

MINUTES OF STECS TRUSTEE MEETING

Held on Sunday 22nd April 2018
Hasland Village Hall, Eastwood Park, Hasland, Chesterfield, S41 0AY

In attendance: Joy Gower, Karl Hahm, Margaret Mabon, Catherine Marchbank, Gillian Simms and Tracey Smith

1. Apologies.

Barbara Boyce and Sheila Maw had other commitments which prevented their attendance.

Karl Hahm chaired the meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on Sunday 18th February 2018.

The minutes from the last meeting had been circulated by Karl Hahm beforehand. There were no further comments or questions arising.

It was therefore proposed by Karl Hahm, and seconded by Gillian Simms, that the minutes be accepted as is, without alteration. Those trustees who had been in attendance at the February 2018 meeting unanimously agreed to approve the minutes. Karl Hahm would sign the minutes.

3. Actions and matters arising from the previous minutes.

3.1. Update on sale of donated items on eBay

Catherine Marchbank had spoken to STECS member [REDACTED] and asked if she would be happy to organise the sale of donated items on eBay. [REDACTED] had confirmed that she was happy to do this. The items would be sold on the STECS eBay account. The donated items which were more appropriate to sell on eBay (rather than sell at an event with limited attendance) were mainly high quality clothing.

Action: Action carried forward. Catherine Marchbank to work with member [REDACTED] to sell items on eBay.

3.2. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] had submitted an application for the position of chairman prior to the previous trustee meeting on 18th February 2018. The application required a proposer and seconder, and [REDACTED] stated that if there was another candidate for the position he would not stand.

Karl Hahm had contacted [REDACTED] and advised him that there was another candidate for the chairman vacancy. [REDACTED] therefore withdrew his application.

Matter closed.

3.3. Update on Northern Ireland re-homing vacancy

The vacancy in Northern Ireland remains unfilled. However there had been some interest from a lady who lived in County Wicklow, Eire, and a gentleman who lived in Scotland and who regularly travelled to Northern Ireland. In addition, Karen Clayton was now back on board and helping with rehoming. She still had several contacts in Ireland.

Action: Action carried forward. Catherine Marchbank and Gillian Simms to continue search for suitable volunteer to take responsibility for rehoming in Northern Ireland.

3.4. Outcome of contact with re-homers whose membership had expired

Karl Hahm had written to the seven volunteers who had failed to renew their 2018 membership and (1) invited them to renew, and (2) advised them that their names would be removed from the list if they did not renew.

Only [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] confirmed that they wished to remain as volunteers and members. No response from any of the others was received. Gillian Simms confirmed that the “non responses” had been removed from the volunteers’ list.

Action closed.

3.5. Update on amendment and reprint of re-homing paperwork

Catherine Marchbank was currently obtaining quotes for the printing. The agreed amendments to the form were:

- Amend the contact email address
- Include a privacy statement in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection legislation
- Add a note to advise that Husse Pet Foods would contact them with the offer to trial their product.

Action: Action carried forward. Gillian Simms to update form. Catherine Marchbank to organise printing.

3.6. Update on new £85,000 savings account with CAF

Karl Hahm confirmed that the application to invest £85,000 in a savings account with Shawbrook Bank (via the Charities Aid Foundation) had been completed. There had been no issues. The account was fixed for 12 months and paid 1.29%. Interest was paid monthly into the bank account.

Action closed.

3.7. Update on amendment to Governing Document

Karl Hahm confirmed that the Governing Document had now been updated to:

- (1) Reduce the number of trustees to nine.
- (2) Add a clause to make it necessary for the members to ratify the appointment of a trustee if their application was unopposed.

The updated document had been placed on the STECS website, and lodged with the Charity Commissions in England and Scotland. There were no issues.

Action closed.

3.8. Update on discussions and agreement with Husse

Tracey Smith advised that she had spoken to Husse who confirmed that each time they were notified of a new rehoming they would:

- Contact the adoptee
- Offer them a trial 1.5kg or 2.0kg bag of food for £4.99
- Offer them a 10% discount on their first subsequent order

Husse had requested that the adoptees should be advised by STECS that they (the adoptee) will be contacted by Husse. It was agreed that this therefore needed adding to the rehoming paperwork (see 3.5 above).

Action closed.

3.9. Raffle of Garden Party print on Facebook

Patch Wheatley had donated a print of his Garden Party painting to STECS. It had previously been agreed that this should be raffled on FaceBook. After some discussion it was agreed that:

- 50 tickets at £2 each would be offered.
- Payment could be made to the personal PayPal account of Gillian Simms, and she will then pay the money to STECS.
- The raffle would be held later in the summer in the run up to the Garden Party on 11th August 2018. This would help with promoting the event.

Action: Action carried forward. Gillian Simms to advertise and raffle the print on the STECS FB page.

4. Welfare update general update (Catherine Marchbank)

Year to date STECS had rescued 16 dogs.

The most recent rescue is a Scottie called Bobby who was handed over to STECS by a rescue organisation in Sunderland called "Happier Days for Strays". He was being rehomed in

Scotland. Gillian Simms asked if the trustees would be willing to make a small donation of £50 to “Happier Days for Strays” for thanking them for handing over Bobby. Catherine Marchbank stated that it was very important that we work with other rescue organisations to try and get any Scotties handed over to STECS. However the RSPCA and Dogs Trust will not hand over dogs to STECS as Scotties are good publicity for them and are generally easier to rehome than cross breeds. The donation was agreed unanimously by the trustees.

Action Karl Hahm to make a payment of £50 to “Happier Days for Strays”.

5. Treasurer update (Karl Hahm)

Karl Hahm informed the meeting that a large legacy amounting to £80,646.42 had been received from the estate of Jean Wallis (who had resided in Devon). This was in addition to a £10,000.00 interim payment received from her estate in 2017.

Number of new members year to date = 33.

At the start of 2018 there were 73 Life Members. A life membership could have been purchased for as little as £20 back in 1993. In addition, the STECS founder and former secretary Nellie Holland, apparently often awarded people life membership at her sole discretion. Karl had used the Spring Newsletter to send a phishing letter to 47 inactive life members (i.e. they did not pay a voluntary subscription and had not made any donations for at least the last eight years). The letter asked the recipients to confirm that they wished to remain members and if so ensure that their personal details were up to date. To date there had been 12 responses reconfirming membership (along with three donations) and one response asking to be removed. The deadline for response was 31st July 2018, after which, any non-responses would be automatically removed.

6. AGM preparation

It was agreed that in the absence of a chairman and president, the remaining two Officers, Karl Hahm and Catherine Marchbank, would chair the meeting.

Sheila Maw had written and submitted a President’s report. Tracey Smith volunteered to read this out on her behalf. Tracey would also read out the feedback on bullying which would follow immediately after she had read the President’s report.

The ratification of the four Officers would each require a yes/no vote. In accordance with the Governing Document this needed to be done by secret ballot. It was agreed that Paul and Christine Yates would be invited to count the votes.

Catherine Marchbank had donated a bottle of Black and White whisky to be raffled at the AGM. It was agreed that there was no need for a second prize. Gillian Simms volunteered to sell the raffle tickets.

7. Events Planning

7.1 Christmas Party

After some discussion it was agreed that STECS should once again hold their 2018 Christmas Party at Hasland. However the space taken up by the stallholders needed to be reduced so that there was more room for the attendees to sit. Joy Gower offered to do a table plan once she knew what stalls would be attending. It was also agreed that the party should be held on the last Sunday of November, or if that date is not available, it should be held the following Sunday in early December (subject to Hall availability).

Action Joy Gower to book Hasland Hall for the Christmas Party.

7.2 Scottish Gathering

The Scottish Gathering on 20th May 2018 had been promoted on Facebook and there appeared to be a lot of interest and pledges of attendance. Margaret Mabon confirmed that she and Paul would be attending and they would be willing to run a tombola.

The raffle was discussed and it was agreed that the Scottie-shaped bag donated by Radley should be the main prize. It was also agreed that Husse should be invited to attend if they wished.

Action Tracey Smith to invite Husse to have a trade stand at the Scottish Gathering.

7.3 Annual Garden Party

It had been agreed at the September 2017 trustee meeting that more tables needed to be purchased for the 2018 party. This action was taken by Catherine Marchbank.

Action: Cath Marchbank to purchase some more tables.

8. Newsletter

Feedback on the Spring 2018 Newsletter had been very positive. No adverse criticism had been received.

It was agreed that the Autumn 2018 Newsletter needed to be posted out in late September or early October. To date there had been a commitment from three members to provide articles on their STECS rescues. It was also discussed and agreed that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] should be invited to write about her recent rescue and rehoming of [REDACTED].

Action: Karl Hahm to ask [REDACTED] if she would contribute an article on the rescue of [REDACTED].

9. Any other business (AOB)

9.1 STECS shirts

It was agreed that there would be no charge to the individuals who had been provided with the STECS logo shirts at Crufts. The cost of the shirts would be expensed to "Event" costs.

9.2 Crufts 2018

Following Crufts, a letter had been received from the Kennel Club which read:

"We are most grateful to the Scottish Terrier Emergency Care Scheme, its volunteers and dogs for taking part in the Kennel Club's "Find a Rescue Dog" stand at Crufts this year. Your team helped make the event a great success and we sincerely appreciate the hard work and effort put in. We very much hope your team enjoyed participating, meeting Prince Michael of Kent and you felt it was a worthwhile event for your organisation."

9.3 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next trustee meeting would be held on Saturday 29th September 2018. The meeting will be at Catherine Marchbank's house. Meeting start 11.30.

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