

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday, 3rd December 2016 at The Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

Present:

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

Mrs S Mansell (Treasurer), Mrs S McGeever (Secretary) and Mrs C Phillips (Breed Show Secretary) were also in attendance.

Mr David Brewer opened the meeting at 11.00am and thanked everyone present for attending the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Mrs F Dickson, Mr N Hill (Vice Chairman), Mr D Wallace (Vice Chairman) 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

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 12th September 2016.

The Minutes of the meeting on 12th September 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.*)

Society Unit – 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 changes to passport format.

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 – Ongoing.

Sweet Itch Project – Ongoing.

Patron – Ongoing.

6. Genome Project

The Project Officer was in contact with Dr Blott and 24 ponies had been identified for the project and the accompanying letter and DNA bag format had been agreed in November. Samples had been collected from moor bred ponies on the list at inspections. Further work was dependent on all monies being forthcoming.

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 the format for the Photographic Competition would change in 2017.

Work was ongoing on updating the promotional material used by the Society and this would include re-printing the pony map.

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 with particular regard to DNA parentage testing costs and inspections.

It was agreed that the vendor would be responsible for the transfer fee.

Show Secretary

The Show Secretary reported that all affiliation documentation had been sent out to show secretaries and was available on the website.

Breed Show Secretary

The Breed Show Secretary reported that the show had run well and that there was a meeting scheduled with the Chairman of Exford Show to discuss increased involvement from the Exmoor Pony Society in the main ring.

It was felt that emphasis should be placed on the main three championships – in-hand, ridden and supreme. The smaller championships could be awarded through a points system and presented at the AGM.

It was agreed that entry fees would rise from £5 to £7.50.

Projects

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

Review of Secretary's honorarium

The Chairman reported that a meeting had taken place and further discussions would take place in January.

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

The Financial policy was reviewed and agreed by the Trustees.

Charitable Incorporated Organisation status should be available to existing charities in early 2017 and this would form the basis of the review of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

9. Trainee Inspector Assessment/Trainee Inspectors/Trainee Judges

The Chairman advised that all reports had been received and considered.

It was agreed that Mrs Jenna Payne, Mr Rob Taylor and Mrs Sarah Taylor would be appointed to the EPS Inspectors Panel having completed three years training.

It was agreed that Mrs Lisa Clarke, Mrs Jenna Payne, Mrs Cath Wells and Mrs Jackie Wharton would be appointed to the EPS Judge's Panel having completed three years training.

Candidates who had successfully completed Year 2 would move into Year 3 and candidates who had successfully completed in Year 1 would move into Year 2.

It was agreed that there would be an assessment for the trainee judge's programme in Spring 2017 and that Over 18 winners of the Young Judge's Competition could elect to go forward to the assessment. Successful candidates at the assessment would be allocated places in accordance with the date their application was received.

10. Area Representatives

Two trustees were appointed to liaise with Area Representatives.

11. Young Judge's Competition

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

12. Pony of the Year

The revised criteria for the competition had been published on the facebook page and the website.

13. Website/Facebook

Work was ongoing to improve usability and ensure that all the information required was easy to find on the site.

14. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

The 2017 festival theme would be 'The Exmoor Experience' and run from 5th-20th August with daily events on Exmoor. Rosettes would continue to be provided for the best moor bred ponies at Area Shows to highlight the pony's ability to adapt from the free-living to domestic environment.

Rosettes would also be provided for the Breed Show Parade and for those completing the ride.

The full list of events would be available shortly on the facebook page and website.

15. Centenary Plans

A working group was set up to oversee the Centenary Plans for 2021 and there would be a pony parade in Dulverton.

Any funds raised by the Centenary Committee would be sent to the Treasurer who would earmark them for the centenary celebrations.

16. Appointment of Judges

Judge appointments for the Breed Show – inhand, geldings and groups and ridden – were made and will be published on the website as soon as the appointments are accepted.

Mr Dewhurst, being present at the meeting, accepted the appointment for judge of the Pony of the Year competition.

17. Any Other Business

Meeting attendance: All those attending meetings on behalf of the EPS were requested to provide a written report for the committee meeting following such attendance.

Letter from the MEPGB: Given the lateness of its submission (30/11/16), it was agreed that there was insufficient time to consider its content and it would, therefore, be taken forward to the February meeting.

Dates of next meetings: It was agreed that the next two meeting dates would be 21st January and 27th February 2017 on Exmoor to allow for full discussion on inspections.

The meeting was closed at 4.05pm.