

# Forth Valley and West Fife Smallholders Association

7.00pm 12<sup>th</sup> November 2008

Dumyat Centre, Menstrie.

## Present:

Rosemary Champion, Carol & Graham Johnson, Jo Lennon, Gillian Mackay, David Campbell, Andrew & Janis Sharpe.

## Apologies:

Clare Hebbert, Alli Hibbert, Jane Coull.

## Tabled Papers:

None.

### 1. Minute of meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

Agreed.

### 2. Matters Arising

Scottish Rural Development Fund – it was noted that some members are considering applying to the fund.

Wee Green Market – Jo attended the market but cannot do so regularly as it clashes with the Kippen Market. Things are going well at Kippen Market and Jo gave details .

### 3. Financial Update (treasurer)

Andrew confirmed that there is £205.48 in the account. Rosemary explained that the Association is trying to maximise funds by using cheaper lets. The biggest expense so far has been buying gifts for speakers.

### 4. Funding Opportunities

There was a discussion about the Awards For All application. Suggestions include; laptop, display boards, video equipment, venue hire, advertising, training, trailer, transport, DVD's, trip e.g. to a smallholder show either in Wales or Yorkshire.

Could we twin with a smallholder association in England? – benefits might include accommodation, experience etc.

Action – Rosemary to contact Oatridge and Elmwood College for costings.

Ideas for training courses included; lambing, butcher, chainsaw maintenance, weaving, grassland management, bracken management, pig breeding, animal first aid, beekeeping, wood working.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to put round a survey to find out what resources members have and would like to share. Suggestions include; machinery ring, DVDs, books etc. Opportunities from this might include a DVD night, lending library, goat/lets system, working parties. If we also find out what members would like to have then this could be included in a grant application.

Action – Carol to put survey round mailing list of members.

Other suggestions to raise funds included:

- 2009 Calendar. It was agreed that the first calendar would be entitled “The Essence Of Smallholding”. It could include useful dates etc. Action – members to email Carol with suitable pictures for the calendar.
- Christmas Card. Clare was volunteered to produce a smallholding Christmas card.
- Website enhancement, include security (password) for members to get access to information, tool share, lending library etc. This might bring in new members. Action – Dan to look at what can be developed.
- Sponsorship of newsletters.

#### 5. Events, Speakers, Visits.

Visit suggestions included; Kate Sankey, Susan Mackie (Rare Breed Survival Trust). Action – Carol to email round for suggestions. Previous suggestions included; Scottish Wool Centre, Pillars Of Hercules (Organic), Centre For Alternative Technologies.

Suggested events: Summer – shearing, work parties, beer making, willow weaving (wattle hurdles).

Suggested speakers topics: Paths For All, Business VAT, Records & Medication (Animal Health Divisional Office), Planning Rules & Regulations, Health & Safety (HSE – manual handling, machinery, quad bike etc), Beekeeping (Magnus Peterson – Stirling Beekeepers Association), Animal welfare (SSPCA).

Provisional dates were suggested for next years programme, to be agreed at the AGM.

#### 6. AGM

Date, time and venue were all discussed. Action – Carol to contact Coffee Bothy and put out Newsletter to members confirming details.

#### 7. AOB

Newsletter – Carol to include link to Hugh FW Landshare initiative.  
Secret Santa at AGM – Carol to find out who would like to participate.

#### 8. Show And Tell

There followed an informative and amusing discussion about what members had been up to since the last meeting.

#### 9. DONM - 10/12/08 – AGM