

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 12th September 2016 at The Forge, Stoneleigh

Present:

Mrs C Bigge, Mr D Brewer (Chairman), Mrs S Burger, Mr M Dewhurst, Mrs F Dickson, Mr T Hickman, Mr N Hill (Vice Chairman), 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.

Mr David Brewer opened the meeting at 11.05am and thanked everyone present for attending the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Miss S Harris and Mrs A Western (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

Collection of semen from Exmoor pony stallions.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 6th June 2016.

The Minutes of the meeting on 6th June were approved as an accurate reflection of the discussions by all those who had been present.

The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Friends – Work was ongoing to sell the unit.

DEFRA/Central Equine Database – The Society continued to operate to the Minimum Operating Procedures for Passport Issuing Offices. The Society had kept abreast of all developments regarding the Central Equine Database and was awaiting notification that our data should be uploaded.

Zootech Legislation – Notification had been received that the new legislation would take effect in November 2018 but it was understood that this date might be moved. The Trustees had been kept informed of any significant changes.

Marketing Questionnaire – It was agreed that the marketing questionnaire should be put online in the hope of generating more responses.

Sweet Itch Project – Ongoing.

Patron – A letter sent to the Countess of Wessex had been acknowledged and a further response was awaited.

6. Genome Project

Dr. Sarah Blott from Nottingham University had given a talk at Exmoor House entitled 'How genetic science can help conserve and sustain the Exmoor Pony'. The link had been sent to all Trustees and posted on the website and facebook page. Dr. Blott, one of the country's leading experts, outlined the proposed study and explained ways in which studying the ponies at the DNA level could potentially

help in conserving the breed. She explained her initial findings following analysis of the Stud Book - a necessary precursor to selecting a sample of Exmoor ponies for the genome study. Her conclusions so far were that the Exmoor pony breed was in good shape: the level of in-breeding was being held stable, a broad representation of genetic diversity was being maintained and that the population was being well-managed genetically.

The Project Officer was in contact with Dr Blott regarding the computer generated selection of registered ponies whose DNA would be used for the project.

The two appointed Trustees would continue to liaise with the Exmoor National Park Authority and other interested parties with regard to possible outcomes from the genome project.

7. Reports

Secretary's Report

The report was taken as read by the Trustees.

It was agreed that finance of up to £300 would be made available for the purchase pop-up banners to be distributed to those attending events on behalf of the Society.

It was further agreed that two new Society leaflets would be published.

Finance

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

It was agreed that further consideration should be given to identifying permanent sources of income to maintain Society funds and that there should be a review of costs and charges for 2018.

Show Secretary

The Show Secretary function was handed over at the meeting.

Breed Show Secretary

The Breed Show Secretary would attend the December meeting and give her report in person.

Projects

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

Review of Secretary's honorarium

It was agreed that a working party would meet in October to review the administration of the Society.

8. Society policies in accordance with the requirements of the Charity Commission

These policies were reviewed and agreed by the Trustees.

9. Area Representatives

The Scottish Area representative had advised that they would like to step down if a replacement could be found. Given a replacement had stepped forward for the role, the change of Area Representative was agreed.

It was agreed that information on Friends and the Pony of the Year competition would be included in correspondence to Area Reps.

10. Young Judge's Competition

The Pam Ney Legacy was awarded to the Senior and Overall winner of the competition. The Overall winner could not enter the competition again and would be forward for assessment for the trainee judge scheme.

Arrangements for the 2017 qualifying rounds were ongoing and it was hoped that dates and locations would be available shortly.

11. Pony of the Year

The revised criteria for the competition were confirmed and would be published on the facebook page and the website.

12. Website/Facebook

The website was up and running and a number of minor amendments were requested to improve usability.

The facebook pages continued to attract a good audience and were managed by a number of volunteers.

13. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

The festival theme 'From Gather to Glory' had showcased moor bred ponies and taken on the role of a ridden pony or conservation grazer.

Events had also been included away from the moor to encourage the promotion of ponies throughout the country.

Plans were 2017 were being developed.

14. Any Other Business

Centenary Celebrations

A working group was set up to oversee the Centenary Plans for 2021.

Semen Collection

Semen had been successfully collected from one Exmoor pony stallion for the RBST equine semen bank.

Memorandum and Articles of Association

It was agreed that the Rules Committee would be reviewed and appointments made to allow for a review of the Memorandum and Articles of Association to bring them into line with current Charity and Companies House legislation.

The meeting was closed at 3.55pm.