



Southdown Sheep Society Council meeting
Wednesday 29th April 2020 at 1600h
Held via conference call

Minutes

Those present:

Sid Cook	(SC)	
Duncan Crundwell	(DC)	
Lindsay Dane	(LD)	
Patrick Goldsworthy MBE	(PG)	
Edward Harmer	(EH)	
Justin Harmer	(JH)	
Paul Humphrey	(PH)	
Stephen Humphrey	(SH)	<i>(joined the meeting at 1617h)</i>
Jonathan Long	(JL)	Chairman
Tim Morris	(TM)	
Les Newman	(LN)	
Miriam Parker	(MP)	
Michael Sprake	(MS)	President
Neil Stainthorpe	(NS)	Hon. Treasurer
Howard Wood	(HW)	Vice Chairman
Gail Sprake	(GS)	Secretary

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Action by</u>	<u>Due by</u>
<p>1. Welcome The Chairman welcomed all to the conference call meeting.</p> <p>Apologies: Nick Page</p>		
<p>2. Minutes of Council meeting on 4th December 2019 The adoption of the Minutes was proposed by HW, seconded by PH. All in favour.</p>		

<p>3. Matters arising, not covered elsewhere There were no matters arising.</p>		
<p>4. Appointments</p> <p>i) Honorary Treasurer One nomination received: Neil Stainthorpe, proposed by JL, seconded by HW.</p> <p>ii) President Elect One nomination received: Duncan Crundwell, proposed by JL, seconded by MS.</p>		
<p>5. Financial Matters</p> <p>i) 2019 Annual Report & Financial Statement The Treasurer presented the draft 2019 Annual Report & Accounts. The 2019 accounts reflect a loss of £16,412 for the year. Total resources expended £47,608, total incoming resources £31,196, with total funds at 31/12/2019 being £56,740. It was noted that had no legal fees been incurred, then the accounts would reflect a profit in excess of £2K. The treasurer stated that there had been three fraudulent withdrawals of funds from the bank account totalling £220 in 2019, all reimbursed by NatWest. It was proposed by NS, seconded by JL, all in favour, that the final draft of the 2019 Report and Accounts be adopted.</p> <p>ii) 2020 Budget LN reiterated that the budget had been updated in the light of current Covid-19 pandemic with a 15% scale back on income figures. All agreed that this remained speculative. It was emphasized that in the absence of legal fees the budget should achieve break-even.</p> <p>iii) Outstanding subscriptions and membership Membership currently stands at 324, with 89 members' subscription for 2020 outstanding. 234 members currently signed up for Gift Aid, more should be encouraged.</p> <p>iv) Secretary's remuneration <i>This item was moved to the end of the agenda and the secretary and president both left the conference call before the discussion began.</i></p> <p>NS explained the Finance Committee's recommendation of no increase in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential impact on Society income. A discussion followed during which Council members were reminded of the ambition to increase the secretary's remuneration to a level more representative of the responsibilities the role carries. Council members appreciated this, however, largely felt that the current uncertainties meant an increase would be hard to justify to the membership. On a vote there were 11 in favour of the finance committee's recommendation, two abstentions and one against. It was, therefore, agreed not to increase the secretary's remuneration at this time.</p>		

<p>6. New members were noted and approved Keith Manning, Mr Shaun Hollyer, Mr Phil Goulby, Alexander F Gibson, M Houghton, Passmore Brothers, Mrs Sally Mercier, Miss Alice Middleditch, Maria Cork, Adam Budd, Edward Langrish, Pedro Moreira, Emma, William & Isabella Hurst, Chris Watt, Emma Dow, Ian Robertson, Mr C J Taylor, Mathew Bruce.</p>		
<p>7. Report from Finance Committee</p> <p>NS summarised the committee meeting held 07/04/2020: i) outstanding membership subscriptions were considered and three recommendations were adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that current year’s membership subscription should be paid to date before Flock Book sent out in future years • that email reminder be circulated promptly to all whose 2020 subscription outstanding • that reminder be sent out to all in Autumn that following year’s subscription due before January 1st <p>Proposed by SC, seconded by JH, all in favour.</p> <p>ii) Direct Debit payments: the treasurer provided detail of cost of use of direct debit facilities: set up as an approved service user £400, loan of software £500, monthly charge of £50, 18p per transaction plus payment of £5.25. Alternatively, the services could be outsourced. Unanimous agreement that the cost would be prohibitive.</p> <p>Committee to consider financial incentive to encourage greater use of payment by Standing Order. Fundraising ideas: to be considered at next Council meeting, all encouraged to offer suggestions.</p>	<p>NS & committee</p> <p>NS & committee</p>	<p>May 27</p>
<p>8. Report from Communications Committee</p> <p>HW summarised the committee meeting held 25/02/2020: The draft member survey had been previously circulated and was discussed. Some questions required amendment in the light of Covid-19 pandemic. It was agreed that greater clarity and focus was needed with some questions. Comments to HW in order to update and circulate again for approval. PG advised that some questions would need adjustment to fit within the Survey Monkey framework.</p>	<p>HW, ALL</p>	<p>May 6</p>
<p>9. Report from Show & Sales Committee</p> <p>i) Upset prices at Society sales The committee considered that whilst the current upset prices were appropriate for the Society’s premier sale at Worcester, for the females particularly, they may be too high for Melton Mowbray. In addition, it was felt the difference in the upset prices for shearling ewes and ewe lambs was insufficient.</p> <p>Following considerable debate, two proposals were put forward:</p>		

<p>i) At the premier sale at Worcester the upset price for shearling ewes should be raised to 185gns. All other upset prices should remain as they are at this sale. On a vote, proposed by JL, seconded by DC: 8 in favour, 5 abstentions, 2 against.</p> <p>ii) At the Melton Mowbray sale the upset price for shearling ewes should be reduced to 160gns and the upset price for ewe lambs should be reduced to 120gns. Upset prices for males should remain as they are at this sale. On a vote, proposed by JL, seconded by PH: 12 in favour, 1 abstention, 2 against. Both proposals to be adopted at 2020 official sales.</p> <p>ii) Selection and appointment of new judges Draft paper under discussion by committee to be circulated to Council for consideration at next meeting.</p> <p>iii) National Show It was confirmed that due to the cancellation of the 2020 Show, the National Show would take place at Royal Welsh Show as planned in 2021. Decisions regarding National Show judge for 2022 deferred until Autumn meeting.</p> <p>iv) Late-born lamb classes at National Show Following considerable debate, and given that the 2021 National Show will not accommodate additional classes, it was agreed to defer discussion and decision until a later date. All agreed it would be pertinent to consider this in conjunction with the shows and sales standard, and breed description and characteristics.</p> <p>v) Breed description and characteristics Debate deferred until Autumn meeting of Council.</p>	<p>committee</p> <p>committee</p> <p>committee</p> <p>ALL</p>	<p>May 27</p> <p>October</p> <p>October</p> <p>October</p>
<p>10. Report from Governance Task & Finish Group</p> <p>The Chairman thanked LD and Task & Finish Group members for the considerable work that had been put in to reviewing the Articles of Association and Society rules. The previously circulated document with proposed updates provoked considerable discussion. It was agreed that Council members should email their individual comments to LD and MS within seven days and an updated draft would then be compiled and circulated to all Council once approved in first instance by Task & Finish Group.</p>	<p>ALL</p>	<p>May 6 1700h</p>
<p>11. 2020 AGM</p> <p>i) Council nominations The Chairman reported that eleven nominations had been received for six places on Council: nine were valid – B Alderson, R Beaumont, E Cresswell, P Humphrey, H Minnice-Smith, M Parker, M Robertson, M Sprake and H Wood. Two nominations were invalid – A Lambert (received April 14th), and L Richards-Davies (proposed by a non-member). The closing date for receipt of completed nomination forms was April 1st.</p>		

<p>ii) Strategy in the event of postponement of AGM At present, the AGM remaining as scheduled, but the Chairman and secretary are monitoring the current Covid-19 situation regarding gatherings. The Articles permit Council elections to be conducted using a postal voting system. Following discussion, it was agreed that an individually numbered voting paper should be sent to all members, and included in the forthcoming newsletter mailshot, thereby incurring no additional postal charges. NSA to be asked to act as the returning officer. Proposed by JL, seconded by HW, all in favour.</p>	Chairman	May
<p>12. Correspondence The Chairman confirmed that he liaises regularly with the office to check on correspondence and he confirmed that there is no correspondence of significance to be brought to the attention of Council.</p>		
<p>13. Any Other Business</p> <p>i) Deceased member H George Hughes The Articles (30.3) state that “A person’s membership terminates when that person dies or ceases to exist.” Since the death of H George Hughes in 2011, the Brynglas Flock has been continued by Mrs L Brooks who pays an annual membership subscription in Mr Hughes’ name. The Chairman raised the query when a voting form was requested on his behalf for the EGM in January 2020. Following discussion, the Chairman will write to Mrs Brooks to clarify that Mr Hughes cannot be classed as a member.</p> <p>ii) Remote voting JH requested that this be discussed at the next meeting of Council. The Chairman will draft a paper for consideration.</p>	Chairman	May
<p>CLOSE The meeting closed at 1803h</p>	Chairman	May 27

Date of next meeting:

Wednesday May 27th 2020

1600h – 1800h

By remote communication method