

THE DEXTER CATTLE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 19th FEBRUARY 2009

TELECONFERENCE CALL

STARTING AT 5.30PM

Present:

Michael Bancroft, Mark Bowles, Jo Kemp, Carol Neilson, Beryl Rutherford, Martyn Ryder and Tim Sparrow

In Attendance: Sue Archer (Breed Secretary) taking notes

	Action by
1. Apologies Silke Warneke	
2. Declaration of conflict of interest in agenda items Nothing declared	
3. Correspondence Sue Archer reported that there was no correspondence to come before the council at this meeting	
4. Minutes of meeting 23.01.09 Amended minute Beryl Rutherford stated that she had not apologised for being unable to attend the face to face meeting but had asked to join meeting by phone. The Minutes will be signed at the next face to face meeting	CWN
5. Matters arising	
<p><i>1. Judges training day 04.04.09. Mark Bowles reported that a letter had been sent out through the Society office inviting all judges to attend. There have been several affirmative responses but as yet no apologies</i></p>	MB
<p><i>2. 2008 Herd Book</i> <i>The snapshot of the national herd as at 31.12.208 was taken on 19th February. After discussion it was decided to ask Mrs Philippa Laing and Sheila Sykes to proof read the Herd Book. Sue Archer to write to both with the proviso that the proof will be back in the Society office by mid April to allow the amendments to be made and then get the book to the printers and out to the membership by mid May 2009.</i></p>	SA
<p><i>3. Export Leaflet update</i> <i>Carol Neilson explained she had difficulties opening the publisher file. Martyn Ryder to forward another copy for editing.</i> <i>It was decided that a pdf file should be placed on the website and inform members that if they require a copy and don't have internet access they should contact the Society office.</i></p>	CWN
<p><i>4. 2009 AGM 10.10.2009</i> <i>The Northern Group have a choice of two venues that they are investigating for the AGM.</i> <i>There will be a meeting on 28th February to make a decision and inform Council. Cattle visits will be available at both venues but it was also made known that both venues have other entertainment if bio security becomes an issue.</i></p>	MR

<p>5. Genetics Report meeting <i>Jo Kemp suggested that Prof Bruford should circulate a PowerPoint presentation and then have a teleconference to discuss in detail how to publicise the outcome of the report</i> <i>Details at next meeting</i></p> <p>6. Letters from last meeting <i>Mike Bancroft asked if all the letters had gone out to the respective people</i></p> <p>7. Overseas registrations <i>Carol Neilson has spoken with Silke Warneke and it would appear that the arrangement was that as long as the registrations were received in their office within 30 days they could then be sent on to The Dexter Cattle Society on a regular basis.</i></p> <p><i>Mike Bancroft suggested that they have the 30 days to get their registrations to the German office and a further 15 days to get the registrations across to the Dexter Cattle Society. This suggestion was supported by Martyn Ryder</i></p> <p><i>There was discussion, it was decided to ask them to do their registrations within the 45 day period or possibly a translated birth notification card could be used. Carol Neilson to speak with Silke Warneke and see which option would suit best</i></p> <p><i>Mark Bowles stated that it would have been a lot easier to sort out this little difference if Silke Warneke had attended this meeting to explain what had happened.</i></p> <p><i>Carol Neilson has spoken with Silke Warneke about attending meetings and would appreciate her attendance at more meetings</i></p>	<p>JK</p> <p>CWN</p> <p>CWN</p> <p>CWN</p>
<p>6. Financial Report Martyn Ryder reported that as at 9th February 2009 the balance in the Nat West bank current account was £51,595.98. Cheques had been written to the value of £6701.63 which had not all been cashed yet leaving a running balance of £44,894.35</p> <p>Sue Archer reported that she has asked the bank if they run a self correcting current account which would leave £1000 in the current account and move the remainder onto a high interest account. Unfortunately they do not run that type of account any longer but the manager had mentioned a Bonus account which could be run at a local branch quite easily. The paperwork is to be forwarded to Martyn Ryder to investigate further</p> <p>Martyn Ryder then talked about fund raising and after some investigation will prepare a paper for discussion on 'easy fund raising for charities' We can look at whatever our members want the Society to do for them and achieve goals in the long term. Council gave their full support to this idea and looked forward to seeing the circulated paper.</p> <p>Martyn Ryder had approached the previous Treasurer for a formal handover but to date has not received anything from him. CWN is to send a formal letter to the previous Treasurer.</p> <p>After office bearers leave the organisation all Society documentation should be returned to the Society for archive purposes. The Dexter Steering Committee website information should be held in the Society archive or all the work done during that year would be lost.</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>MR/SA</p> <p>MR</p> <p>MR/CWN</p> <p>MR</p>
<p>7 Membership report Sue Archer reported that the membership stands at 992 current members as at 19.02.09 Outstanding subscription statements have been sent out to members with a reminder stating that if they don't pay for their membership by 19th March it will be deemed to have lapsed and politely remind them of the rejoining fee of £15.</p>	<p>SA</p>

<p>Beryl Rutherford asked for a comparison from the previous year. Sue Archer reported that letters had been sent out mostly with membership subscriptions but some are purely good housekeeping to enable the office to tidy the database. This is one month ahead of 2008 when reminder letters were sent out in March. The Society needs to run an efficient business. Sue Archer reported that she would be able to provide a comparison at the April meeting.</p> <p>Martyn Ryder informed the Council that the press has contacted the Society office for further information about the breed. BBC news round and the Daily Mail. Country Life has also contacted the Society office for photos to use with various Dexter beef events.</p> <p>Beryl Rutherford expressed concern that members will leave the Society due to the high fees and the ongoing recession and reported that several members had already stopped attending club events. There was then a short discussion about the sale and market price of bulls. Beryl Rutherford commented that cattle did not appear to move off the www.dextercattleforsale.co.uk website very quickly. Mark Bowles stated that not everyone informed him if they had sold cattle and some were very young.</p> <p>Michael Bancroft disagreed with the comment about registration costs being one third of an animal's value. If £100 is being spent to fully register a bull it will sell for more than £300. In most cases if it does not sell for more than that figure it would make more in the meat market.</p> <p>The Council felt that the membership is on target for six weeks into the new year and that the office is working very efficiently. Beryl Rutherford stated that she hoped the membership would increase but expressed her doubts.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>MR/SA</p>
<p>8. Membership Survey</p> <p>Tim Sparrow outlined the details of the survey already circulated with outline discussion to the Council. The Society must be very careful not to provide leading questions but allow members to have their say in their own way.</p> <p>Beryl Rutherford stated that they survey should be about the cattle. Tim Sparrow explained that the survey is about the people that look after cattle – without people no cattle would be kept.</p> <p>Beryl suggested adding a question 'why did you pick the Dexter breed?'</p> <p>Tim Sparrow went on to outline that there is a very good opportunity for the covering letter to be very proactive and more potent in this area. 'The Society exists to develop the cattle and increase services for members to look after their breed'.</p> <p>Further ideas should be circulated on the email to Tim Sparrow Carol Neilson to put together a letter to be circulated with the confidential survey</p>	<p>TS</p> <p>TS</p> <p>TS/CWN</p>
<p>9. Dexter Diary</p> <p>Martyn Ryder explained that this had been circulated and added to over the last few weeks and this had brought improvements.</p> <p>The bulletin editor Jo Kemp explained that the deadline for information for the bulletin will be 7th March so that it can be published in early April. There was discussion about the printing costs and whether the same information needs to be printed in each bulletin.</p> <p>It was suggested to put the bulletin on the Society website as soon as the next bulletin is in circulation. This was approved by Council</p>	<p>MR</p> <p>JK</p> <p>SA</p>

A Herd Planner Chart including gestation dates was discussed and will be worked on before the next face to face meeting. This could be circulated with the April bulletin to provide the membership with more value. Members have high expectations of the bulletin and it should remain in colour print. Raffle tickets will also be circulated at the same time	MR/SA/JK
10. Trustee Rotation Carol Neilson has circulated an excel spreadsheet as a starting point with proposals and asked that council come back to her with suggestions at the next meeting. Mike Bancroft asked for a copy to be faxed to him. Co-option will be discussed at the next meeting	CWN CWN
11. AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Bowles asked why the council had been informed that the teleconference would be for 1.5 hours and yet after 1.25 hours the recording machine apparently could no longer be used. Sue Archer apologised and explained the meeting had originally been booked for 1 hour and a tape recording organised but the meeting length then changed and the Community Network had already booked the tape recorder out to another organisation. Martyn Ryder asked Council to help with the bylaws for the Society Mark Bowles asked what was happening with regard to attendance at Council meetings of Silke Warneke? 	
12. Date of next meeting It was suggested that another teleconference be held on Thursday 5 th March 2009 and that the face to face meeting be held on Wednesday 18 th March	
The meeting closed at 6.45pm	

ACTION POINTS:	
1. Financial Report <i>Secretarial Report including membership numbers</i>	MR SA
2. C10 model articles/constitution	MT/TS
3. Membership survey – date of commencement and costings	TS
4. Procedures and protocols, staff appraisal, Trustee training	CWN
5. Judges training	MB
6. Bulletin & Leaflet costs	SA
7. Merchandise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Ongoing and a report will be available for the next meeting</i> 	MR/SA/ CWN
8. Annual Herd Return and herd book	SA
9. Herd book photos	MB
10. Office move	SA
11. Export leaflet	CWN
12. Native Breeds Update	SA/AS
13. Genetics Project meeting	JK
14. President, Rotation & Roles of Trustees	CWN
15. Diary dates and timescale	MR
16. AGM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Smallholder bull – report to next meeting</i> <i>Dexter Cattle Society trademark (Dexter Belt)</i> <i>Sale at Melton and other venues – show booklet production date</i> 	MBan/ SA MB