

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the 'Virtual' Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 November 2022

Nigel Hill (NH)
Geoff Bryant (GB)
David Wallace (DW)
Sue Burger (SBU)
Mark Drummond (MD)
Sheralee Matravers (SM)
Margaret Partridge Keane (MPK)
Stephanie Poulter (SP) – Present from Item 6 onwards
Rob Taylor (RT)
Vivien Taylor (VT)
Vicky Lamb (VL)

Also in attendance were Liz Barker (LB, President), Sue Baker (SBA, SAP Representative), who was present for Items 33 and 34, and Jay Gee (secretary).

Item 1 - Apologies for Absence (All)

Apologies for absence had been received from:
Portly French

Item 2 - Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality (All)

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Confirmation of Confidentiality

NH reminded trustees of the importance of confidentiality.

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

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

The secretary introduced the issues of an inspection in Kent and publication of abbreviated minutes.

Item 4 - Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13 September 2022 (All)

It was proposed by MPK, seconded by VL and unanimously agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting and would be duly signed by the Chairman as and when possible.

Item 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 that there had been no GDPR issues raised.

Safeguarding (SM)

SM advised that there had been no safeguarding issues reported.

Welfare (Secretary)

The secretary advised that there had been no welfare issues brought to our attention besides the one case in the reports, which had now been passed over to the Moorland Mousie Trust.

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

There had no Management Committee meeting since the previous Trustee's meeting.

Item 7 – Secretary's Report (Secretary)

The secretary had nothing to add to her report and established that all of the trustees present had sent their paying-in book serial numbers to her. GB suggested asking area representatives if they owned a paying-in book.

Item 8 – Treasurer's Report (GB)

The financial report for January to September 2022 had been circulated by GB ahead of the meeting. GB had not yet received any questions relating to this. He reported that there were several transactions left to reconcile in Xero, mostly small amounts of money, that would be treated as donations.

Item 9 - Show Affiliation Secretary's Report and Judge Training (NH)

Susannah Muir had posed two questions in her report, which the trustees answered.

It was proposed by GB, seconded by MD, and unanimously agreed that the proposed wording sent by Susannah Muir should be sent to organisers of affiliated shows.

Item 10 – Breed Show Secretary's Report (NH)

NH explained that there had been some confusion around the proposal in the previous meeting regarding the Breed Show Sub-committee's decision to not award prize money.

NH was of the opinion that, rather than overturn their decision, the trustees' opinions should have been passed on for the sub-committee to review. RT stated that he knew of only three complaints regarding not having prize money in 2022, two of which were from members who did not attend the show.

SBU expressed that we ought to be more clear about who is responsible for making decisions around the Breed Show. MD, MPK and RT agreed. RT suggested that the sub-committee ought to give the trustees a report on any decisions they make.

It was proposed by RT, seconded by MD, and unanimously agreed that the trustees rescind the decision made at the meeting on 13 September 2022 and refer the subject of prize money back to the breed show sub-committee.

A consensus around children having to be members of the EPS to participate in the Breed Show had been reached at the previous meeting but not voted on.

It was proposed by SBU, seconded by SP, and unanimously agreed that Under 18's no longer need to be EPS members to participate in the Breed Show.

Item 11 – Area Report (PF)

VT stated her belief that the proposal should be guidance only and not prescriptive. SBU agreed that it should be guidance as far as events are concerned but, when it comes to communication, it is crucial for Area Representatives to have a social media presence and the ability to communicate via email, particularly if we are attempting to encourage the involvement of young people.

Duties of an Exmoor Pony **Society** Area Representative:

As an Exmoor Pony Area Representative, **the EPS would like you to** provide:

- At least one area show each year and provide events and meet ups for your area to attend.
*If you do not have the entries or funds to hold a show you **MUST** nominate a show from your area to host your qualifiers (this must **not** be a show that already holds Exmoor Pony Society qualifiers).*
- Provide a social media **group** for your area.
*This is to encourage your members to share what they've been up to and use the group promote any events you may be holding or to ask members what they would like to do. This is **not** just a group limited to your area members, but to share information and member updates from your area to others.*
- Be active on digital media.
*Each area **must** have at least one representative who will be an admin for your area group, share information on events over social media and emails.*
- Collate and send forward area members news and a rep report for the Exmoor Pony Society Yearbook to the Area representative coordinator.

If you are unable to fulfil any of the above, some elements may be handed to another EPS member, providing the Area Representative Co-ordinator is informed.

The EPS is happy for the Area Representative role to be shared by more than one person.

All areas must not clash their area shows; however, some exceptions may be allowed, such as distance – any queries can be sent to the Area representative coordinator.

Should I wish to resign as a Representative I will inform the Area representative coordinator via email (portlyfrench@yahoo.co.uk)

Area representatives must follow the EPS social media policy.

[Full Social Media Policy removed]

It was proposed by GB, seconded by SBU and unanimously agreed that, given the changes to the wording (as above), Portly French's proposal should be accepted and the wording sent to current area representatives as guidance.

The trustees thanked PF for her hard work since taking on this role.

The secretary explained that spam emails had been received by area representatives as a result of their contact details being displayed on the website. The secretary had created a contact form where members could enter their details and Portly French would be able to respond to them with their area representative's contact details.

It was proposed by GB, seconded by VL and unanimously agreed that the contact details for area representatives should be removed from the website and replaced with the contact form.

Item 12 - Inspections/DNA (RT/NH)

NH thanked the secretary, Grassroots and RT for their efforts around organising inspections. RT reported that foal sales were promising and thanked all those who had volunteered their time to carry out inspections this year.

MPK explained that the words “verified by” ought to be changed to “scanned by” or “scanned in the presence of” on the inspection forms for next year. The secretary had arranged a meeting in January 2023 with Grassroots to implement lessons learned and feedback received this year.

The secretary stated that Knepp Castle had chosen not to inspect their foals this year (or to go ahead with their re-inspection of one pony). The secretary had spoken to Knepp and explained why it would be beneficial to inspect this year, but they had remained with their decision to wait until 2023. They had initially thought an inspection in Spring would be best, but the secretary advised that, if they waited until Autumn, 2023 foals could be inspected at the same time.

NH suggested the EPS ought to write a letter to Sir Charles Burrell, explaining why we think they should be doing inspections this year. RT agreed.

NH explained that the secretary had received a phone call from a member on Friday 11th October regarding inspections. The secretary had advised her to contact NH directly to arrange, but NH had not heard from her.

Item 29 – DNA for ID Only Ponies and Meaning of Registration Types (Secretary)

Item 29 was brought forward. An additional email from Grassroots had been circulated ahead of the meeting. NH suggested that a sub-committee ought to be formed, and a meeting held, to answer the questions posed by Grassroots. This would consist of the secretary, SBU, NH and RT.

Item 13 - Website/Facebook (GB)

GB asked all trustees to visit the website and inform the secretary of any updates required. There was nothing to report on Facebook.

Item 14 - Review of Charity Policy Documents (NH/GB)

The review had not been completed due to time constraints.

Item 15 - Young Judge's Competition (SBU)

SBU reported that there had been little interest in the Young Judge's Competition in 2022.

Item 16 - Breed Promotion (GB/SBU)

GB believed that the profile of the Exmoor pony was currently significantly higher than it had ever been.

SBU reported that The Distillery would be donating £700 to the Gene Bank Campaign from their sales of Exmoor Dry Gin. They intended to create a PR opportunity via the presentation of a giant cheque, using the strapline ‘Gin for Genes’.

DW suggested that a thank you letter ought to be written to The Distillery once the donation had been made.

NH reported that Steve Lodge had offered to take photographs at this year's gatherings but NH had declined to accept this offer as we were already a day over our quota from Sole Trader.

The secretary asked if we were kept up to date with how much work Sole Trader had done for us each month, to which GB responded that he is in regular communication with them so the secretary did not need to keep track of this.

Item 17 – Yearbook (GB)

The secretary reminded GB that PF had volunteered to take on the role detailed in the first bullet point in the Spring Newsletter – “Prompting/encouraging/persuading/chasing members and other contributors to submit articles & stories with images that will be interesting to other members”

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.09pm and began again at 1pm.

Item 33 – Project/SAP Report (SBA)

Items 33 and 34 were brought forward. Publication of the results of the Genome Project (distinct from the Gene Bank Campaign) had been promised by 31st October 2022. SBA would report back to all trustees on whether this was the case.

NH reported that he had met with the SAP online on the 16th October 2022.

The trustees were happy for SBA to continue in the role of SAP Chairman after the resignation of Marcello Riggio.

The secretary had met with Andy Dell to discuss SPARKS.

Item 34 – Gene Bank Campaign (SBA)

SBA intended to write to the owners of the first three stallions by the end of the week.

Item 18 - Conservation grazing (SP/RT)

SP suggested inviting Alan Tibbitts to present the revised DVD at the 2023 AGM. VL, GB and MPK agreed with this.

VT explained that the guidelines written by herself and SBU were not prescriptive. VT suggested the information could be presented on the website, as a PDF, with an accompanying photograph. GB suggested there ought to be a page on the website dedicated to conservation grazing, with a link to download the PDF.

GB suggested that if the information was presented as an A5 leaflet in colour, the cost to print approximately 100 copies would be no more than £40. SP explained that there had previously been a conservation grazing leaflet created by the EPS and the secretary confirmed that this was available on the website. Therefore, it was agreed that a PDF download was more suitable.

Item 19 – Strapline (NH)

Strapline suggestions from Steve Lodge had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

It was proposed by GB, seconded by SBU and unanimously agreed that the strapline should be:

Guardians of the breed since 1921
Securing the future of the Exmoor pony

The strapline would be trialled for three months and, if necessary, revisited at the trustee meeting in March 2023.

Item 20 - There is So Much More to an Exmoor Leaflet (PF)

GB asked all trustees to send him one or two images suitable for replacing those in the draft version of the leaflet. NH asked that the ponies featured not be owned by trustees.

Item 21 - Revised EPS Showing Rules (MD)

It was proposed by MD and seconded by VT that the proposed changes highlighted in red in MD's report should be made.

For: 9

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

Item 22 – NPS Mountain & Moorland Breed Society Meeting (VL)

There was nothing added to the submitted report.

Item 23 - Judge and Inspector Membership (SBU)

It was proposed by SBU, seconded by GB and unanimously agreed that judges must become a member of the EPS in order to become a judge, and must remain a member if they wish to remain on the judging panel.

SBU stated that inspectors are allocated to inspections at the secretary's discretion and there was currently no requirement for inspectors to be members. She stated that the secretary can appoint a knowledgeable, non-inspector who is a member to do the inspections if needed. VT and SBU queried whether these non-members, and non-inspectors, would be covered by society insurance.

It was decided that, wherever possible, inspectors ought to be members of the society. However, this can be altered at the discretion of the secretary and the Chairman.

Item 24 – 200 Club (DW)

DW stated that £550 in prize money is given throughout the year and £750 in the May Bonanza draw, totalling £1300. There are currently 110 numbers being used in the draw at £12 each, so the income is £1320. Therefore, a profit of £20. However, approximately one third of winners donate their prize money back to the society. He would continue to keep the finances of the 200 Club under review.

Item 25 - Half Price Fees for Members of Other Exmoor Pony Societies (Secretary)

It was proposed by GB, seconded by VL and unanimously agreed that members of overseas daughter societies should be eligible for our member rates for services such as foal registrations, subject to the secretary receiving confirmation of their membership from the daughter society.

Item 26 - HOYS Exmoor/Shetland Class and M&M Workers Championship Clash (NH)

The trustees agreed that the secretary should write to HOYS on behalf of the trustees regarding the clash between the Exmoor/Shetland Class and the M&M Workers Championship.

Item 28 - Adam Henson Book (NH)

It was suggested that we could ask the publisher for a few signed copies of the book to auction at the AGM.

Item 30 - Studbook (GB)

GB stated that he hoped to begin work on the studbook soon.

SP suggested that the cost of printing and producing could come out of Gill Langdon's legacy donation and asked for this to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Item 31 - Trophy History (GB)

NH informed the trustees that a replacement for the damaged Pony of the Year Trophy had been purchased. They had decided against claiming on the insurance as the excess was £250.

The trustees thanked NH and Amanda Hill.

GB asked that trophies be put on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting.

Item 32 - 2023 AGM and Spring Show (NH)

NH informed the trustees that the date for the 2023 Spring Show now clashed with the Coronation of King Charles III.

NH suggested moving the AGM weekend to the 13th and 14th May 2023. Both venues were available on these dates. It was noted that this was also the weekend of the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Alternatives were considered but several trustees felt that bank holiday weekends should be avoided due to the impact on travel and member availability.

It was proposed by SBU, seconded by RT and unanimously decided that the AGM and Spring Show should be held on the weekend of the 13th and 14th May 2023.

GB asked if there was any interest in an evening meal at the Rest and Be Thankful over the weekend, to which several trustees responded that they would attend.

Item 35 - Any Other Business (All)

826 Equine Studbooks Association Meeting

SM had attended this meeting and informed trustees that there had been a discussion around digital passports replacing paper ones, but no decisions had been made as of yet.

Exmoor Pony Festival Insurance

SM asked if the Exmoor Pony Festival was covered under the EPS insurance. GB asked SM to email him with this query so he could file it to be considered when insurance was renewed in the first quarter of 2023.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.30pm.