

# EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

## Minutes of the Virtual Committee Meeting held on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020

### Present

Dr Sue Baker (DSB)

Geoff Bryant (GB)

Nigel Hill (NH)

Gill Langdon (GL)

Stephanie Poulter (SP)

Robert Taylor (RT)

Sue Burger (SB)

Toby Hickman (TH)

Vicky Lamb (VL)

Jenna Payne (JP)

Clare Phillips (CP)

David Wallace (DW)

Sue McGeever (Secretary)

The Secretary opened the meeting at 7pm and welcomed all present. The purpose of the meeting was to elect a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman and set the date of the next meeting of the Trustees.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from David Mansell (President) and Sandra Mansell (Treasurer).

### **2. Declaration of Interest/Declaration of Loyalty/Confirmation of Confidentiality**

The Secretary reminded all Trustees of their duty to respect the confidentiality of the meeting and only disseminate information where it had been agreed to do so – this was extremely important and should be adhered to.

### **3. Appointment of the Chairman**

The Secretary called for nominations for the position of Chairman.

TH nominated Nigel Hill (NH) and this was seconded by SB. NH advised he would accept the appointment.

VL nominated David Wallace (DW) and this was seconded by GL. DW advised that he was flattered to have been put forward at Chairman, however, he asked if the nominees would be prepared to re-consider and put their support behind NH given his experience and reach across the Society.

VL advised that she would put her support behind NH and SP asked if DW would consider the position of Vice-Chairman. DW indicated that he would and SP then also put her support behind NH.

There being no other candidate NH was elected Chairman of Trustees with eleven (11) votes for and one (1) abstention.

NH thanked the Trustees for their confidence and he looked forward to working with all the Trustees to take the Society forward.

### **4. Appointment of the Vice-Chairman**

The Secretary called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.

VL nominated David Wallace (DW) and this was seconded by GL. DW accepted the nomination.

CP and SP both thought there should be a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman.

RT was happy for the appointment of three Vice-Chairmen.

SB asked why there had been the need for more than one Vice-Chairman and NH responded that there had been three Vice-Chairmen to spread the workload of day to day decision making. No decisions were taken that affected policy or the rules of the Society which required input from all the Trustees. Having three Vice-Chairman had worked well and allowed for coverage when individuals were unavailable. SB advised she was happy to support the continuation of the three posts.

NH proposed and RT seconded the proposal that the existing Vice-Chairmen Geoff Bryant and Toby Hickman would continue in post and be joined by David Wallace.

GB/TH and DW were elected as Vice-Chairmen with eight (8) votes for and four (4) abstentions.

## **5. Date of next meeting**

The Secretary advised that given the responses received from the Trustees, the next meeting date was proposed as Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

NH and GB both felt that a physical attendance at the first meeting of this group of Trustees was preferential to a virtual meeting particularly given the size of the agenda and the normal length of meetings.

RT felt, having attended the RBST virtual meeting which had lasted a little over two hours, any longer would have made it extremely difficult to maintain concentration.

It was, therefore, agreed that a socially distanced meeting would be held at the Moorland Hall, who had indicated that providing current guidelines remained in place, they would be able to host the event but no kitchen facilities would be available.

The Secretary advised that Walronds had also indicated that they would be able to host a socially distanced meeting should the Moorland Hall not be possible.

The Secretary or one of the Trustees would carry out a test at the Moorland Hall to ensure that the wi-fi would allow Trustees who were unable to attend in person could join the meeting through Microsoft Teams.

It was important that all Trustees were able to join in the proceedings irrespective of their personal circumstances in relation to Covid-19.

The meeting would start at 10am.

NH advised that given current circumstances and with the addition of two meetings a year, it was important that meeting duration was restricted to a most 5 hours.

NH and the Secretary would look at the agenda for the next meeting and it was hoped that this would be circulated in good time.

## **6. Any Other Business**

The Secretary asked if there were any other urgent matters any Trustee wished to raise.

GB advised that he would like to Trustees to consider the content of the 2021 Yearbook. Much of the normal content – show reports, area news, events etc – would not be available. There had been a suggestion to feature Pony of the Year over the past years as part of the centenary celebrations but GB was conscious that the Centenary Committee might also be planning features.

GB advised that there would be challenges in generating income both because of the impending recession and that there were no ponies to showcase. He very much hoped the newsletter would continue to be self-financing. He asked all Trustees to send their suggestions to Sandy Wooderson (Editor) and himself.

The Secretary closed the meeting at 19.56pm.

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**The following business was conducted:**

Nigel Hill was elected Chairman of Trustees.

Geoff Bryant, Toby Hickman and David Wallace were elected as Vice-Chairman.

The date of the next meeting was set as Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The content of the 2021 Yearbook was discussed.