

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 5th June 2017 at The Old Forge, Stoneleigh

Present:

Mrs C Bigge, Mr D Brewer (Chairman), Mrs S Burger, Mrs F Dickson, Mr N Hill, Mrs G Langdon, Mrs C Phillips, Mr R Taylor and Mr D Wallace.

Mrs S Mansell (Treasurer) and Mrs S McGeever (Secretary) were also in attendance.

Mr David Brewer opened the meeting at 11.15am and welcomed the two new members, Mrs C Phillips and Mr R Taylor, and returning members, Mrs G Langdon adding that he hoped they enjoyed their time on committee. He then thanked everyone present for attending the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mr M Dewhurst, Miss S Harris, Mrs April Westcott and Mrs J Graham (President).

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.

The Chairman advised that it was again of the utmost importance that all members of the committee respected the confidentiality of the meeting.

3. Notification of Any Other Business on the agenda

Mrs McGeever advised that she had a number of additional items to bring forward under any other business.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 27th February and 3rd May 2017.

The Minutes of the meeting on 27th February were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

Mrs F Dickson asked that the unanimously be deleted in Items 3 and 4 since no vote had taken place with regard to the election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. This amended was duly made and Mrs F Dickson proposed and Mrs S Burger seconded the proposal that The Minutes of the meeting on 3rd May with a minor amendment were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Decision Making

It was agreed that day to day decisions reflecting the agreed policies of the Society would be made by the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairman, the Treasurer and Secretary provided that a consensus was reached. In the absence of such consensus, the matter would go forward to the next Trustees meeting unless considered to be of an urgent nature.

Trustees were asked to check their emails daily and the Secretary undertook to keep all Trustees abreast of any decisions taken.

Society Unit

Mrs McGeever advised the unit had been sold.

Sweet Itch Project

This project was ongoing.

Patron

Baroness Mallalieu had agreed to be Patron.

6. Annual General Meeting

The Trustees reviewed the minutes of the Annual General Meeting and correspondence received pertaining to said meeting.

It was agreed that the venue must provide a separate buffet and that following lunch, the tables would be cleared and more formal lines of chairs adopted. Each voting member would be provided with a voting card for each vote required and that voting cards would be colour coded and members would be required to write YES/NO or ABSTAIN on their cards. Only business items would take place during the formal part of the meeting. Questions for the Open Forum would be requested in advance with due consideration given that items at the Annual General Meeting might give rise to further questions.

The letter from Billy Wilson which the Trustees had been formally asked to raise at the AGM was not relevant to the Exmoor Pony Society and this would be relayed to the membership in the Summer Newsletter.

It was agreed that photographs and email addresses would be added to the information about Trustees on the website. It was also felt that requests to go forward to the committee should be sent via the Secretary and a note to this effect would be put on the committee page.

7. Inspections

A working group of Trustees was set up to review the results from the inspection questionnaire, to address the practical application of the rule changes made at the Annual General Meeting and update the Inspectors Guidelines and inspection paperwork accordingly ready for inspections in the Autumn. This would include a definition of uniformly dark. A letter would be sent to all inspectors and an inspector's day arranged.

The AGM had asked for clarification of the exceptional circumstances when a pony might be registered in Section 1 without inspection. It was agreed that exceptional circumstances were as follows:

Provided that the Society can appoint inspectors to attend a premise then it is not an exceptional circumstance.

It was agreed that the costs of carrying out DNA parentage testing on foals of known unregistered parents should be met by the breeder requesting such parentage testing.

It was agreed that the Secretary could appoint a maximum of three sets of inspectors for any one inspection – it being normal practice was for the breeder to accept the inspectors appointed. Refusal to accept inspectors would indicate unwillingness on the part of the breeder to have their foals inspected. Foals that were not inspected would continue to be registered in the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society studbook in Section X.

It was agreed that the membership had voted for the new breed standard and the decision not to inspect the soles of feet with effect from the AGM for all foals eligible for inspection or re-inspection. It was agreed that the amendment would not be retrospective.

8. Genome Project

Mrs Mansell advised that the project was progressing well and that the majority of samples had been collected.

It was likely to be 2018 before any results were known.

9. Reports

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report to the Trustees was taken as read and work was ongoing with regard to DEFRA legislation, the Central Equine Database and Zootech legislation.

The Society continued to attract good PR coverage and a summer newsletter would be circulated to the membership in June.

Finance

The Treasurer's report was taken as read by the Trustees.

It was agreed that when DNA sampling of all foals became mandatory in 2018, the Society would meet the cost of DNA samples for in-ground mares as it had for moorland mares. Funds would be made available through Special Projects.

Show Secretary

The Show Secretary reported that three further shows had affiliated but asked that the decision to withdraw Pony of the Year qualifiers was reviewed in September.

Breed Show Secretary

The Breed Show Secretary reported that the Exmoor Pony Society schedule was available on both the website and facebook.

Projects

The Treasurer reported that there were no ongoing projects at this time.

Review of Secretary's honorarium

It was agreed that an increase in the Secretary's honorarium which had remained at the same level since 2006 would be implemented.

10. Area Representatives

Mrs Burger advised that the majority of area representatives had attended the meeting at the AGM and they were very happy.

The area representative for Berkshire, Gloucester and Hampshire had asked to step down. This request was accepted by the committee and a new area representative appointed. The website and Society leaflets would be updated accordingly.

11. Young Judge's Competition

In the absence of Mrs April Westcott no report was made.

12. Judge Assessment Day

Four candidates had gone forward to assessment all had been accepted onto the scheme with two candidates starting their training in 2017 and two candidates in 2018. Candidates would start in the order in which their application had been received. A further assessment would be held in the Autumn of 2018.

13. Sub-committee on showing rules

A sub-committee had been set up to look at the showing rules and leaflets provided by the Society. If there were any changes to be made, these would be brought to the September meeting.

14. Website/Facebook

The website and facebook pages were work in progress with updates and posts being undertaken as necessary.

15. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

Events had been organised for the 2017 festival and the website was being updated.

16. Centenary Plans

A working group had been set up to coordinate ideas.

17. Exmoor Pony Centre

The Chairman advised that his decision to step back from the fund raising activities of the Exmoor Pony Centre had been based on existing Society policies and decisions and consideration for the Society's own finances. It had been Society policy not to use donations to fund running costs.

He accepted that this decision had not proved popular with the membership and felt that a meeting between the Trustees of the Moorland Mousie Trust and the Exmoor Pony Society would be beneficial. It was heartening to see that their fund raising objective for 2017 had been reached.

18. Outstanding Items

Review of Memorandum and Articles of Association

A special meeting would be called.

EPS leaflets

New style leaflets were being designed and published with the money awarded from Special Projects.

Trustees Training

This was an ongoing process with Trustees given the relevant paperwork as well as being kept up to date with current guidelines on the Charity Commission's website.

Marketing questionnaire

A review of the answers provided in the questionnaires would take place.

Review of Brands

Brands would be reviewed over the summer months and recommendations made at the September meeting.

19. Any Other Business

It was agreed that a proposal for raising funds for the EPS Spring Newsletter should be accepted.

A review of posts on social media was undertaken and concerns of members and non-members considered. It was agreed that such content would continue to be monitored and if necessary assistance sought from the police and Charity Commission.

It was agreed that the Society would take on the Exmoor Magazine as its media partner.

Work was ongoing to ensure that the Society met the new Data Protection requirements coming into effect from May 2018.

The following judge appointments were made:

Breed Show and Pony of the Year 2018

In-hand Mrs G Langdon

Geldings Mrs J Wharton Conformation judge for HOYS

Ridden Mrs S Burger Ridden for HOYS

Reserve Mrs J Webber

POTY Mrs S Poulter

Dates of next meetings

11th September Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

4th December The Old Forge, Stoneleigh

26th February Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

4th June The Old Forge, Stoneleigh

Mr Brewer closed the meeting at 4.45pm.