

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 25th February at the Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

Present:

Mr D Brewer (Chairman), Dr S Baker, Mrs S Burger, Mrs F Dickson, Mr T Hickman, Mr N Hill, Mrs V Lamb, Mrs G Langdon, Miss J McLaren, Mrs C Phillips and Mr R Taylor.

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

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr M Dewhurst and Mrs S McGeever (Secretary)

In the absence of the secretary it was agreed that Mrs Mansell and Mrs Burger would take the minutes jointly. Miss McLaren asked if minutes were being captured correctly.

2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

It was noted that if anyone feels 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 and those present at the meeting respected the confidentiality of the meeting.

3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda

It was noted that there were a number of additional items to bring forward under any other business.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 3rd December 2018

The Minutes of the meetings on 3rd December 2018 were unanimously agreed as a true record on the proposal of Mr Rob Taylor seconded Mrs Vicky Lamb.

5. Matters Arising (*Major items have been given their own agenda item.*)

Sweet Itch Project

Mr Michael Dewhurst had provided a precis of the report provided by Mrs Ruth Thomas and it was agreed that further research was required with the possibility of some funding from the Society.

Reginald Le Bas Measuring Stick

Dr Sue Baker reported that the installation of a case for the measuring stick had been delayed but would go ahead as and when timescales were agreed with The Lion in Dulverton.

Centenary Stud Book

The quotation from Redpin was noted and discussion ensued around the costs and quantities. Mrs Mansell was of the opinion that orders should be placed in advance with a small number of additional copies for future orders. It was felt that the cost of full colour was prohibitive. It was suggested that other avenues should be explored.

Moorland Inspections

The problems where breeders had chosen not to brand in line with the Pony Number were discussed as this had impacted on the Parentage Verification with the registration numbers quoted not being in line with the records held by the Animal Health Trust. This had resulted in several ponies from one herd having to be sent to Weatherbys in Ireland for checking against the full database. This was likely to take several months. All agreed that the branding tradition should be kept but a solution was required to allow for the brand to identify the pony correctly and this could be discussed by the Inspectors Sub Committee and on the agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting Dates

As the Secretary of 'Friends of Exmoor Ponies' Mrs Mansell made the point that the 'Friends' AGM should be at a Trustee's meeting and to allow for this the meeting should be on a Saturday to enable the 'Friends' directors to attend. For this to happen the meeting date would need to be planned to take account of the shows etc. in September.

6. Items for the AGM

Inspection Rule

The wording below was unanimously agreed.

h)

(i) Any pony registered in Section X of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book at first inspection because it did not meet the required standard will be eligible for a single re-inspection at a later date and after a period of not less than 6 months.

(ii) In the event of a change to the Breed Standard, any pony registered in Section X of the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book which did not meet the required Breed Standard valid at the time of re-inspection will be eligible for a single further re-inspection in relation to the change to the Breed Standard.

Showing Rule Amendments to the Showing Rule as agreed at the last meeting were discussed and further changes agreed as follows:

13. (a) Only ponies registered in Section 1 of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book may be shown at Exmoor Pony Society shows, affiliated shows or any show governed by the Society's show rules and thus be eligible for Society premiums or awards. In addition, colts 4 years old and over must be in possession of an Exmoor Pony Society Stallion Licence to be shown at such shows.

(b) When showing ponies (In-hand/Ridden/Driven), the following treatments are permitted:

- (i) Clipping of the coat in ponies 4 years of age and over - (blending in of the legs rather than clipping them out, leaving feather in tact)
trimming of the tail in a rough fashion provided the finished length when carried is below the fetlock.
washing and brushing.
application of hoof oil.
- (ii) The following treatments are prohibited:
trimming of mane, forelock, ears and whiskers
plaiting
application of make-up or artificial colouring
attachment of any false hair pieces

(c) All ponies exhibited in "riding" and "performance" classes shall be four years old or over.

(d) Colts and stallions, 2 years and over, must be shown in a suitable bit and have a Bridle Disc.

(e) A member shall not knowingly exhibit a pony bred, previously or currently owned, leased or produced by the judge, his/her immediate family or his/her employer.

It was agreed that the relevant sections, a, b, and d would be voted on individually.

The proposal in the email from Alison Evans regarding an increase in the age for entering the junior Ridden class to include up to 16 years olds was discussed but not agreed as it would no longer be in line with other showing societies. Noted that this was discussed at the previous meeting and Mrs Evans should have been contacted.

7. First Cross Register

Mrs Mansell had expressed concerns about the word 'Licensed' in the First Cross/Part Bred Register as this precluded horses/ponies who had sires where licencing was not a requirement. It was agreed to remove any reference to the sire being a licensed stallion. The sire or dam is to be registered with the EPS. If the sire is an Exmoor pony, he must have an EPS stallion licence.

8. Inspector Training

See attached proposals from the Inspections Sub Group

The proposed changes were agreed with the inclusion of:

Minimum no of inspections to be attended – six

Minimum no of foals to be seen – forty

A senior inspector was defined as having accumulated five years of active inspecting since being appointed to the panel.

It was agreed that inspector training should no longer include branding and that a register of approved branders would be established with any current branders going on to it automatically. Separate training would be arranged when required for anyone wishing to be allowed to brand under the Society's rules. Training to be provided by senior branders and new branders appointed with Trustee's approval. This was proposed by Mrs Dickson, seconded by Miss McLaren.

It was agreed that the inspection records regarding inspector activity should be audited. This to be carried out by the inspections sub group. The inspectors who regularly failed to attend agreed inspections were also discussed and it was agreed that the Sub Group should investigate to find a solution.

Mr Hickman proposed and Dr Baker seconded a proposal that Mrs Burger should remain on the Inspections Sub Group after her term as a Trustee concludes

The Sub Committee were thanked and the training scheme accepted on the proposal by Dr Sue Baker, seconded by Mrs Vicky Lamb and agreed with one abstention.

9. Reports

Secretary's Report

The DEFRA, Zootech Legislation and FANGR/DEFRA paragraphs were noted.

The Document Scanning was considered in detail and the following decisions taken.

Inspection Forms all to be destroyed with the exception of Section X ponies still alive.

Passport applications for First Cross/Part Bred and UR entered on the database to be destroyed.

Registration Certificates destroy but see below.

Destroy Stallion Registrations except where there is a possible re-inspect.

Prefix documentation can be destroyed as it is all retained by the CPR.

Set up documentation for the Charity and Company to be retained.

Signed Annual Reports, AGM & Committee Minutes since 2005 to be scanned.

All other correspondence to be brought to a selected Village Hall the day before the AGM in boxes and each Trustee will have a box to sort through and select possible documents that require retention.

In all cases a small collection, possibly 20, should be retained as historical documents particularly the Registration Certificates.

PR Articles have been published regularly in The Native Pony

It was noted that Exford Show is not listed in the ENPA magazine probably due to it being run by the Devon & Somerset Staghounds. It was suggested that we ask for the EPS Breed Show to be included next year.

HOYS Meeting- Mrs Hill was thanked for attending and her comments noted.

Finance

The Treasurer commented that, as expected, the day to day finances of the Society were of extreme concern as the Society should not be in a loss making situation year on year. Although the reserves were substantial they are not to be seen as income to cover continued losses.

Basic income – Subscriptions, Transfer, Passport and Stallion fees were all down with additional costs for the Newsletter and Website. Increased postage was partly due to the Census and concern was expressed about the increase in Website fees.

The Treasurer raised the question of parentage verification of geldings and in answer to a question made the point that very few breeds routinely parentage test all foals.

In answer to a question the Treasurer said she was unable to provide a figure for unpaid invoices and this resulted in a proposal that she should be responsible for all financial matters including invoicing. It was felt that all aspects of finance should be the responsibility of the Treasurer including receipt of subscriptions.

The Auditor had again made the point in his management letter that the Society Trading Activities were of concern and the Treasurer passed on the comment 'Our Auditor has stressed again that we must not continue to make a loss on our core activities'. He had not sent a letter with his concerns about the long term viability of the normal financial activities of the Society, which would have had to go to all members, but suggested the Treasurer stressed this point. The auditor, in commenting on the £5,000 loss, also noted that the General Fund (Note c on Reserves Policy) is insufficient to cover the annual liabilities of the Society of some £44,000 which must be of concern.

In reporting that £6,000 HBLB Grant would be received shortly the Treasurer stressed that it must be used for activities as required by the HBLB or it could be removed. Had the grant funding for 2018 been given in premiums etc. as it should have been then the loss at the year-end would have been very substantial.

It was noted that PayPal was being set up by Mr Geoff Bryant and his daughter as they had initially instigated it for the Newsletter advertising. It would be available for all income to the Society and funds would be transferred on a monthly basis through a NatWest holding account. This was required as concerns had been expressed about the ongoing fraud attempts on the main account. Online payments could not be made from the main account as two signatures are required.

Once again we are very grateful for the donation of £525 from the Snowdrop Valley team and thank them for their hard work.

Breed Show Secretary/Show

The Schedule will be as last year and, although the layout of the showground will be slightly different, the EPS rings will not alter. Non Exmoor children's riding classes will be further down the field and this will mean such ponies using the gateway from the parking area that the EPS are accustomed to have to ourselves. It was suggested that a sign be erected to make sure children ride their ponies at a walk. There are to be additional Supreme In hand Medal Rosettes – Gold.

Making use of on line entering was discussed. Mrs Dickson had researched websites that offer the facility, one of which was www.eqoevents.co.uk Trustees could look for themselves. Mrs Phillips as Exford show secretary said she may need some help.

Projects

Mrs Mansell had nothing to report except to ask if there was any possibility of assisting the Animal Health Trust by extending the inspection season on the moor. With a very large number of samples, in addition to their normal workload, it was very difficult to provide results within the usual timescales. It was felt that the inspection season could not be lengthened. Mrs Mansell also commented that the AHT are there to 'check' not 'find' parentage and currently there were a number of foals/yearlings awaiting checking through Weatherbys in Ireland. Full database checks can take many months due to their workload.

10. Genome Project

Mrs Mansell confirmed there was nothing to report at this time.

11. EPS Centenary Events

The ideas received by Doctor Sue Baker were discussed and need to be taken forward by a number of volunteers.

Invitation to International Breeders – Agreed

Centenary Dinner – Agreed

Stud Book – Possibly on request with a small number available for the future.

Bampton Fair – No too difficult

Competitions etc. – Yes some funding already received

Centenary Logo – Agreed – competition for the design

Area Events – Yes to be encouraged and include inter-area competition

Clay pigeon shoot – Yes

Treasure Hunt

Sponsored ride/walk

Centenary Quiz

Centenary Fun Day

Exmoor Story Telling

Scientific Symposium

New Enamel Badge – Yes

12. Area Report

Miss Jen McLaren explained that she had suggested to the Area Reps. that they have a 'people' and a 'pony' event each year. It would seem that the Promotional Material that the areas held previously is no longer available and as a minimum they should have one Roller Banner. It was agreed that new Promotional Material should be made available on request and also agreed to re-instate the lists of Area members that had been provided in the past with a minimum of an annual update. It was also felt that notifying Area Reps of new members as they join would enable Reps. to welcome them to the area and let them know what is going on.

The Treasurer made the point that, for the personal reasons of the area reps., two of the areas were not now compatible as they had been in the past. The suggestion was to amend Berkshire, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Wiltshire back to Berkshire, Hampshire and Wiltshire and for Dorset and Somerset (excluding Exmoor) to be reinstated as Dorset, Somerset (excluding Exmoor) and Gloucestershire. Miss McLaren undertook to discuss this with the areas concerned.

The resignation of Yvonne Campbell as the Area Rep. for Somerset/Gloucester was accepted and, although a name was mentioned, it was agreed that further consideration should be given to this.

13. Pony of the Year

14. Young Judge's Competition

It was agreed that support for the Young Judge's Competition had declined and it would therefore be bi-annual.

15. Website/Facebook

Work is continuing on updating the Website.

16. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

Dates and events were noted. The request from the Exmoor National Park Authority to look at a joint Festival with the Heritage Exmoor Pony Festival was not agreed.

17. Review of Charity Policy Documents

To date time hadn't been available for the review.

18. Any Other Business

It was noted that Mrs Sue Burger had taken over the Performance Awards.

The email from Mrs Alison Evans was discussed earlier. See Item 6

Swedish Exmoor Society and German Exmoor Society – Noted

Colt Inspections Following correspondence received from Stephanie Poulter, Ann Nicholls and Yvonne Campbell concerning the need to review the existing colt inspection form, the committee agreed that a sub-committee of Judge Inspectors (Stephanie Poulter, Gill Langdon & Sue Burger) come up with a revised form to present to the committee for approval. The form, attached, was agreed.

Bournefield Damask Rose

Mr Hickman said that due to personal issues it had not been possible to breed from the mare but hoped that would be rectified this year

Jenna Payne – Equine Fair Noted that 'Friends' will no longer attend

Letter from Penny Beattie The Treasurer suggested that she speak to Penny Beattie and explain that it was a Christmas Show and had never been a Foal Show although it was acknowledged that it was usually a first outing for foals. It was noted that a Foal Show, run by other members, could be substituted if necessary.

As Mrs Beattie is in the Somerset not the Exmoor Area it was suggested that events could be run by the Area Rep. or someone else who was prepared to run events.

Geneped Analysis – Michael's notes and those of Libby Henson were accepted. There is an inaccuracy in that 'Sparks' is not available to anyone and the system is only designed for very small populations such as the Cleveland Bay, Eriskay etc. and there is no future in further discussion with RBST, our population is too large. The Treasurer has spoken to Libby Henson and there is only one option. Michael should be allowed

access to the Geneped system on the Society database in the office at times suitable to the Secretary when she is not using it. The Geneped analysis is essential to ensure we are looking after all of our bloodlines. In discussing this reference was made to the difficulties of not having a Society office easily available to trustees, members and the public. It was noted that a Society owned office had been discussed in 2003 but funding had not been available and it was felt that further discussion was required on the possibility of purchasing a dedicated office rather than the current proposed investment of funds.

Alex Ingram - The proposals for Personality of the Year and Unsung Hero were noted and it was agreed that this could be the future for the Dashwood Rosebowl

Society Literature – Mrs Langdon requested new Society literature for the Society and ‘Friends’ use and also to be sold to the ENPA. All agreed that the literature should be updated and, on the proposal of Mr Hill, £1,000 was allocated. It was suggested that Sandy Wooderson be approached to assist with the format and design.

Registration of Boswarthen Denzil

Having fully discussed the circumstances surrounding the registration of Boswarthen Denzil it was unanimously agreed that he should be fully registered on the proposal of Mrs Fiona Dickson.

Tricia Gibson – Rare Bloodlines

All present agreed that this work is extremely important and can only be done if the analysis of the bloodlines is undertaken by Michael Dewhurst and the Society database is made available to him.

Mr & Mrs Westcott

It was unanimously agreed that the request for Mr N and Mrs D Westcott to re-join the Society would not be considered at the present time.

Equine Flu Vaccination

The email from Mrs Wallace regarding the requirement for Flu Vaccination at County shows was discussed but it was felt that asking events to alter their vaccination policy was beyond the remit of the trustees. Schedules for many of the County Shows had already been printed

Helen Dashwood Rose Bowl

It was unanimously agreed that this would be a well deserved award for Joanna Webber on the proposal of Mrs Sue Burger and seconded by Dr Sue Baker. It was agreed to open up nominations to the membership in future years with the Trustees taking the final decision.

Dates of next meetings

1st May 2019

AGM

3rd June 2019

Stoneleigh

Mr Brewer closed the meeting at 5.05pm.