

Eastern Alpaca Group  
Minutes of Committee Meeting (via Zoom)  
Tuesday 21st December 2021 – 7.30pm

Present:

Simon Ilett (Chair), Shirley Isseyegh (Treasurer/Membership), Harley Laver (Shows), Katherine Shearer (Secretary), Jo Bridge (Welfare), Katy Gilbert (Media)

Apologies: Emma Taylor (Fibre), Sandra Justice (Events),

### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of a meeting held on 16th November 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

### 2. Matters arising not covered by agenda items

There were no matters arising.

### 3. Accounts

Shirley reported that the EAG account contained £12,023.52. There were no payments outstanding. A link to the edited video of the Pasture Management Winter Warmer will be sent to the attendees who were unable to join the webinar on the night. Kath will investigate Dropbox, or an equivalent.

**Action: Kath to edit video and investigate Dropbox for providing video links.**

### 4. BAS/Regional Groups meeting report

Simon reported back to the committee. The meeting was hosted by Neil Payne, who will have responsibility at BAS for liaising with regional groups. The meeting was attended by a number of groups, but not all were represented. There were about 25 people on the zoom call. Discussion of the report from this meeting in ().

- Neil started with a general discussion of what works well, and what groups find difficult. Simon highlighted the importance and value of the active committee members at EAG.
- All regional groups have difficulty getting members to engage, either with events or as volunteers.
- Many groups have large areas to cover.
- It was suggested that groups could join together to provide events (it was felt that this could make journey times for members even more difficult and that some groups would be more proactive than others at organising events).
- Neil plans to put forward to the BAS board the idea that new BAS members could be automatically given a years' free membership of their regional group. This would be funded by BAS.
- There was a request from members of the meeting that the shows levy be reduced. Neil agreed to explore this.
- Neil has a budget that can be used to support regional groups. He discussed a one off payment each year to each group. It was agreed that resource packs might be more useful than extra funds.

- It was suggested that a meeting of welfare reps be held every six months and chaired by Sue Loach. Sue asked for contact details of regional group welfare reps so that she could organise this. Sue will also set up a WhatsApp group for welfare reps. (Emma has sent committee contact details to Sue).
- It was agreed that an equivalent meeting for fibre reps might be useful. (Shirley mentioned that Emma had found this difficult to organise in the past).
- Neil also reminded everyone that there was an emergency welfare kitty available at BAS. (Jo suggested that a fund could be set up for EAG area emergencies as she is regularly given donations from customers who would like to support alpaca welfare. Shirley suggested that the funds received through the Easy Fundraising scheme could be added to the pot. It was agreed that this should be explored).
- Neil asked regional groups to check that their links on BAS are up to date (Kath has done this for the EAG website). He also asked for contact details for committee members (Emma has sent these).
- Another zoom meeting will be held mid January so that Neil can report back on the proposals that he will put to the next BAS board meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Date to be confirmed, but Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm was suggested. (Simon can feed back any ideas to BAS. Simon and Kath will attend).

**Action: Simon will report back to BAS with any ideas. Simon and Kath to attend next regional groups zoom meeting.**

## 5. Events

### b. Christmas Social

Harley has spoken with Ingatestone Wines about ways of reducing the fee of £90 per household for the wine tasting event. It was felt that this was too high as most households would only have one or two members attending. There has been no response from Ingatestone Wines as yet. It was agreed that this event would be taken out of the events schedule given costs and time constraints.

### a. Winter Warmers – Natural Dyes

Jo has been trying to contact Burnt Fen to gather details for the winter warmer on 26<sup>th</sup> January. She will try again after Christmas. It was agreed that the same event fees would be applied as before, so £5 per member and £10 per non EAG member. The webinar is being provided for free by Burnt Fen so an advert in the show catalogue will be offered as a thank you. Shirley suggested that it would be good to have further details so that advertising can start. Katy will post an advert for the webinar on social media between Christmas and New Year.

**Action: Katy to post social media advert for Natural Dyes winter warmer.**

### c. Birthing Workshop (added as an agenda item)

Karin Mullen has responded with details for a birthing workshop in April. The fee would be £620 for a practical workshop (including a birthing booklet for each delegate). Mileage would be about £215 and Karin would need accommodation the night before. All April weekends are available at the moment. It was agreed that dates in mid to late April might work best.

The birthing workshop in 2016 was attended by around 30 people. The fee was £45 for members and £55 for non members. It was suggested that Amy was also asked for a quote. Jo agreed to contact her.

Harley will contact EYFC to see if the venue is available. Katy also offered to host the event at her farm in Cambridgeshire.

**Action: Harley to contact EYFC. Jo to contact Amy.**

#### 6. Website

Kath and Neel Shearer have been working on a members area for the website. EAG members will be given a login and password for access. Kath asked whether the committee were happy that member contact details be sent to Neel Shearer so that he could arrange this. It was agreed that Shirley would send EAG member email contacts.

An online payment system for membership and event fees was being explored. Paypal is currently used by some members to make payments and this could be used for the online system. Kath will arrange to get together via zoom with Shirley and Neel to discuss ways to implement this online.

**Action: Shirley to send contact details to Kath (\*received thank you). Kath to arrange a zoom catch up with Shirley and Neel in the new year.**

#### 7. Any other business

Dates for the East of England Alpaca Show have been booked at Beechwood Equestrian Centre for 2022 and 2023. The fee for 2022 will be the same as 2021. Harley has been sent a contract for the 2022 show and is now waiting for an email contact to give to Sandra so that the catering can be organised. Judges for the shows are to be confirmed. Harley will send dates to BAS.

Simon thanked Kath for making contact with Sam Lane at Cotswold Seeds. He felt that the talk had been very successful. Shirley will send the information sheets provided by Sam to the webinar attendees.

**Action: Harley to send show dates to BAS. Shirley to send pasture management information sheets to webinar attendees.**

#### 8. Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed in the new year.

Please send agenda items to Kath. Possible items for inclusion – winter warmers/volunteer perks questionnaire/live streaming/sponsorship and entry fees/website

KS 23/12/2021