

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Report from the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 6th June at The Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross, Exmoor

The following Trustees were present:

Mrs C Bigge, Mr D Brewer (Chairman), Mrs S Burger, Mr M Dewhurst, Mrs F Dickson, Miss S Harris, Mr T Hickman, Mr N Hill, Mrs S Poulter, Mrs D Sykes, Mr D Wallace (Vice Chairman) and Mrs April Westcott.

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

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs A Western (President).

In accordance with meeting protocol, the Trustees noted that they were obliged to make a declaration of interest should any matter discussed potentially affect them directly. It was also noted that under the Data Protection Act certain items discussed should remain confidential.

The Minutes of the meeting on 29th February were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions by all those who had been present.

The Minutes of the meeting on 4th May were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions by all those who had been present.

The minutes were duly signed by the current Chair and Chair at the time of the meeting.

The following items were discussed:

Mr Nigel Hill was elected to act as Vice-Chair alongside David Wallace.

The updated (March 16) Minimum Operating Procedures for Passport Issuing Offices and the additional responsibility and workload this placed on the Secretary and in turn the Society.

The ongoing work being carried out ready for downloading data to the new Central Equine Database which was scheduled to go live on 1st July 2016.

Proposed zootech legislation with an implementation date end 2017.

The review of the Society's policies in respect of the Trustees, Finance, Managing Volunteers, Risk Assessment etc. was ongoing.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting and the General Meeting together with the notes from the Open Forum were reviewed by the Trustees and approved for circulation to members in the 2017 AGM Booklet where they would be ratified.

Following on from the General Meeting, it was agreed that a short report of each committee meeting would be issued. The minutes of each meeting would, following ratification, be published on a member's only section on the website.

It was further agreed that a review of Memorandum and Articles of Association to bring them into line with current Charity and Companies House legislation would take place with a view to taking Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status when applications from smaller charities were accepted in April 2017. For the sake of uniformity, the Society would liaise with other native breed societies.

It was noted that inspections traditional took place in the autumn and that this timing was linked directly to the Inspection Guidelines.

The criteria for entry into the main section of the Exmoor Pony Society Stud Book would remain in place until such times as the membership requested/voted for change. The EPS would continue to promote its charitable aims of maintaining the breed standard and registering ponies on known parentage in line with current EU/DEFRA legislation. The need to breed responsible in the current equine and economic market in line with advice from equine and welfare organisations remained essential.

The Genome Project was in its infancy with many details including funding and the protocol to be used to be decided. The scientific importance of the project with regard to the genomic analysis of the breed, identification of rare genes, assisting in the identification of veterinary conditions and research into such subjects as coat colour, should not be underestimated.

The Young Judge's Competition continued to go from strength to strength.

The new website with a member's only area should be up and running by the end of June.

This year's Exmoor Pony Festival theme was 'From Gather to Glory' and was designed to showcase moor bred ponies who had left the moor either to take on the role of a ridden pony or conservation grazer.

It was agreed that Trustee meetings would normally be held on:

1st Monday in June (Exmoor)
2nd Monday in September (Stoneleigh)
1st Saturday in December (Exmoor)
Last Monday in February (Stoneleigh)

The next four dates would be

12th September 2016
3rd December 2016
27th February 2017
5th June 2017

There would be a committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting in May 2017 to elect the Chair and Vice-Chairs.