

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 27th February 2017 at The Rest & Be Thankful, Exmoor

Present:

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

Mrs S Mansell (Treasurer), Mrs S McGeever (Secretary) and Mrs Clare Phillips (Breed Show Secretary) were also in attendance.

Mr David Brewer opened the meeting at 11.00am and thanked everyone present for attending the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs A Western (President).

2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

It was noted that should anyone feel that they should declare an interest in any topic being discussed they would do so and that the business carried out during the meeting would remain confidential unless otherwise decided upon during the meeting.

The Chairman advised that it was again of the utmost importance that all members of the committee respected the confidentiality of the meeting.

3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 16th January 2017.

The Minutes of the meeting on 16th January 2017 were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions by all those who had been present.

The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising (*pertaining to the agenda for this meeting*)

The Secretary updated the committee on progress on matter arising as given in her report.

6. Genome Project

The Project Officer updated the Trustees on the Exmoor Pony Society's role in the Genome Project and progress to date. It was hoped all samples would be collected by the end of March and that the project would take a further 12-18 months to complete.

Mrs Sarah Bryan had taken over from Mr Nigel Stone as Chief Executive Officer of the Exmoor National Park Authority and no further meetings held been held to date.

7. Inspection/Registration Procedures and Costings/Fees

Following the Trustees full review of the inspection and registration procedures as currently detailed in the Society's Rules and the related costs and fees at its meeting on 16th January 2017, the wording for the proposals to go forward to the AGM were ratified at the February meeting and would be included in the 2017 AGM booklet along with the appropriate voting forms.

In order to allow the membership to vote on the issue of white soles, the Committee proposed:

Rule 6 – Breed Standard

would be amended to:

7. Legs: Clean and short, with neat hard uniformly dark hoof walls

A true white sole was an eruption on the sole of the foot and should not be interpreted as a pale sole – this change would mean that inspectors no longer picked up feet to inspect the soles.

It was not felt that any further clarifications were required in respect of the Breed Standard and the definition of coat colour.

Amend Rule 8 - Pony Registration

With effect from 2018, all foals would be DNA parentage tested prior to entry in the studbook.

In this respect, the registration charge would be £50 and the inspection fee would be £5 per foal.

And:

A new section added to read:

‘In exceptional circumstances as decided by the Committee, the Secretary could register a pony into Section I or Section X as appropriate on receipt of paperwork whereby a vet had microchipped, completed a Society question form and silhouette, photographs of the pony had been submitted and parentage had been verified by DNA.’

And with respect to transfers

New 8 (k)

With the exception of foal transfers undertaken at the time of registration and before the passport is issued, notification of sale and the payment of any applicable transfer fee will be the responsibility of the owner listed on the database.

Amend Rule 10 – Branding

This rule would be amended to bring it in line with current legislation.

Discussion Document

It was agreed that the discussion document would be sent out with the AGM paperwork, it was important that the Committee received the views of the membership. Each document would be numbered.

8. Reports

Secretary’s Report

The Secretary’s report was accepted as presented to the Committee.

With regard to inspections, all costs associated with inspections should be charged for and paid prior to the inspection day.

Finance Report

It was proposed by Mrs Poulter, seconded by Mrs Burger and unanimously agreed that the Finance Report and Income and Expenditure would be included in the AGM booklet with a note that members could request a full set of the accounts from The Secretary. The full accounts would be provided to the Charity Commission and Company’s House.

Breed Show Report

Mrs Clare Phillips advised that a meeting had taken place with the Chairman of the D&S Committee, David Brewer and herself with the aim of incorporating the Exmoor classes more into the show. The HOYS class would take place in the main ring and once again the parade would take place at 3pm.

Show Secretary Report

Mrs Dickson advised that a list of shows had been provided to the Secretary and there were approximately 6 more to be affiliate.

Project Report

Mrs Mansell advised there were no ongoing projects.

Honorariums

Mr Brewer as Chairman thanked the Secretary and Treasurer for their continued support given the Society’s limited finances.

9. Society policies in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission

It was agreed that Trustees would consider the Conflict of Interest policy at the next meeting.

It was also noted that an answer was awaited from DEFRA as to whether or not a Passport Issuing Office could be a Charitable Incorporate Organisation or whether it had to be a limited company.

10. Area Representatives

Mrs Burger and Mrs Sykes reported on the areas and advised that a number of proposals would be brought to the next meeting.

It was agreed that a meeting of Area Reps should be held on the day of the AGM prior to the Stallion Parade.

11. Young Judge's Competition

Mrs April Westcott advised that they were putting in place training days with Pam Cox and setting the dates for the area competitions.

It was agreed that competitors did not have to be a member of the EPS to enter the competition but all those reaching the final would need to take either Junior or Student membership at £10. It was also agreed the passes to Exford Showground would be obtained for competitors.

12. Marion Williams Bursary

There had been four qualifying riders and of these three had provided a letter of application to the Committee.

The letters were read out and it was agreed that the Bursary would be awarded to all three applicants.

13. Website/Facebook

Work was ongoing to keep the website up-to-date and interest in the various Facebook pages.

Pony of the Month would also be re-introduced with entries going to Mrs Burger.

14. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

The Festival would run from 5th August-20th August and the facebook page and website were in the process of being updated.

Rosettes would be presented at the Festival Ride.

15. Centenary Plans

Mrs Dickson advised that a logo had been designed and fund raising activities were planned.

16. Any Other Business

A number of items put forward by members of the Society were discussed and the individuals concerned had been advised of the outcome.

The next two committee dates would be

3rd May 2017 and

5th June 2017

There being no other business, Mr Brewer closed the meeting at 4pm.