



**Southdown Sheep Society Council meeting
Wednesday 20th October 2021 at 1030h
Held in the Jersey Cattle Society Pavilion, Stoneleigh Park**

Minutes

Those present:

Brian Alderson	(BA)	
Rob Beaumont	(RB)	
Sid Cook	(SC)	
Duncan Crundwell	(DC)	President
Lindsay Dane	(LD)	
Patrick Goldsworthy MBE	(PG)	
Justin Harmer	(JH)	
Paul Humphrey	(PH)	
Stephen Humphrey	(SH)	
Jonathan Long	(JL)	Chairman
Sarah Mitchell	(SM)	President Elect
Miriam Parker	(MP)	
Michael Sprake	(MS)	
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</p> <p>The chairman welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all of their obligations as charity trustees and company directors and to act always in the best interest of the Southdown Sheep Society.</p> <p>The Declarations of Interest paper had previously been circulated and any changes and updates should be given to the secretary.</p>		

<p>The chairman asked all those present to declare any conflicts of interest or loyalty regarding any item on the agenda. No conflicts declared.</p> <p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Edward Harmer, Tim Morris and Les Newman.</p>		
<p>2. Appointment of NSA Representatives</p> <p>S Humphrey and J Long were happy to continue in this role. Proposed by HW, seconded by NS, all in favour.</p>		
<p>3. Minutes of Council meetings</p> <p>July 13th 2021 September 24th 2021</p> <p>The adoption of the Minutes was proposed en bloc by SC, seconded by DC. 14 in favour, 1 abstention for both Minutes, 1 abstention for Minutes of Sept. 24th.</p>		
<p>4. Matters arising, not covered elsewhere</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>		
<p>5. Risk Register</p> <p>It was pointed out that the Strategy had not been implemented and that it was important to share Strategy with the membership.</p> <p>ACTION: Governance Task & Finish Group to review current Risk Register and report back at next Council meeting</p>	<p>Governance Task & Finish Group</p>	<p>April 2022</p>
<p>6. Update on committees</p> <p>The Chairman outlined the structure of committees which had been dormant throughout the pandemic, and stressed the need for these committees to be reinvigorated and focus on a number of key areas.</p> <p>Finance: Neil Stainthorpe (chair), Sid Cook, Lindsay Dane, Justin Harmer, Paul Humphrey, Les Newman. Key areas to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online and direct debit payment options • Alternative revenue sources/activities • Current investment strategy. <p>Publicity: Howard Wood (chair), Rob Beaumont, Patrick Goldsworthy, Edward Harmer, Sarah Mitchell, Michael Sprake. Key areas to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing viability of current publications 	<p>NS, SC, LD, JH, PH, LN</p> <p>HW, RB, PG, EH, SM, MS</p>	<p>April 2022</p> <p>April 2022</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media presence and management • Website refresh • Display boards refresh/replacement <p>Shows and Sales: Jonathan Long (chair), Brian Alderson, Duncan Crundwell, Stephen Humphrey, Tim Morris, Miriam Parker.</p> <p>Key areas to consider</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of judges list • Judges workshop 2022 • Judges for Society Sales 2022 and flock competition 2022 <p>Governance Task & Finish Group</p> <p>In addition to the above committees, a Governance Task & Finish Group will conduct a review of the appeals procedure contained within the Society's disciplinary procedure.</p> <p>This follows on from the work done by the group previously in drafting the disciplinary procedure.</p> <p>Membership of this committee comprises: Michael Sprake (chair), Lindsay Dane, Edward Harmer, Jonathan Long, Howard Wood.</p> <p>Justin Harmer asked that he replace Edward Harmer in the Task & Finish group. JL advised that written confirmation would be needed from Edward Harmer to confirm his agreement.</p> <p>Committee chairs to decide meeting dates with own committee members, to report back at April Council meeting.</p>	<p>JL, BA, DC, SH, TM, MP</p> <p>MS, LD, EH, JL, HW</p>	<p>April 2022</p> <p>April 2022</p>
<p>7. Report from Financial Matters</p> <p>i) Financial Report</p> <p>The Treasurer explained that the Society's NatWest bank account had been subject to a number of fraudulent attacks in recent years resulting in the removal of small amounts of money, all of which were subsequently recovered. At the end of September 2021 the Society's account was hacked allowing fraudsters to transfer monies into, between and out of the two accounts, in effect removing most of the funds. Police and bank fraud teams were immediately alerted, together with the Society's insurers as the Society has cover for cyber-crime. The Treasurer reported that funds had been returned and a recent confirmatory email from NatWest that the remaining balance would be reimbursed. The online banking facility currently remains disabled and cheques are being used. He emphasised that this had been a particularly stressful and time-consuming episode within the office. He added that the national Action Fraud team deals with 60,000 such incidents each month.</p> <p>The Treasurer gave a brief summary of the 2021 financial situation: Business Reserve a/c stands at £2465.39, the current a/c stands at £6536.69. He estimated that costs to the year-end would total approx. £3000, and stated that a substantial part of the income is yet to come in.</p>		

<p>He anticipated the income and expenditure for 2022 to be similar to last year (income £31,000, expenditure £25,000) not including legal fees. He confirmed that the Xero accounting package has been successfully installed and is working alongside the Grassroots programme.</p> <p>ii) Update re investments NS confirmed that he continues to keep investments under review: funds in CCLA Charity Deposit currently £3025.21, in Cambridge & Counties Bank £41,459.54. Interest rates continue to be at an all-time low.</p> <p>iii) to appoint accountants for Financial Year 2021 Currently Lovewell Blake. LN to research alternative accountants and report back to officers.</p> <p>v) Membership subscription and registration fees JL stated that members at the AGM were keen to support an increase in registration fees. Debate focussed on whether an increase would discourage registrations, or encourage the registration of fewer, quality animals, in particular males. It was considered that regular, smaller fee increases would be more acceptable. Following considerable discussion the fee increases were agreed as follows:</p> <p>Online registrations: Ram lambs from £10 to £12 – proposed by SC, seconded by PH, 14 in favour, 1 against Ewe lambs from £4 to £5 – proposed by JL, seconded by BA, all in favour</p> <p>Paper/office registrations Ram lambs from £15 to £18 – proposed by JL, seconded by HW, all in favour Ewe lambs from £5 to £7 – proposed by JL, seconded by BA, all in favour</p> <p>Late registrations Currently £20. Two proposals were put forward: Proposal One: Increase to £25 Proposed by RB, seconded by SH – 7 in favour Proposal Two: Increase to £30 Proposed by JL, seconded by SC – 8 in favour</p> <p>Thus the registration fees for 2022 are as follows: Online registrations: ram lambs £12, ewe lambs £5 Paper/office registrations: ram lambs £18, ewe lambs £7 Late registrations: £30</p> <p>All registration fees to be reviewed October 2022.</p> <p>Membership Fees: The annual membership fee was increased to £40 in January 2018. Following discussion it was agreed that this would remain as is, to be reviewed in 2022.</p>	<p>LN, NS, JL, HW</p>	<p>November 2021</p> <p>October 2022</p> <p>October 2022</p>
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<p>vi) Introduction of Direct Debit payments JL introduced the proposal that consideration should be given to introducing direct debit payments to allow the Society to draw money from members' bank accounts when payment is due, thus reducing office time spent in chasing late payments. RB commented that members are critical of the Society as they expect to have the facility to pay online. It was confirmed that card payment is not an option. GS reiterated that all members submitting online registrations receive confirmation explaining how payment may be made, and the need for payment to accompany registrations is also repeated in each newsletter. LN expressed concern, in absentia, that the accompanying costs of Direct Debits, and the greater onus put on to whoever administers it, need to be taken in to account. In the light of current bank fraud issues, this could potentially expose the Society to greater risk. Following discussion it was agreed that this would be referred to the Finance committee.</p> <p>iv) 2022 Budget LN's comments to accompany the draft budget were read out in his absence. He explained that the Budget had been based on the 2019/2020 Budget with a few reductions where savings have been made i.e postage, fewer face-to-face meetings. A small surplus is shown, notwithstanding current legal fees. He anticipated further economies regarding expenses in the coming year.</p> <p>vii) Review of Secretary's remuneration Following discussion, it was agreed to award the secretary a one-off payment of £750 to acknowledge the increased workload as a result of legal issues. Salary to be reviewed at next meeting. The secretary was absent during this discussion.</p>	<p>NS & Finance committee</p>	<p>April 2022</p> <p>April 2022</p>
<p>8. New members were noted and approved Sophie Davies, Andrea Warden, Sara Somerset, William Somerset, Lisa Marie Card, Janette Palliser, Messrs A & J Struthers, Nigel Brown, Donna Baines, David Belfield, Beck & Son, Ms Florence & Ms Edith James, Charlie Kifford, Holly Broad, Jonathan Llewellyn.</p>		
<p>9. Society Activities</p> <p>i) Regional Activities There had been no regional events held throughout the pandemic. The Chairman encouraged all regional groups to plan ahead and get active in 2022.</p> <p>ii) NSA events Three NSA events scheduled for 2022: Scot Sheep – June 1st at Tealing, by Dundee South Sheep – to be confirmed National event – July 27th at Malvern, Worcs The following events were noted:</p>		

<p>i) National Sale at Worcester - August 7th ii) Melton Mowbray Sale - September 10th-11th iii) 2021 AGM & Field Day - September 18th 2021</p> <p>It was noted that the NSA Sheep Breeders Round Table Online Conference takes place November 15 – 19th 2021.</p> <p>iii) National Show 2022 to be held at the Royal Welsh Show. GS to make contact with RWAS to confirm this is still possible.</p> <p>iv) 2022 Field Day and AGM A venue is needed for the 2022 event, preferably in the Midlands or further South.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>All</p>	<p>October 2021</p> <p>April 2022</p>
<p>10. Society Sales</p> <p>i) Analysis of official sales The tabled analysis of both the Worcester and Melton Mowbray sales was discussed. The Chairman had attended both sales and commented that whilst good sheep found buyers, the quality of many sheep at both sales was shocking. It was commented that there was an oversupply of ewe lambs with high reserves at Melton sale. JL asked the Show & Sale committee to investigate, possibly via a member survey, why members are not attending sales. Possible suggestions included the upset price and the dates of the sales.</p> <p>ii) Members' questions raised at AGM re sales:</p> <p>a) from G Ryves-Webb re whether animals could be sold in pens of multiples. It was considered that this is not viable since members sell relatively small numbers of sheep. It is better value to sell individually.</p> <p>b) Will Morton raised question as to whether the Society should participate in the in-lamb ewe sale held at Melton Mowbray in late November. It was pointed out that this sale is only for MV Accredited sheep. If the Society were to participate then a veterinary inspection and levy would be imposed.</p>		
<p>11. Judges and Judging</p> <p>i) Judges' Panel nominations: it was confirmed that a protocol was previously agreed and that the Show & sales Committee should refer to that and consider further. The committee would also review the current list of judges. The autumn newsletter to include information relating to this.</p> <p>ii) Judges' Workshop 2022 A workshop to be organised for prospective and existing judges late Spring 2022. PG offered his farm as a potential venue.</p>	<p>JL and Show & Sales committee</p>	<p>Spring 2022</p>

<p>12. Flock Competition 2021</p> <p>A replacement judge was appointed following A Graves’s hip surgery. J Roland Williams had kindly stepped in at short notice. The fuel crisis has delayed the start of judging but it is expected to get underway by late October. One participant had withdrawn. Currently 15 members taking part, of which over half are in novice category.</p>		
<p>13. 2022 Meeting dates and venue</p> <p>Wednesday April 27th 2022 Wednesday October 19th 2022</p> <p>It is anticipated that the Spring and Autumn meetings will be face-to-face at Stoneleigh, exact venue to be confirmed. Additional meetings to be held via conference / video call.</p>		
<p>14. Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence.</p>		
<p>15. Any Other Business</p> <p>i) LD submitted a paper with a proposal to consider changes to the arrangements for the election of Council members. JL emphasised that nominations are welcomed from the entire membership and there can only be an election if sufficient candidates are forward. MP to compose newsletter article giving details of what is involved in being a Council member in the hope of encouraging more nominations in 2022.</p> <p>ii) JH raised two points: a) the list of judges currently on the Society website is in need of updating b) the 2019 Financial Report is not available on the Society website.</p> <p>iii) [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>	<p>MP</p>	<p>Early November 2021</p>
<p>CLOSE</p> <p>The meeting closed at 1315h</p>		

Confidential first draft