

**Minutes of the Albion Cattle Society Committee Meeting**

**Via Zoom on 5th December 2021**

Committee Members present at the meeting: John Ball (Chairman) & Lynn Parks (Treasurer), Susannah Mannerings (Secretary), Lili Kersey (Registrations) John Pring, Mike Caunter, Jane Bonsall, Leona and Aimee Mills.

Apologies were received from Colin Nankervis.

***Bank account update*** – LP feels that she has exhausted all options of trying to open a new account at this current time with only Lloyds Bank offering hope to sort this in the new year. The out-dated old Nationwide account was compulsorily closed on 26/11/21 therefore £7036.75 was transferred into the private account of LP. No-one, including LP is happy with this situation. LM asked if ACS could be added to the name of the account. SM said it was important to have two signatories in case something happened to LP. LM suggested a caveat be drawn up by LP, checked by the committee & sent to all members along with the subscription invoice which explained this temporary situation; this was unanimously agreed.

***Data protection-*** J Ball explained that the GDPR statement he previously sent round was based on advice from Cheshire Show personnel. MC suggested this was sent out with the caveat & subscription letters; unanimously agreed. SM said the ACS membership form based on Grassroots advice will be used going forward for new members.

***Membership system*** – LP stated that a high percentage of memberships are not being renewed which may be due to the current system which is about to be improved. JP felt that the list looked out of date. J Ball emphasised that all memberships are individual, not per family. LM suggested that SM, LP & LK use Excel 365 to share & update the member list. LK pointed out that only paid-up members can register calves & suggested using colours to highlight or query membership payments.

***Choice of bull for RBST funding***- Scoutbeck Magnum is the bull selected. J Ball commented that the bull had improved from his original inspection to when seen at the centenary w/e and that the high health status of the Leam herd may help with the application. LK & SM will send details of the bull to Tom Blunt (RBST.) SM asked LM & AM if they knew suitable timings; not known yet. LK suggested the funding from RBST will help decide if the bull goes to stud or is an on-farm collection. J Ball asked if there would be interest in the dam of the other selected bull who was castrated, in-calf to Magnum, if she had a bull calf. MC said perhaps LK could advise on the most suitable mating for this desirable family line.

**Bull inspections**- LK reported that currently there are 43 pedigree males registered; which seems a high number. MC advised educating members along with kinship reports. SM asked if the registration fee should be higher so members think before registering bulls; this will be decided at a later date.

ACS has already voted that inspections for AI bulls are carried out & 4 generations are needed before registering a bull from a foundation cow. SM will ask CNK to inspect Sp Isaiah.

**Registering steers-**LK said that she has had many enquiries about this; J Ball stated he was in favour to provide provenance for beef production, everyone agreed. SM asked if the ACS logo could be on the certificate; MC said he had seen certificates with logos. It was unanimously agreed to go ahead with this and charge £5 per certificate.

**Update for the society rules**- MC reported that they are taking shape, using previous Blue Albion herd books and looking at other societies. When ready, he intends to ask the relevant members of the committee to inspect relevant sections; after feedback from this, MC would be ready to put a set of rules in front of the committee for inspection. SM added that rules that have been made during meetings would have to be added in. MC would also form the constitution which can basically be taken from the original herd books. J Ball thanked MC.

***DEFRA / FAnGR application*** – SM reported that this would carry on in the new year, she will send LK data to add to the database, though much of it may prove irrelevant, some may add more evidence of continual pedigree existence for 40 years.

**Fund raising**- SM reported that £2500 was raised from the Facebook centenary auction, also the last few of the 100 calendars printed were sold during this meeting which was excellent news. J Bonsall may work on the design of a (blue) Albion cuddly cow as there are now 3 farms open to the public keeping Albions, with Melissa Underwood from Chatsworth Farmyard actively wanting to stock Albion toys in her shop.

***AOB* –** LK reported that not all slips on pedigree certificates are being sent in on transfers. LK J Ball, LP. LM & AM all feel that a paper trail is vital. SM said that Libby Henson was trying to persuade ACS to allow member access to Grassroots database which has an automatic system for registrations, transfers, annual surveys and invoicing & that the agricultural director of Morrisons wanted to help ACS with funding. MC explained how ACS still had control, only issuing certificates when payment was received. J Ball said that this was something to consider after the rules were agreed.

-LM asked if meeting minutes could be sent out earlier, it was agreed to send them within a fortnight of each meeting.

The meeting ended without deciding on a date for the next meeting.