



MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE CAT FANCY**

Friday, 2 October 2020 by videoconference



Present: Mr John Hansson - Chairman
Mr Sean Farrell - (Vice-Chairman)

Mr Steve Crow	Mrs Hilary Dean
Ms Sandra Devereux	Mrs Rosemary Fisher
Mr Thomas Goss	Mrs Shelagh Heavens
Mrs Catherine Kaye	Mrs Jen Lacey
Mrs Heather McRae	Mrs Elaine Robinson
Mrs Lisa Robinson-Talboys	Ms Lyndsey Robinson

In attendance: The Office Manager, Denise Williams (OM)

BD4016 MEETING INTRODUCTION

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
 - 1.1 Apologies had been received from Drs Collin and Eyres, and Mrs Ashmore could not join because of connection problems. All other Board members were present for most of the time with the occasional break for one or two because of loss of connection.
- 2. Chairman's opening remarks**
 - 2.1 There was an initial wait for people to get connected and join the meeting, with checks on whether some were delayed or could not attend, so the meeting began around 11.20am,
 - 2.2 There were no introductory remarks.

BD4017 FINANCE

Proposed change to the practitioners who examine the company accounts (BD4008.6)

- 1. Summary of dissatisfaction with Monahans**
 - 1.1 The bookkeeper had reported a significant price rise for Monahans services in 2020 which had led her to discuss provision and costs with other companies and pass on the detail of these to the Finance Committee.
 - 1.2 The Vice-Chair highlighted these figures for accountancy services to the Board:
2017 - £4950 + VAT 2016 accounts
2018 - £5200 + VAT 2017 accounts
2019 - £13505 + VAT Includes full audit 2018 accounts
2020 - £8558 + VAT 2019 accounts - a 60%+ increase on 2018, and 4 year total of £32,213
 - 1.3 The reason given for the 2020 increase was the time taken to deal with enquiries, but most of these related to the queries on, and correction of, mistakes made by Monahans that had to be out pointed to to them.
 - 1.4 Response time from Monahans was slow, and it was not always possible to speak to the person with the relevant information, despite her being present in the office to pass on the detail via a junior. **INFO**
- 2. Report on the meeting with Michelle Ferris of Albert Goodman (GCCF Officers, OM and bookkeeper)**
 - 2.1 The Vice-Chair reported that he had checked the company and ascertained it had been established for over 154 years and had over 300 employees. Therefore there was a solid background and reputation to maintain.
 - 2.2 Both Officers commented on how thoroughly Ms Ferris had researched GCCF, and that she had an interest in, and good knowledge of, the not-for-profit sector.
 - 2.3 It had been checked that she was aware she would have to present a financial report on the company to Council annually. She had been willing to do this and was confident of her ability to do so.
 - 2.4 It was noted that the price for the examination of the accounts required, inclusive of 'limited procedures for scrutiny' annually, a service that provided some audit level assessment to one section of the accounts, would be well under half the cost of Monahans charge in 2020.
 - 2.5 It seemed that they wanted GCCF to do business with them as a fixed price was offered for three years.
 - 2.6 Board members had queries on this, but it was established that the fixed price did not mean that GCCF was tied into a deal with Albert Goodman for three years. There was no penalty if a change was required after one or two years, and it was understood that Council appointed an examiner on an annual basis at the Electoral Meeting as was required by the ByeLaws.
 - 2.7 Assurance had been given at this meeting that Leanne (GCCF bookkeeper) would not have to consult with a variety of different people if she wanted advice. The account would be looked after by one person. Also, charges would not be made for mistakes by AG and any additional costs would be itemised.
- 3. The proposal and action**
 - 3.1 It was to be proposed to delegates that Albert Goodman should examine the company accounts in 2020, and explained to them that a fixed price had been offered for this service for a three year period, although it remained the right of Council to consider the examiners of the accounts annually.
 - 3.2 A brief rationale to explain the recommended change from Monahans would be supplied.

- 3.3 This would be circulated to delegates in an email (or by post for 3) and they would be given the 28 day period for consideration as had been stipulated in the ByeLaw changes to deal with the cancellation of the 2020 Electoral meeting. There would have to be objections from 50%+ for the change not to take place.
- 3.4 Notification would also be posted on the GCCF website so that the club officers and members of the cat fancy generally were informed.
- 3.5 This proposal and procedure were proposed by SC and seconded by SF. It was agreed unanimously.
- 3.6 It was also reported that the Byelaws needed to be amended to delete any references to 'audit' and 'auditors', as these terms carried specific legal meaning. Michelle had picked up on this and requested it to be reviewed. An amendment would be proposed to Council when possible.

Actions: draft of the proposal and letter

delegate circulation

website publication

byelaw amendment draft for the next Council agenda

JL

OM

RF

JL

The Vice-Chair also asked that a special vote of thanks to Leanne would be put on record and passed on. She had been the instigator of the need for change and had provided all the research required to the point of arranging the conference call that has taken place between the Officers, the Office Manager and herself and Michelle Ferris, the previous day.

Action: there was commitment to do this

OM

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was suggested that all Board members should be given the option of 23 October and 30 October 2020 for a video-conference at 11am. The date chosen would be the one most preferred.

If this was 30 October the OM would not be present and the Vice-Chair would be the zoom administrator.

Action: Email of dates and collation

OM

The meeting finished at 11.45 pm.