

# **OUESSANT SHEEP SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

## **13th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Date of Meeting:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 1.30pm

**Venue:** Puckrup Hall Hotel, Tewkesbury

**Present:** Antonia Clements (Chair)  
David Clements (Registrar/ Membership Secretary)  
Carolyn Southern (Secretary)  
Jenny Kolot (Treasurer)  
Marie Bennett (Newsletter Editor)  
Peter Tootill (Web Manager)  
Christine Tootill  
Kris Jury  
Victoria Hobin  
Carole Cumino

### **1. Welcome**

1.1. Chair, Antonia Clements welcomed everyone to the meeting, those present, and those listening in either by phone or online.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

2.1. Apologies were received from Sophie & Jenny Todhunter, Susan & David Merriman, Susan & Andrew Chitty, Louise Weeks, Richard Storer, Christine Bamford, Dawn Hill, Anna Kelly, Peter Ridout, Wendy Thompson, Coral Handley & Val Grainger.

### **3. The minutes from the 2017 AGM**

3.1. These were agreed to be a fair and accurate record.

### **4. Matters arising from the minutes**

4.1. There were no matters arising.

### **5. Committee Reports**

#### **5.1. Chairman's Report**

5.1.1. Antonia said that she was persuaded to fill the vacant chairman's position at the last AGM. She is not an expert on Ouessants, or on breed societies, but felt that she could safely report that the Society is in good shape and has made good progress during the year. She was particularly pleased to see the healthy growth in the number of members and was in no doubt that this is due in part to the new website which was launched in April and the new online payments and accounts management system which was launched in August. Together they make it easier for people to join the Society, and for members to manage their memberships.

5.1.2. Antonia hoped to develop the website so that it contains more useful information for members and becomes the website of choice for non-

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members to find out about the breed and to buy Ouessant sheep. She added that healthy membership numbers mean healthy finances; despite some exceptional expenditure this year, we have comfortably balanced the books and the committee sees no need to raise any fees for next year.

5.1.3. She expressed confidence that the Society will continue to grow and, with the major work of reorganizing, and the introduction of new administrative systems behind us, hoped that we can now focus on our sheep and how we might develop, promote and improve the breed in the UK.

### **5.2. Secretary's report**

5.2.1. Carolyn stated that apart from a steady stream of emails from people interested in the breed and want to know more, some asking for their nearest breeder, she also receive many messages directly from the official society Facebook page. The Ouessant breed is becoming more widely known and things can only improve further, with more members attending their local shows.

5.2.2. Her use of the Google Members Map is proving invaluable too, by putting the inquirers postcode in the 'search' section, it takes one directly to the nearest breeder.

5.2.3. Carolyn stated that the teamwork that goes on behind the scenes makes her role as secretary a very easy one.

5.2.4. Antonia as chair formats the online meetings and collates the minutes using amazing organisational skills.

5.2.5. David as registrar sends info on a regular basis, keeping the committee in the loop and letting us know of any new members. In the twelve months since the last AGM it's been exciting to see how quickly the society is growing in membership, in fact so many Welcome Packs have been sent out that Carolyn is now on first name terms with the Post Office staff! The amount of I.T. work alone that David has put in over the last couple of years is staggering.

5.2.6. Jenny's accounting skills are obvious, and it's reassuring to know that as a committee we realise that the accounts are in safe hands.

5.2.7. Thanks go to all the team, including Marie as newsletter editor...which must seem like a thankless task at times, and Sue Chitty as regional rep. I also welcome Val Grainger onto the committee.

### **5.3. Membership report**

5.3.1. David Clements reported that there are currently 121 members of the Society, up from 93 at the 2017 AGM. Of these 104 are full members, 16 Associate Members and 1 is an Honorary Member... and 40 members have joined since the last AGM. He went on to say that the management of memberships has been made very much easier by the adoption of

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PaySubsOnline, and newly joined members agreed that it simplified the process of joining the Society.

### **5.4. Treasurer's Report**

5.4.1. Jenny Kolot stated that at 31st August, the society held cash in Lloyds and Paypal totaling £6667.97. After adjustment for Creditors and Debtors – i.e. payments relating to 2018 not yet made and receipts not yet banked, the balance was £6698.65.

5.4.2. There was a surplus of £274.10 compared with £2655.18 in 2017. This reflects the progress that has been made in the last year.

5.4.3. The new website became a second career for David and the development, testing, training of committee members, and transfer of data accounts for much of the additional spending. He has also implemented a system which makes it possible to join the society, register sheep and pay on-line, and this is already attracting new members. There was a total cost of £1386 for these improvements. The on-line payment and Paypal charge a small percentage of the money they collect and total charges for the year were £73.46.

5.4.4. The breed standard project included a visit to the Isle of Man and came in under budget at £461.

5.4.5. It has been an extremely productive year, and the result is a small surplus of income. The Society is in a secure financial position and holds a healthy bank balance to go forward to undertake the next project.

### **5.5. Budget**

5.5.1. The budget allows for a 10% increase in membership and registration income and corresponding Gift aid, which is currently around 18% of membership receipts.

5.5.2. Most regular costs, e.g. web, postage, finance, have been rounded up to allow for inflation, and £250 has been allocated for miscellaneous costs.

5.5.3. Plans for 2019 include developing an Ouessant show class so provision for buying a trophy and training judges is included in the budget. The other increased cost is for this AGM as we are offering lunch to attendees in recognition of their effort in travelling long distances to Puckrup.

5.5.4. All of this leaves us with a healthy budgeted surplus of £2030 – hoorah!!

### **5.6. Registrar's Report**

5.6.1. David Clements reported that of the 1485 sheep registered to members, 248 were registered and 92 birth-notified in year. He noted that 79 annual surveys were completed, up from 28 last year and that he had been working to correct errors in the flock book, including those in a small number of large flocks that had become out of date. He highlighted the value of kinship

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reports in the selection of rams and said that a few members had already made use of the service.

### 5.7. Regions

5.7.1. Sue Chitty was unavoidably absent from the meeting and there was therefore no report on the regions.

### 5.8. Finance

5.8.1. Jenny Kolot discussed the accounts.

5.8.2. Approval of Accounts for 2018 -The accounts for 2018 were unanimously approved and will now be submitted for independent inspection. David Southern has agreed to do this. The AGM unanimously agreed to record a vote of thanks to Jenny for all the hard work involved in the preparation of a very clear and well-presented set of accounts.

5.8.3. Subscriptions and Fees for 2019 - The meeting unanimously approved the following rates of subscriptions and fees for 2019:

#### **Members Joining**

Full Members from 1 January £30

Full Members from 1 July £20

**Associate Members** £5

#### **Members Renewing**

(subject to completion of Annual Survey & payment by 31st January 2019)

Full Members (if renewed online by Direct Debit) £20

(by all other payment methods) £25

**Fees** (No change)

**Transfers of Ownership** No Charge

**Birth Notifications** No Charge

**Kinship Reports** No Charge

**Registrations - Lambs in year of Birth** £5 (£4 online)

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**Registrations (Late)** £10 (£8 online)

(Previously birth notified ram lambs may be registered within 3 years without penalty)

**Imports** £10

### **6. Election of the Committee**

#### **6.1. Chair**

#### **6.2. Newsletter Editor**

6.2.1. Antonia explained that there are six posts on the committee and two come up for election every year. This year the chair and newsletter editor were due for re-election. The posts were advertised in the newsletter and nominations requested by 7th October. None were received. Both present incumbents said that they were happy to continue and were therefore unanimously elected by the meeting.

6.2.2. The AGM also agreed that the committee should consider making the role of Breed Standard Advisor a member of the committee, in place of that of newsletter editor.

6.2.3. Antonia reported that Jenny was happy to continue to prepare the Society's accounts but that she was no longer able to fulfill other tasks as Treasurer. In the absence of a volunteer to assist with those duties, Antonia would ask the committee to review the allocation of tasks, especially in the light of the introduction of payments by Direct Debit.

### **7. Amendment to Constitution**

7.1. Antonia explained that an amendment to the constitution was necessary to remove the requirement for two committee members to authorize all payments from the Society's bank account. She noted that this was not particularly practical with the committee spread out across the country, and rather meaningless with the majority of transactions now being conducted online. The committee agreed the change earlier this year but ratification by the AGM was required; this was given unanimously.

### **8. Breed Improvement**

8.1. The AGM then held a wide-ranging discussion on the future development of the breed. It was unanimously agreed to ask the Breed Standards Working Group to:

- Develop notes on the breed standard for the benefit of owners, breeders and judges.

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- Consider options for the introduction of an Annex to the flock book for imported sheep without pedigree information.
- It was not felt that confirmation inspections, as practiced on the Continent, would work in the UK. The working group should therefore consider improved recording and other measures to improve quality.
- Consider other options for improving awareness and education.
- Report back regularly to the committee and to the next AGM.

### **9. Any Other Business**

- 9.1. A member asked if the hard-working committee could be rewarded by, for example, having their subscriptions to the Society waived. The AGM agreed, by a majority vote, to approve this in principle, subject to further investigation of tax and charitable status issues.
- 9.2. Carolyn Southern asked for clarification of membership status, following an enquiry from the United States. After some discussion, the AGM unanimously agreed that full membership of the Society should only be available to those that reside in the UK (plus IoM and Ch.Is). Associate membership would be available regardless of location. The Committee would review the status of the Republic of Ireland following Brexit.
- 9.3. Peter Tootill proposed that the Society's web hosting package be upgraded to provide greater storage for the new website and email accounts. This was unanimously agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3pm.

The date and venue of the 2019 AGM to be arranged.