

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Report from the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 12th September 2016 at The Forge, Stoneleigh

The following Trustees were present:

Mrs C Bigge, Mr D Brewer (Chairman), Mrs S Burger, Mr M Dewhurst, Mrs F Dickson, Mr T Hickman, Mr N Hill (Vice Chairman), Mrs S Poulter, Mrs D Sykes, Mr D Wallace (Vice Chairman) and Mrs April Westcott.

Mrs S Mansell (Treasurer) and Mrs S McGeever (Secretary) were also in attendance.

Apologies for absence had been received from Miss S Harris and Mrs A Western (President).

In accordance with meeting protocol, the Trustees noted that they were obliged to make a declaration of interest should any matter discussed potentially affect them directly. It was also noted that under the Data Protection Act certain items discussed should remain confidential.

The Minutes of the meeting on 6th June were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions by all those who had been present.

The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

The following items were discussed:

Minimum Operating Procedures for Passport Issuing Offices, the new Central Equine Database and the new Zootech legislation scheduled for implementation in November 2018.

The Society's policies in respect of the Trustees, Managing Volunteers, Complaints and Vulnerable Beneficiaries were approved. Work on other policies was ongoing.

The Genome Project was ongoing and the committee noted that Dr. Sarah Blott from Nottingham University had given a talk at Exmoor House entitled 'How genetic science can help conserve and sustain the Exmoor Pony'. Dr. Blott, one of the country's leading experts, outlined the proposed study and explained ways in which studying the ponies at the DNA level could potentially help in conserving the breed. She explained her initial findings following analysis of the Stud Book - a necessary precursor to selecting a sample of Exmoor ponies for the genome study. Her conclusions so far were that the Exmoor pony breed was in good shape: the level of in-breeding was being held stable, a broad representation of genetic diversity was being maintained and that the population was being well-managed genetically. This was good news for the Exmoor Pony Society.

The Young Judge's Competition continued to go from strength to strength and plans for 2017 would be announced shortly.

The format of the Pony of the Year Competition had been revised and details would be published on the website and facebook pages.

The new website was up and running and work was ongoing to provide a member's only area compliant with the new Data Protection Act. Members would be asked to provide consent through the website, autumn newsletter and contact with Area Representatives.

This Exmoor Pony Festival, 'From Gather to Glory', had run throughout August and in the main events had been well attended. The format and events for 2017 were under discussion.

The next three committee dates would be

3rd December 2016

27th February 2017

5th June 2017