

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Trustee Notes from the 'Virtual' Committee Meeting held Tuesday 17 May 2022

Nigel Hill (Chairman) – NH
Geoff Bryant (Vice-Chairman) - GB
David Wallace (Vice-Chairman) - DW
Dr Sue Burger – SB
Mark Drummond – MD
Vicky Lamb - VL
Sheralee Matravers – SM
Stephanie Poulter - SP
Rob Taylor – RT

Also in attendance Jay Gee (Secretary).

The Chairman opened the meeting at 10am and welcomed all those present.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received:

Marcello Riggio

Mark Drummond would be leaving partway through the meeting

2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Confirmation of Confidentiality

It was proposed by SP, seconded by VL and unanimously agreed that confidentiality with respect to the discussions at the meeting would be maintained.

3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda (All)

Subject Access Request

It was proposed by MD, seconded by RT and unanimously agreed that in respect of the SAR received, the trustees agree to instruct Ladders to act on the Society's behalf in this matter and initially to focus on exploring if any exemptions apply.

MD left the meeting at 10.43am.

It was proposed by VL, seconded by RT and unanimously agreed that a budget top of £4000 be set before the Trustees need to be consulted further.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 April 2022

It was proposed by GB, seconded by SM and unanimously agreed that SB should be removed from the meeting apologies of Tuesday 22 April 2022 and all other minutes were a true record of the meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman as and when possible.

5. Notification of matters pertaining to:

Health & Safety (SECRETARY)

The Secretary advised that there was nothing to report under Health and Safety.

GDPR (SECRETARY)

The Secretary advised there had been no GDPR issues raised.

Safeguarding (SM)

SM advised that there had been no safeguarding issues reported.

Welfare (SECRETARY)

Correspondence had been received regarding the ongoing issue of the welfare of ponies in Denmark. The Chairman advised that this issue is ongoing.

RT reported that there had been a report via Facebook on 15th May 2022 regarding the welfare of specific ponies in Exmoor. RT spoke to the owner who gathered the ponies and resolved the issues.

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

The Secretary advised that no reports had been received from Trustees.

National Equine Welfare Council

SM reported that a new chairperson had been reported and several new horse and pony welfare societies had joined.

The Chairman asked that Trustees send reports for any external meetings attended to the Secretary.

7. AGM 2022 (NH)

NH reported that the AGM was well attended and numbers were similar to those attending in previous years on a Wednesday. He expressed that the talks were informative and well-received and all feedback received had been very positive.

SM advised that she had received negative feedback from one society member about the change of day.

GB felt that the two-day event over the weekend worked well and it should remain as such. DW suggested we could alternate yearly between Wednesdays and Saturdays. NH, SB and RT felt it was advantageous to hold the event over the weekend to allow for the Stallion Parade on the Sunday. SB suggested we trial Saturdays for at least five years. SB had received positive feedback from those who attended the Sunday event.

It was proposed by DW, seconded by SB and unanimously agreed that next year's AGM should be held across the weekend of Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th May 2023.

8. Secretary's Report (SECRETARY)

The secretary advised that there was no additional information to add to her report.

9. Treasurer's Report (GB)

GB advised he would put together financial figures for January to the end of April 2022 as soon as possible. He advised that he was in the process of getting the new secretary set up on Xero and new bank cards would be arriving soon.

SP advised that she had received queries from members regarding an updated studbook as a result of a generous legacy donation to the society. GB advised that he had spoken on this topic at the AGM and that the issue would be progressed as soon as possible.

10. Yearbook (GB)

GB advised that the printed yearbooks were due to arrive with the secretary the following day. He requested that all Trustees write a list of organisations and individuals, along with address details, who ought to receive a copy and send to the secretary. GB would send the secretary a list of advertisers who should receive a free copy and commercial orders which should be sent along with an invoice. RT volunteered to take copies to Exmoor National Park himself.

11. Show Affiliation Secretary's Report and Judge Training (NH)

NH advised that all five attendees passed their assessments and Jackie Wharton has agreed that all five can be taken onto the scheme, to avoid a three-year wait for two of the applicants. He stated that there were currently no probationer judges in the system. SB expressed her concern that five probationer judges in the system puts pressure on panel judges.

Both SP and NH had received positive feedback from attendees at the Emmets Grange assessment.

No report had been received from Susannah Muir.

12. Breed Show Secretary's Report (NH)

No report had been received from Millie Richards. NH had not yet heard from Millie Richards as to whether the schedule had been completed.

13. Project/SAP Report (MR)

No report had been received from MR as no SAP meeting had taken place since the AGM.

14. Area Report (VL)

Midlands Area Representative

NH advised that Lauren Brill would be stepping down as Midlands Area Representative after the Midlands Area Show and a new representative needs to be found. He suggested using the newsletter to get this information to members. VL asked for a list of Midlands members to be made available to her.

15. Inspections/DNA (RT)

NH apologised for not yet writing a report of the discussions that took place on the Inspection Discussion Day due to urgent issues arising.

He raised the question of whether members have now had long enough to submit their thoughts on the matter. GB and RT believed enough time and opportunity had been given to members and a report of possible recommendations can now be written in time for the next Trustees' meeting.

RT stated his belief that nothing needs to be changed regarding inspections if inspections are run as they should be and all parties are informed ahead of time of plans and expectations. SB stated the issue is whether inspections should be continued as they are or whether the way we inspect should be changed. SB stated there was no scientific evidence to support the current inspection system and that, as most colts are gelded, there is no need to inspect. Further discussion is required at a future meeting.

16. Website/Facebook (GB)

GB expressed that we need a leader to work with Jenna Payne and Portly French and update the website content.

NH advised that he had contacted Facebook who had refused to remove the previous secretary from the old Facebook page. A new page had been created. Once Jackie Wharton was able to remove the previous secretary from the old page, both pages could be merged.

17. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust (RT)

SM had attended the most recent meeting and advised that numerous local events had been scheduled to take place. The schedule would be circulated soon.

18. Review of Charity Policy Documents (NH/GB)

NH and GB advised that other issues had taken priority and this would be done as soon as possible.

19. Young Judge's Competition (SB)

SB advised there had been no interest so far and organisation of the competition had been handed over to Robyn Westcott. SB would continue to be the first point of contact.

20. Breed Promotion (GB)

GB stated his belief that Exmoor Visitor magazine was a missed opportunity, with only a small advert placed by the EPS. GB stated we ought to contact the coordinator in the autumn.

21. Conservation grazing (SP/RT)

SP advised that Dr Sue Baker would shortly progress with updating Guardians of the Land and make it available online.

22. Judges assessments (NH)

This had been covered under item 11.

23. The Great British In Hand Show (NH)

Correspondence had been received asking for support of breed classes. It was not known whether we sponsored last year, nor exactly the form of support being requested.

24. Nominees for possible co-option to the committee (NH)

It was proposed by SB, seconded by SM and unanimously agreed that Kittiana Portly French be co-opted onto the committee.

It was proposed by SP, seconded by VL and unanimously agreed that Margaret Partridge Keane be co-opted onto the committee.

25. Any Other Business (All)

Trustee lapel badges (DW)

DW found lapel name badges for all Trustees at £8-9 per badge. SB and GB agreed that name badges would be useful for senior society members as well as Trustees.

Trophy inventory (SB)

SB advised that there had been a previous conversation regarding asking for all trophies to be handed back, an itemized list written, any engravings and repairs carried out and photographs taken. This would incur costs for the society. RT suggested a document be created stating what each trophy is given for and SB added that a history of each trophy including who, when and why they were donated would be useful.

SB suggested this may be a good first task for Portly French and would speak with Portly and Sarah Taylor about this.

Christmas Show

NH advised that the Christmas Show has been scheduled for December 4th 2022 at Cannington.

Gillian Langdon Legacy Gift

It was proposed by SM and seconded by SP that £30,000 of Gillian Langdon's legacy donation be put towards the Gene Bank Project.

SB suggested we continue with the Gene Bank fundraising campaign and put the investment on hold for now to allow members to engage with the campaign. NH added that the campaign itself would provide PR opportunities and suggested the investment be put on hold for two years. SM agreed that the legacy donation could later be used to make up any shortfall from the fundraising campaign.

Following this discussion, the proposal by SM was withdrawn.

Exmoor Pony Society Gin

SB advised bottles had been sent to two places.

200 Club

DW reminded all Trustees to join the 200 Club.

Semi-wild Forum

RT asked when the next meeting would be.

NH closed the meeting at 1.05pm.

The next scheduled meeting would take place on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 10am.