

## EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

### Trustee Minutes from the 'Virtual' Committee Meeting held on Thursday, 8 April 2021

Nigel Hill (NH) Chairman  
Geoff Bryant (GB) Vice-Chairman/Treasurer  
David Wallace (DW) Vice-Chairman/ECHO  
Dr Sue Baker (DSBA)/Scientific Officer  
David Brewer/Policies  
Sue Burger (SB)/Articles and liaison with PR Company  
Stephanie Poulter (SP)/Conservation Grazing Officer  
Claire Phillips (CP)/Breed Show  
Rob Taylor (RT)/DNA and Moorland Communications

Susan McGeever (Secretary)

The Chairman, NH, opened the meeting at 10.04am and thanked everyone for their attendance. It was noted that the Trustees were holding virtual meetings to allow for continued good governance during the Covid pandemic.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the amended wording for Rule 8 (a) (3) (ii) to go forward to the AGM.

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received:  
Toby Hickman (TH) Vice-Chairman  
Vicky Lamb (VL)/Area Rep Liaison Officer  
David Mansell (President)

#### **2. Discussion of Rule 8 (a) (3) (ii)**

NH thanked the Inspection Sub-committee for the work that they had done to re-word Rule 8 (a) (3) (ii) with the intent of clearing up any misunderstandings in the way in which the rule would operate. The amended wording had been circulated to all Trustees. Once approved the wording would go forward to the AGM to be voted on by the membership.

The revised wording read as follows:

(ii) In exceptional circumstances as decided by the committee, the Secretary may register a pony into Section I or Section X, as appropriate, following scrutiny of the relevant paperwork by a panel of three inspectors appointed by the committee, and subject to the parentage being verified by DNA. The Society's "Veterinary Foal Inspection Form" must be completed by an independent, practicing veterinary surgeon, registered by the RCVS, who has regularly attended horses over the preceding five years. The pony must have been microchipped and the silhouette completed. The above documents must be submitted along with high definition colour photographs taken in the presence of the Veterinary Surgeon.

DW asked if any further clarification was required on the text 'independent vet'.

After discussion, it was agreed that the wording should remain as is. Vets were professional individuals who would operate to best practice irrespective of friendships. It would be impossible to determine degrees of independence and most owners would be on first name basis with their vets.

With regard to the wording 'equine vet', it had been the sub-committee's view that the definition to be used should be 'regularly attended horses over the preceding five years' and again it was thought that this wording was sufficient.

DW advised that he was happy with the clarification.

Decision:

SP proposed and RT seconded the proposal that the wording as given above should go forward to the AGM for the membership to vote and this was unanimously agreed.

**Contingency Plan**

The committee fully expected that inspections would be carried out as normal during Autumn 2021 given the Government 'roadmap' out of travel restrictions and lockdowns.

Rule 8 (a) (3) (ii) could be invoked by Trustees should circumstances change and new restrictions be imposed by Government either regionally or nationally.

It should be made as clear as possible to breeders that it is the Society's intention for inspections to be undertaken in their normal format for foals born in 2021. However, the EPS would listen to Government and if circumstances did change then the rules are in place for Trustees to accommodate that change.

This should be conveyed to breeders via website, facebook, Yearbook and with the microchip paperwork pack issued by the Secretary.

Proposed wording:

At the time of going to press, and in the light of the current Government 'roadmap' out of lockdown restrictions, your Committee fully expects inspections to take place in person as is normal practice. Many members/breeders look forward to inspections as they provide personal contact with representatives of the Society and an opportunity to exchange views.

That said, the Committee will take due regard of any unforeseen Government legislation that prevents such inspections and implement temporary measures accordingly.

**Inspection Discussion Day**

NH had spoken to Mrs Maddy Buttner who had agreed to be involved in the planning of the day together with SB. As agreed, the discussion day would be held in September 2021 with the proposed venue being the NFU offices in Stratford.

**Adam Henson/Channel 5**

It was the view of the Committee that the programme had been shown the EPS in good light and had been positive promotion for the breed. Whilst filming had not covered the Rule 8 (a) (3) (ii) inspection procedure in full detail the points put over in the dialogue with regard to the importance of registered Exmoor ponies was good.

It was noted that whilst detailed information had been provided to Adam Henson, he did not necessarily have control over the way in which the programme was edited for broadcast.

**4. Any Other Business**

**Supreme In-Hand Championships**

The EPS had been offered a semi-final class at the Breed Show with the winner going forward to the semi-final at Stoneleigh with the opportunity of qualifying for HOYS. The fee for the class was £150.

The Secretary advised that she had discussed the class being at the Midland Show with the organisers bearing in mind the Breed Show held the M&M qualifier and the Midland Show held the Society's won in-hand championship (Pony of the Year).

NH advised that the Midland Show had independently asked for a semi-final qualifier and were prepared to pay the fee and run a separate class.

Decision:

After discussion, it was agreed that the EPS should advise the organisers that it had always been the Society's intention to hold the class at the Midland Show and, since they had also been given a qualifier, a second qualifier was not required.

### **Trustees/President Elect**

It was noted that an extension of the date for nominations for Trustees and the position of President Elect had been extended. This news would be conveyed to members in the Yearbook and on the Facebook page and website.

### **Friends/Exmoor Pony Chronicles**

SP advised that a notice would be going in the Yearbook calling for members to come forward and assist Friends. Sadly, Friends had lost Gill Langdon and both Tricia Gibson and Sandra Mansell had stepped down.

A request for copies of the Exmoor Pony Chronicles to accompany the Jackie Ablett and Gill Langdon trophy had been received.

Decision:

After discussion, it was agreed that SP would ask the Friends board if they were happy to donate 10 copies of the book to the Society to pass on to the organisers. DSBA undertook to sign these.

It was noted that the price of the book had been reduced to £15 and it was felt that a centenary promotion should be run.

### **Zoom**

It was noted that a number of committee members preferred Zoom as a virtual meeting forum.

Decision:

It was agreed that when the existing TEAMS subscription expired, a Zoom subscription would be purchased.

There being no other business, NH closed the meeting at 11.15 and thanked everyone for their hardwork.

The next meeting would take place on 6 May 2021 and would be a virtual meeting.