

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 29th February 2016 at Stoneleigh

Present:

Mrs A Hill (President) Mrs S Burger, Mr M Dewhurst, Miss S Harris, Mr T Hickman (Chairman), Mrs S Poulter, Mrs D Sykes, Mrs R Thomas, Mr D Wallace (Vice Chairman) Mrs A Westcott and Mrs Jackie Wharton.

Mrs S Mansell (Treasurer) was also in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs C Bigge, Mrs G Langdon, Mrs S McGeever

2. Declaration of Interest/Confirmation of Confidentiality

It was noted that should anyone feel that they should declare an interest in any topic being discussed they would do so and that the business carried out during the meeting would remain confidential unless otherwise decided upon during the meeting.

3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda

Discussion of three items was requested. Showing Rule, Marion Williams Bursary and Thanks to Area Representatives.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 21st November 2015

The Minutes were unanimously approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions on the proposal of Mrs Poulter seconded by Mrs Wharton having amended 6* on Page 4 to read 'essential that all Section 1 ponies formed the benchmark of any genome testing' and the word 'geneticist' was removed from the first paragraph on Page 5.

5. Matters Arising (*Major items have been given their own agenda item.*)

Friends – The Treasurer explained that Tricia Gibson, Carol Bigge, Karen Ricketts and herself were now directors and, with the agreement of the Trustees 'Friends' AGM would be held at the beginning of the June Trustee's meeting. Some six helpers had come forward including Jackie Wharton who was successfully dealing with online orders.

The resignation letters from Mrs Buttner and Dr Baker were considered and it was agreed that it was a misunderstanding which led to Dr Baker not remaining for the 'Friends' discussion. It was also agreed that Dr Baker would be added to the list of Vice Presidents in recognition of her work for both 'Friends' and the Society over many years and also agreed that she and Mrs Buttner should be publicly thanked at the AGM.

DEFRA/National Equine Database – The Minimum Operating Procedures for Passport Issuing Offices were now in place and Grassroots were working towards providing data, a copy of which had been provided to Trustees, for the new Central Equine database.

Zootech Legislation – A copy of the latest version of the legislation had been sent to Trustees along with a summary document.

South West Showing Clinic – There was no further update from Mrs Yvonne Campbell regarding the showing clinic was scheduled to take place in April 2016.

Marketing Questionnaire – so far only 103 responses had been received to the 1600 questionnaires sent out. A reminder on Facebook and the Newsletter was suggested. The voluntary census had produced 190 replies.

Sweet Itch Project – Mrs Thomas reported that this was ongoing.

Patron – Mrs Hill apologised that, to date, this had not progressed.

Companies House/Charity Commission – Mrs Burger reported that this was ongoing and suggested that Trustees might like to assist with it.

6. Inspections Sub-Committee

The update on the 2015 inspections was noted.

It was noted that the Exmoor National Park Authority had not raised the content of Resolution 1 in its meeting with the Trustees.

The Trustees believed that the inspection process was important to maintain the standard of ponies used for breeding and that the breed standard should be retained. Any lowering of the breed standard would inevitably result in the Society failing in one of its main charitable objects – the maintenance of the standard of ponies used for breeding.

The Trustees recognised that there was an element of health and safety and welfare to the handling of foals especially in the moorland situation where the owners had not had the opportunity to handle their foals prior to inspection. However, as had been seen this year that ability to use safe equipment and experienced handlers was paramount in ensuring both the health and safety of the inspectors and the welfare of the foals.

7. Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book – Resolution 2 and Resolution 1

Mr Wallace and Mr Dewhurst provided details of their meeting with Mrs M Floyd, Mrs C Williams, Dr N Stone and Mrs S Bryan regarding Resolution 2 in addition to the paper from Mrs Floyd that had been circulated by Mr Dewhurst.

The Genome Project proposed by the RBST with ENPA backing was discussed at this point and it was unanimously agreed, on the proposal of Mrs Thomas, that the Society should commit the Moorland Fund, which must benefit the moorland herds, (£5,000) to this project.

The suggestion was then put forward that Resolution 2 would benefit from being delayed until such time, possibly only a year, as ponies that might benefit from the supplement could be tested against the Exmoor Pony genome. After lengthy discussion it was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Mrs Burger and seconded by Mr Dewhurst that this proposal to delay Resolution 2 be put to Mrs Floyd.

All agreed that in Resolution 2 there were still anomalies as ‘a white spot’ is ambiguous – what size for example? and the issue of white soles needed to be addressed scientifically. The view was expressed that this resolution should go to the AGM without the endorsement of the Trustees although it was noted that additional meetings would be required to discuss the Inspection Day proposals put forward in 2014.

8. Reports

Secretary's Report

It was agreed that the items in the Secretary's Report did not require further discussion except for the Photographic Competition where it was suggested that a Photographic Company may be willing to provide sponsorship.

Finance Report

Mrs Mansell advised that she had not received any questions from the Trustees and expressed concern that, yet again, there was a loss in excess of £2,000.

It was agreed that additional income must be sought while reducing costs wherever possible and noted that Investment Income was currently negligible unless investments were made in the Stock Market which the treasurer did not recommend. It was agreed that the Stallion Travel Grant would be discontinued and on the proposal of David Wallace, seconded by April Westcott agreed that the owner of ponies brought to the Stallion parade would be given a ticket for lunch free of charge. It was noted that approaches could be made by the staff of large organisations who provide funding to charities for contributions for the charity they support.

It was agreed to offer David Brewer Life Membership in recognition of his long term commitment to the Society.

Show Secretaries's Reports

Breed Show Secretary

It was noted that the Treasurer had been able to secure an NPS Intermediate Ridden Qualifier for Class 19 at the Breed Show.

Show Secretary

The comments by Mrs McGeever regarding show affiliations, trophies and rosettes were noted.

Projects

The latest draft of the EU Zootech Legislation plus a precis from Mrs Mansell were noted.

Mrs Mansell explained that the non-standard DNA work i.e. that which is not relatively straightforward was delayed as it now had to be done by Weatherbys in Ireland with a timescale of several months.

9. Trainee Inspector Assessment/Trainee Inspectors/Trainee Judges

The position with the Trainee Judges was noted and it was agreed that the training scheme would be considered and possibly amended for 2017.

10. Area Representatives

It was noted that the database had been amended to reflect the new areas and a letter had been sent to all Area representatives.

11. Young Judge's Competition

Mrs Westcott updated those present explaining that the competition would be held on Exmoor, at the Welsh and Northern Area Shows, in the Eastern Area and in Cornwall in conjunction with the Welsh pony competition. Contact with the RDVC in Edinburgh might also result in a Scottish qualifier and it was noted that the Pam Ney Legacy would fund the competition.

12. Pony of the Year

It was agreed that the current wording must remain in place for 2016 but it was felt that it had become too complicated and should revert to entries just from the Area Shows and the Breed Show. The qualifiers to be Senior In Hand, Youngstock In Hand and Best Ridden. With this format Mrs Burger offered to run the competition in future years. Qualification cards would be given at the various shows with rosettes presented at the final and sashes for the Champion and Reserve.

13. Website/Facebook

The new website should be in place towards the end of March and various ideas were put forward for additional content which were noted. Those looking after the various facebook sites were thanked and Mrs Burger's offer to look after the updating of the website was gratefully received.

14. Exmoor Pony Festival

The Treasurer suggested contacting the NFU regarding the Festival Insurance and Mrs Westcott offered to do this.

15. Any Other Business

Petition from Members It was noted that once the new Website was up and running information would be available shortly after Trustee's meetings. It was also agreed that Minutes would only record the decisions taken and, once ratified at the following meeting, would be in the public domain with detailed notes to be produced and retained in the office for each meeting.

Junior Performance Awards It was agreed that vouchers for £25 and £15 would be funded from the Marion Williams Bursary.

Monitoring of Hot Branding The readability of the new brands would be checked at the Breed Show along with a check of microchipping.

Use of Logo The request from Dr Baker was agreed.

TSR Showing Debate The President gave a report on the meeting including the decisions that Exmoor ponies would, in future, be classed as children's ponies with no adult riders in show classes.

The website link to the TeenEquine magazine was not agreed.

Membership - Mr & Mrs Westcott A letter from Mr N Westcott was discussed and it was agreed that membership would not be reconsidered for a further three years.

Showing Clarification – Mr & Mrs Westcott Clarification had already been provide by the Secretary in a letter.

Herd 387 It was felt that the Floyd family, the Inspectors and the Secretary must get together and try to resolve the problems.

Tippbarlake Rufus Veterinary reports were considered and it was agreed that Tippbarlake Rufus had passed his veterinary examination and should therefore be licensed. This was agreed on the proposal of Mr Dewhurst, seconded by Mrs Burger with three abstentions.

Exmoor Code Colour Testing This item was left to a future meeting.

Showing Rules Mrs Wharton made the point that the rules for entire males in the Rule book and Showing Booklet were not consistent and it was agreed that this would be clarified.

Marion Williams Bursary It was agreed that all four candidates would share the Bursary.

Date of next meeting

7th June at Stoneleigh