

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Trustee Notes from the 'Virtual' Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 9 November 2021

Present:

Nigel Hill (NH) - Chairman
Geoff Bryant (GB) - Vice-Chairperson/Treasurer
Sue Burger (SB) - Articles and liaison with PR Company
David Wallace (DW) - Vice-Chairperson/ECHO
Dr Sue Baker (DSBA) - Scientific Officer
Sheralee Matravers (SM) – Safeguarding Officer
Mark Drummond (MD) – Website
Marcello Riggio (MR) – Academic Advisor
Stephanie Poulter (SP) - Conservation Grazing Officer
Rob Taylor (RT) - DNA and Moorland Communications

Margaret Partridge-Keane (President)
Susan McGeever (Secretary)

NH opened the meeting at 10am and advised that RT would be joining the meeting slightly late.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Vicky Lamb who wished to remain as a Trustee during her convalescence.

2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

No declarations of interest were made by the Trustees present.

GB proposed and DW seconded the motion that trustees should maintain confidentiality in accordance with the instructions of the Chairman and this was unanimously agreed.

3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda

No items of Any Other Business were raised by the Trustees present.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 7 September and 21 September 2021 Minutes of the Trustee's meeting on 7 September 2021

SB asked that Page 8 be amended show that she had not offered to run the online discussion day meetings but was more than happy to assist.

With this amended GB proposed and MD seconded the proposal that the minutes were a true record of proceedings and this was unanimously agreed. The Chairman would sign the minutes at the next available opportunity.

Minutes of the Trustee's meeting on 21 September 2021

SP proposed and SB seconded the proposal that the minutes were a true record of proceedings and this was unanimously agreed. The Chairman would sign the minutes at the next available opportunity.

5. Notification of matters pertaining to: Health & Safety

The Secretary advised that there had been no reported Health & Safety matters since the last meeting.

GDPR

The Secretary advised there had been no reported breaches of data since the last meeting.

Safeguarding

SM advised there had been no reported safeguarding issues since the last meeting.

The Secretary reported that there were a number of outstanding Child Protection Policy forms required from volunteers and a further reminder would be sent.

Welfare

The secretary reported on two welfare issues:

A welfare issue had been reported in Dorset regarding unregistered Exmoor ponies. World Horse Welfare had attended and assisted the owner to ensure that all measures were put in place to ensure the welfare of the ponies going forward and the situation would be monitored.

A welfare issue had been reported in Hampshire regarding registered Exmoor ponies. The registered keeper has now come forward and provided details of the ponies and had taken measures to ameliorate the situation. There is still concern over ragwort in the spring and again the situation will be monitored.

A further potential welfare issue relating to ponies in Derbyshire had been raised on the morning of the meeting and the Secretary was awaiting full details via email and this would be circulated to the Management Committee. It was felt that a local member of the Society could be asked to go to the site in question and assess the situation. The EPS should offer its assistance to ensure the welfare of the ponies and, if necessary, assist with their re-homing.

6. Responsibilities of Trustees/Management Committee and Chairman's Report

Responsibilities of Trustees

The Trustees agreed that Marcello Riggio should have the responsibility and title of Academic Advisor.

MD had volunteered to assist with the website and would also oversee the review of the EPS showing rules.

The Trustees were very much in favour of everyone having a portfolio and it was agreed that all roles were currently covered. However, there would no doubt be additional areas that evolved going forward.

Trustee Reports

NH advised that it was imperative that trustees sent their reports, even if it was to advise that no action had been required/taken, to the Secretary in a timely fashion so that the agenda and report could be circulated two weeks ahead of the meeting.

In this regard, it was also important that Management Committee and other meetings were also held in good time to allow the notes to be circulated with the agenda and report.

Agenda and Secretary's Report

Information to be sent out in a timely fashion.

Minutes

Draft minutes/notes with action points to be sent out in a timely fashion and not more than fourteen days after any meeting.

Secretary's note: For ease of agendas/reporting DNA has been moved to the appropriate agenda item.

7. AGM 2022

The format of the 2022 AGM which would be the 100th AGM was discussed in detail and the following decisions were made:

a) That a survey of members as previously suggested was not feasible at this time.

b) The AGM would take place on Saturday, 7 May 2022.

It was felt this was something members had long asked for and would hopefully increase attendance at the event.

Proposed by SB, seconded by RT and unanimously agreed.

c) A sub-committee made up of DW/SP/SB/GB with NH/RT as advisors would be responsible to organising the AGM and associated events and thus contacting potential venues, catering contractors, identifying accommodation with stabling etc.

d) The proposed format would be:

Saturday, 7 May 2022

Speaker

Buffet lunch (same caterer as 2021)

AGM

Centenary Dinner

Sunday, 8 May 2022

Show to include a stallion parade

This would allow people to come for the weekend but only need one nights accommodation.

MD advised that Barnstaple crematorium could provide a meeting with webcasting. However, it was felt that the venue was not particularly accessible and there were concerns about the option of webcasting given that the AGM was a members only event. The Trustees thanked MD for his offer.

8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report with regard to the PIO role of the EPS and general running of the breed society including attendance as industry related meetings was taken as written.

In addition, it was noted that:

Webinar attendance

76 people booked for the Andy Dell/Debbie Davy webinar 'using science to support the Exmoor pony'

34 people booked for the re-run of the Andy Dell/Debbie Davy webinar
60 people booked for the Jill Graham webinar 'the Exmoor pony'

All events were well received and Jill Graham's presentation was being adapted to go up on YouTube by Lizzie Raspin.

Future webinars

Given the discussion on social media regarding the sale of Exmoor foals and the price they realised, Michael Dewhurst and David Wallace had agreed to undertake a webinar to talk about breeding inground and on the moor together with the associated costs and the importance of the message that the Exmoor pony was a rare native breed and thus had a real value.

Unfortunately, there was still a public perception, fuelled by social media posts, that Exmoor ponies had to be rescued and, therefore, quality foals could be obtained for a small fee.

SPARKS

Following on from the 'using science to support the Exmoor pony' webinar, members had contacted the Society to ask if the SPARKS traffic light system would be made available to breeders.

The Trustees recognised that SPARKS was one the tools the Society could potentially offer its breeders to assist them in their breeding decisions but was by no means the only factor to be taken into consideration.

It was agreed that a meeting should be set up between the Trustees and Debbie Davy, Michael Dewhurst and Gay Sinclair who had all assisted the Society in monitoring the genetic health of the breed to provide guidance to the trustees when making the decision. It was important that the Trustees understood the full scientific picture and it was felt DD/MD and GS could provide a comprehensive appraisal.

Membership

It was noted that the number of outstanding renewals (41) was on a par with the number of new members (40). Thus there had been no significant increase or decrease in membership numbers.

Performance Awards

The awards were run by SB and the Secretary had contacted her to ascertain the prize money and rosette requirement ready for the results of the 2021 Awards. The awards did not run in 2020 due to Covid.

The Ridden Performance Award had, for many years, enjoyed the support of Toby and Evie Hickman and NH was pleased to report that EH would continue that support this award in the memory of her late husband Toby. Prize money was offered from 1st-6th place and this was published on the website.

DW offered to sponsor the rosettes for the:
Adult Performance Awards (one rider/one pony)
Ridden Performance Awards (pony only/no restriction on the number of riders) and the
Junior Performance Awards.

This would be three sets of 1st -6th, three best veteran and approximately 20 specials (number to be confirmed following close of entries). There were normally around 20 entries with some ponies entered in all sections.

Filming

Filming had been set up with Love your Weekend and Countryfile and further filming with Countryfile would take place in the Spring to record the new stallion arriving at Cotswold Country Park.

The publicity was very welcome and MMT and the Miltons had done an excellent job of promoting the breed and NH undertook to speak to Linzi Green and RT undertook to speak to Rex Milton.

The EPS was extremely fortunate to receive such good television coverage with the broadcasts going out on 7 and 28 November respectively.

9. Treasurer's Report

Financial Report

GB apologised for circulating an incorrect financial report for the period ending 31 October which he had generated from Xero – a corrected report showing a current operating deficit of £14196.68 had also been circulated. The deficit included spend which at the year end would be covered by funds in the undesignated reserves currently standing at £270,000. There was approximately £4,000 in the current account.

This expenditure included the decision to invest in external PR support to the tune of £540 per month as the Trustees sought to improve profile of the Society and its aims and objectives. And the decision that the Secretary should move from a contracted role to an employed role that in itself would come at an additional cost which would be met out of reserves

The improved promotion and expending money on administration had to become self-financing and the aims were to grow membership and grow other income streams

The financial report generated did not include the £30,000 investment in the research at Glasgow.

GB advised that three reports would be generated in 2022 overseen by the external accountant to ensure that any financial queries were answered for any given four month period rather than wait to the year end to answer all queries. Interim finance reports would be generated from Zero.

The majority of income was received during the early part of the year and he had added a line to show total income apportioned for 10 month period to end October.

A fundraising sub-committee had been set up and efforts should be to re-doubled to raise more funds. (See agenda item 21)

SP advised that the Friends donation should be £1000 to the Ark Project and £1000 to general society expenditure.

Responding to DSBA, GB advised that the amount of money being used from the reserves would be clear at the year end and made available to Trustees. For example, he would have the numbers for 8 months employment status and the associated costs and the total cost of the PR company. Going forward, he would provide a split as to the monies coming out of the current and reserve accounts and the Trustees would need to agree how costs should be apportioned going forward.

Other financial matters

GB advised that the setting up of Stripe was in progress. This was the payment system needed for Amazon Smile, the chosen 'giving' system and Direct Debits.

Thus by time the winter newsletter was distributed, the direct debit option would be incorporated into the membership renewal form and members would be encouraged to sign up to direct debit payments.

Weblinks/web advertising

GB advised that whilst advertising was offered in the Yearbook, no advertising was currently offered on the website. It was a difficult area to get right and all potential weblinks and advertising would have to be neutral.

EPS Mobile Phone

GB advised that this was the matter of the Secretary having a Society mobile phone.

The Society's emergency number on the answerphone message, website and letterhead related to a personal mobile number that the Secretary had acquired some thirty five years previous. The current contract was SIM only and the phone itself was not a smart phone and, therefore, not suitable for dealing with social media, emails etc. The Society had enjoyed the use of the number for 16 years without charge.

Discussions between the Secretary and members of the management committee had been ongoing and the Secretary felt it would be more appropriate for the Society to have its own mobile phone and number that could be given to a Trustee or appointed Society member in her absence to provide cover.

The management committee had put a big focus on how they managed the Secretary's workload and priorities. Since the Society operated out of the Secretary's home, it was very easy for the working hours to blur with members expecting the office to be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. GB suggested that should the Trustees be mindful to acquire a Society phone, the number should not be openly published.

The Trustees felt that if the phone was the property of the EPS then the number had to be made publicly available in the same way in which the Secretary's own mobile phone number was published.

GB believed the cost would be between £35-40 per month to cover the cost of phone plus usage.

NH/DW believed it would provide an extension of the office and was a sensible investment. The Secretary should be using an EPS phone and not her own.

RT proposed and MR seconded the proposal that the EPS acquire a handset and contract and this was unanimously agreed. The phone could potentially be switched off out of office hours.

MR stepped forward to look at the contracts which were currently available alongside the Secretary and make a purchase based on the best available price and network.

Reserves

In response to MR, GB explained that the majority of the reserve income had come from bequests and had not been designated by the donor. Thus it was within the power of the Trustees to designate the funds for a future purpose.

Sponsorship

In response to MR, GB advised that there currently no sponsorship deals but it was something the Society would be keen to consider depending on nature of sponsor and unintended consequences.

MR suggested that, perhaps, appropriate sponsors could have a stand at the AGM with the cost set to the number of potential attendees. The NFU, for example, might be a suitable company to invite.

10. Yearbook

Yearbook

GB advised that a detailed report for planning in 2022 had been brought to the previous Trustee meeting and work was ongoing.

The autumn newsletter had requested members to make their normal contributions to the year book which was published in March and accompanied the AGM paperwork.

The mailing had also included the call for stud adverts, pony showcases and 'in memoriam'.

Following an email query from a member of the Society and question from NH, GB clarified that the 'in memoriam' referred to ponies and not to people. The cost was £70 or £120 depending on the number of words and photographs. Charges for 'in memoriam' had been brought in following discussion GB had had with the last editor and review of other breed society yearbooks in a bid to make the newsletter self-financing rather than be a drain on Society resources. The fee structure was to ensure that such items did extend to 2000 words. General articles did not incur a charge.

The Trustees agreed that submissions for the 'in memoriam' pony section should be charged.

Whilst VL was keen to remain a Trustee, it was unlikely that she would be able to co-ordinate the area rep reports for the 2022 Yearbook.

After discussion, it was agreed that MPK would contact Cath Wells to see if she might assist this year. It was felt that a Zoom meeting might be beneficial and the possibility of a WhatsApp or Messenger group for the area reps was put forward.

Autumn Newsletter

Due to Covid 19 affecting the editor of the Yearbook who normally compiled the newsletters, GB had made the decision that the autumn newsletter should be subcontracted out at a cost of £99 for the printing of 250 copies and £280 for artwork.

The Autumn Newsletter was sent out on 28 October.

Winter Newsletter

Given that the Society wished to circulate information regarding the centenary gin and Friends would wish to make Christmas sales, the Secretary had suggested that it would be good to send the Winter Newsletter out in early December.

The Newsletter would include the membership renewal information.

NH asked how the Winter Newsletter would be circulated and GB advised it would be the same numbers as before 300 via email and around 200 by post.

11. Show Affiliation Secretary's Report and Judge Training

Show Affiliation Secretary

The Secretary had written a brief outline of the role and sent it to Susannah Muir who had expressed an interest in taking on the role alongside that of Pony of the Year.

A Zoom meeting had been set up for Friday 12 November to discuss the role in more detail.

Pony of the Year

1. Premiums

GB undertook to provide the cost of providing the premiums to the finalists in the ring at the Pony of the final – his guestimate was that the figure was around £300 for 7 finalists.

The figure awarded was £25 if the pony was located within 25 miles or £50 if the pony was located outside the 25 mile radius.

Following discussion, DSBA proposed and SB seconded the proposal that the same premiums were given to those ponies in the ring for the final in 2022. This was unanimously agreed.

In response to RT, GB advised that the HBLB grant was reconciled against the Society's expenditure on breed promotion and other categories at the end of the grant year and then the appropriate amounts were allocated.

2. Susannah Muir's proposal

The Trustees were in favour of the proposal to allow each area to nominate two Pony of the Year shows in their area.

The more ponies that qualified, the more ponies that were likely to attend the Midland Show and go into the ring for the final. The Midland Show offered a number of NPS qualifiers and it would be good to see more support.

There would always be qualifiers from around the country who felt it was too far to travel but qualifying was prestigious in itself.

SB proposed and SP seconded the proposal that S Muir's proposal be accepted and this was unanimously agreed.

3. Prize Money

From the schedule, the Secretary advised that there was a trophy for the Supreme Champion and one for the winner of the Senior In-Hand. There was no notification with respect to prize money.

The Trustees felt it was important to give the Pony of the Year final and qualifiers a high profile this could be by way of Pony of the Year badges or prize money at the final and a trophy that you kept.

Affiliated Shows

All results requested to form spreadsheet for centenary rosettes and EPS medals. Information was awaited from the online events.

Marion Williams's Bursary

The Secretary advised that the option to pass the rosette down the line if recipient already received a rosette during that year had been approved by David Sykes.

Judge Training

The Secretary proposed that with the increase in Covid cases, the judge training session scheduled for the autumn should be moved the spring and the Trustees agreed.

Appointment of Judges

The Secretary advised that there were two candidates for consideration for the Exmoor Pony Society Judge's Panel who had completed Year 3 of their training and had been recommended for the panel by the judges they had probationed with that year.

SB proposed and GB seconded the proposal that Susannah Muir be appointed to the EPS Judge's Panel and this was unanimous approved.

SB proposed and DW seconded the proposal that Robyn Westcott be appointed to the EPS Judge's Panel and this was unanimous approved.

Judge's Webinar

Following the Breed Show, the Secretary had spoken to Ann Nicholls who had suggested that it would be worthwhile to put on a judge's webinar so that senior judges could discuss the rules and the various situations they have found themselves and provide guidance to the newer judges, those training to be judges and stewards.

12. Breed Show Secretary's Report

Breed Show Judges and POTY Judges 2022

The Secretary advised that all the nominated judges had accepted their appointments.

Exford Show

NH advised that there would be a meeting of the committee shortly and he was awaiting to hear if the EPS would receive any funding for the 2021 show.

Review of EPS rules

MD advised that it was a bit of minefield. He was very happy to work with the sub-committee set up at the last meeting.

13. Project Report

DSBA advised that there had not been enough to report that would warrant a written report. DD was continuing with the geno sequencing which included all the founding lines.

MR advised that Glasgow hoped to appoint an equine vet to a PhD position to the study to look at the microbiome in the gut and bacteria in the mouth. The position would be funded from outside the University.

14. Area Report

See Yearbook notes

The Secretary advised that he would contact the area reps again over area awards for 2021 and Jackie Wharton regarding the Southern Awards which would incorporate online events.

15. Inspections/Inspector's Meeting/Inspection Day/DNA

Inspections

RT advised that nearly all moorland inspections were completed. There had been some problems due to double booking of inspections and lack of communication about dates.

The Greystonegate foals were late foals and would be inspected during winter with the possibility of having to make use of the derogation.

The Secretary had not held irons for a number of years with all sets having been transferred to RT. NH/RT were looking to locate the various sets of irons that had been held by the late GL and RT. It was known that David Brewer did not have the set of irons that he normally held. The thought was that they might be with Yvonne Campbell. NH would hold a set of irons going forward. RT advised that there were less foals coming off the moor as farmers sought to be more selective in their breeding and this had resulted in good sales and better prices. Both Porlock and Blackrock would have foals in 2022.

It was noted that there young males running on Molland and thus keeping gates closed was of utmost importance.

The Secretary advised that a number of people had bought unregistered foals believing that they and any progeny could be registered by the Society. Discussions were ongoing with land agents who recognised the importance of registering ponies in the studbook and maintaining a rare native breed. Most payment schemes required a minimum number of registered livestock be it cattle, ponies, sheep etc

The ENPA foals whilst with MMT for handling would be going direct from the ENPA to their new conservation grazing home. ENPA were supporting MMT by paying MMT to handle the foals and this also provided MMT with foals for their foal handling courses.

It was important to put out positive PR about the foals being sold so that the public did not believe that there were still excess foals being bred.

Inspection Paperwork

With respect to microchip and inspection paperwork, it was noted that silhouettes had been completed in red pen (indication of white), forms had not been stamped and signed (DEFRA requirement) and in some instances insufficient DNA had been taken.

The Secretary had contacted the vets in question to seek clarification and written confirmation that the foals did not have white marks.

At moorland inspections, RT had advised the vet the forms must be completed in blank pen and taken additional DNA samples where necessary.

Use of Rule 8

With regard to inspections, there were a number of outstanding matters resulting from the use of Rule 8 and this would be addressed.

Probationers

Gemma Parry had continued her probation as an inspector and it was agreed that she should move into Year 3.

David Wallace undertook to provide dates when he could probation.

RT expressed concern over the number of younger members on the Inspectors Panel and the Secretary advised that both Robyn Westcott and Sheralee Matravers were completing application forms. SB felt that any push for young trainee inspectors would be dependent on the outcome of the Inspection Discussion Day.

Inspector's Meeting

Due to Covid 19, inspector's meeting(s) had not taken place.

Discussion Day

The Autumn newsletter went out three weeks ago laying down format and responses were awaited.

It was agreed that the dates for the online meetings should be put in the diary:

Thursday 10th March – 7pm

Sunday 20th March - 11 am

Friday 25th March – 7pm

It was felt that the format of the online meetings would require input from all Trustees. It was agreed that all Trustees would send their ideas to the Secretary who would compile them into one document for circulation to all Trustees prior to the meeting which would take place on 14 December at 10am.

Any information received from members up to the publication of the agenda would also be included.

Call for First Aiders and First Aid Trainer

All inspectors had been contacted and the responses reported to a previous meeting. There had been very mixed views on having inspectors as the designated first aider.

DNA

The Secretary has submitted a report to the Management Committee on outstanding DNA work (see Management Committee notes).

Where the breeder provided the correct sire and dam or a viable alternative, there was generally no work to be done. Outstanding items related to foals where either sire and dam had proved to be incorrect and work had to be done to identify potential sires (both licensed stallions and colts) and potential dams from within a particular herd.

In three of the four outstanding 2020 cases, there were two potential sires and no dam information had been supplied with there being 28 potentially dams. Weatherbys were currently not charging for the additional work they were undertaking.

It was noted that Weatherbys, like many companies and public offices, had been affected by Covid with staff working from home, parts not available for equipment etc. Perhaps more so, given that they had taken on the majority of AHT's work when the charity ceased trading in Spring 2020. The AHT and Weatherbys had run duplicate databases with Weatherbys historically carrying out the more difficult parentage testing work for the society.

The DNA samples were currently going via Weatherbys UK as other breed societies had reported samples being lost or stuck at customs and this route ensure that the samples reached Weatherbys Ireland.

It was felt important that a number of Trustees visited Weatherbys in Ireland to better understand the process once Covid restrictions allowed and the laboratory was working as normal.

The Secretary had spoken to Weatherbys and further results should come through week commencing 15/11/21. In terms of carrying out the work, each sample was assigned a number on arrival at the laboratory and then worked on numerically irrespective of breed.

16. Website/Facebook

The Secretary advised that Portly French was assisting with the new website with the first task to be to input the stallion list. There were a number of photographs missing and these would be chased up.

The Secretary was updating the website and adding news items as time allowed and had also started updating the forms. For example, the 2022 Show Affiliation paperwork and Judge's List had gone up and these would now have to be re-issued to reflect Susannah Muir taking over as Show Affiliations Secretary and the two new judge appointments.

MD had offered to help review content and MR also advised that he was in a position to assist. It was important that the text was up to date and relevant.

With regard to updating the site, the Secretary advised that Sole Trader had advised that adding a line to the table that held the Trustee names was a task only they could perform. Going forward, it would be helpful if the whole site could be updated by the Society.

GB advised that going forward, how the site was moved from being a clone of the old site to the new site originally envisaged with mega menus etc was under discussion and Sole Trader had submitted a costing for the work. Such work to the structure would be carried out once the content had been reviewed.

MR felt content was king and the website would evolve as content was added.

The Secretary felt it was important to decide if the society was going to make use of the facilities on Grassroots such as putting up membership application forms, passport paperwork etc. The system allowed for breeders to log on and input their foal notifications. Whilst not all breeders would make use of the facility it was important that breeders had different options which could be inputting information via Grassroots, downloading forms from the website or contacting the Secretary for paper copies.

DW felt the use of Grassroots was worth pursuing and suggested that another meeting take place.

DSBA felt an introductory page allowing people to select 'I am member' or 'I am not a member' could be beneficial and would take non-members through to more relevant information about the ponies and the work of the Society.

Facebook

The Secretary continued to post on Facebook together with the team who are editors of the various pages. However the issue of obtaining hi-res photographs of images posted on Facebook remained an issue. The Secretary suggested putting a pinned post at the top of the page asking people to submit hi-res photographs with a full description might be worthwhile. DSBA felt it should be a targeted approach. Having up to date photographs was important for PR.

Twitter

It was noted that Sole Trader updated Twitter.

17. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

RT advised that it had been a very good festival and because the events were more spread out there had been pressure and in general more people had taken part. The same format would be used in 2022 and the events list was more or less finalised.

A further meeting was taking place on 25/11/21 and Beetle Drive had been scheduled 3 May 2022.

18. EPS Centenary Events

DSBA advised that the centenary events were pretty much concluded albeit that the centenary lunch being cancelled and re-scheduled to be a dinner the night of the AGM.

The centenary exhibition had been extended and this had been promoted on Facebook and the website.

19. Review of Charity Policy Documents

DB had advised that he would not continue to update the policy documents.

20. Young Judge's Competition

SB advised that an outline of the 2022 competition would be brought to the next Trustee meeting.

21. Breed Promotion

Trustees were asked to refer to the Fundraising Committee notes.

Quiz

A centenary/Christmas Quiz would take place on Sunday, 5 December 2021.

Gin

SB reported that The Exmoor Gin was now ready for dispatch and was on The Distillery website. Promotion would take place on Facebook and the website with links being added.

Articles

SB advised that she had collated the online quiz questions; written the EPS page for Wikipedia; compiled the Exford Show report for publication and was currently writing a report on the Intrepid 100 rides.

Fundraising Sub-Committee

Following on from the fundraising meeting, it had been agreed to review the remit of the committee which had morphed into an opportunity to discuss multiple items that regularly appeared on the Trustee's meeting agenda. It had, therefore, not yet carried out its original remit of fundraising and increasing the Society's revenue.

SB felt that the fundraising group and the website group should become a PR and communications sub-committee which would cover the website and social media and hopefully encourage more people to be involved in PR.

The Society needed to have a clear plan relating to fundraising and that meant that the Trustees had to discuss and agreed the projects that they wish to fundraise for – the Ark Project to increase the amount of genetic material held at the RBST gene bank was a clear example.

However, in order to apply for grants, a detailed bid would need to be prepared with a clear outcome.

GB agreed that there should be a sub-committee that focused solely on fundraising with a clear remit from the Trustees.

DW also agreed and would reflect on this discussion and that held at the Fundraising meeting as well as speak to people offline. He was not sure if he was the right person to chair such a group.

Breed promotion material

Outstanding items

There were a number of outstanding items that would be brought forward to the next meeting:

22. Conservation grazing

SP advised that she had written a shorter, updated Conservation Grazing leaflet and arranged for the video "Guardians of the Land" to be available on YouTube.

The video was slightly out of date in terms of some of the content and SP/DSBA would review the video and script any required changes and bring a quote from Alan Tibbitt to the next meeting.

NH advised that he had not heard from Christopher Price regarding their updated guidance.

There were a number of outstanding items:

23. Any Other Business

Member's correspondence

1. An email with regard to the cost of passports was reviewed by the Trustees.

NH advised that the Secretary had responded to address the various issues where the content of the mail was inaccurate but had not covered items which required the Trustee's consideration.

With respect to the Trustee's decision to provide vaccination premiums, the Secretary was asked to convey that this was seen as breed promotion to encourage people to enter the event but should also include the content of her previous response so that all questions were answered at the same time.

With respect to the concept of an online sale, the Trustees did not believe that this would be feasible without the support of the moorland farmers who invited potential purchasers to their farms and sold directly.

RT advised that he had also received an email and would be responding to that directly whilst he felt an Exmoor sale was a good idea, he agreed that sales appeared to be buoyant.

It was noted that breeders could advertise their foals on the website – the price asked was down to the individual breeder.

2. An email regarding registration

The Secretary advised that this was a case of a colt dying before a vet inspection could take place and a foal registered thereby placing the foal in Section X. That foal had also gone on to sire a foal and whilst a letter had been received from the vet post castration, it also had not been vet inspected and hence that foal had also gone into Section X.

The Trustees unanimously agreed the colt rule had to be adhered to and the ponies should remain in Section X.

NH closed meeting at 4pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Tuesday, 14 December 2021 – Inspection Discussion Day

Tuesday, 11 January 2022 – Full Meeting

Tuesday, 8 March 2022 – Full Meeting

The date of the meeting to discuss SPARKS would be circulated once known