disappointing there had been no option but to cancel the 2021 AGM weekend. The meeting will very likely be held via virtual media.

### **AGM 2022 Progress Report**

Mr Colhoun said that the hotel was booked for the weekend April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 and 50 rooms were available for the JSS; most visits are in place which are all very close to the hotel thus should



save the necessity of coach hire. He said the Ireland members would be willing to give lifts to members who arrived by air which he hoped would encourage people to come. Mr Colhoun said he hoped that the weekend would go ahead and assured Council that any restrictions in place at the time will be worked with. Council thanked Mr Colhoun and his committee and agreed that it is very much hoped that the weekend will take place.

### **AGM 2023**

Mr Coe said he would consider organising the weekend in the Eastern region. He will work with members in his region to consider the options before making the commitment. Council agreed this was a sensible way forward and would defer to the next meeting.

### **16. AOB**

Mrs Lewis asked if a RCM forum could be arranged via Zoom as it had not been possible to meet in 2020; Mrs Simmons agreed that would be a good idea and will liaise with them to organise one.

Mr Emberton suggested that members who had organised virtual events and competitions during 2020 should be formally thanked and suggested that a JSS calendar was sent as a small token of appreciation. Council agreed and RCMs were asked to let Mrs Simmons know of the members in their regions who should be thanked and she agreed to arrange for the letters to be sent.

Council discussed 'out of season lambing' Mr Richardson said the Society has no rules on when sheep should lamb only that lambs must be registered in the year in which they are born. Lambs born, no matter how late in a year, must not be registered as lambs born in the following year. It was agreed that an article should be written in the Journal reminding members and explaining to new members the registration process of lambs and the rules on ear tagging. It was also thought to be appropriate to draw to members' attention the Welfare Codes and other DEFRA rules in an article.

Mr Trumper thanked Council members for their time and said the Zoom meeting had been very interesting.

Mr King proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Trumper for chairing and to Mrs Thompson for organising and hosting the ZOOM meeting. Council agreed and thanked Mr King as President for his support.

### **17. Time and Date of Next Meeting.**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at the Carlton Club, London.