

EXMOOR PONY SOCIETY

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 26th February 2018 at Winsford Village Hall

Present:

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

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

Mr David Brewer opened the meeting at 11.00am and then thanked everyone present for attending the meeting. There was a large agenda to cover and a number of important matters to be discussed.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from 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 there were a number of additional items to bring forward under any other business.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings held on 4th December 2017

The Minutes of the meeting on 4th December 2017 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.*)

Sweet Itch Project

This project was ongoing.

6. Reports

Secretary's Report

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

Mrs Sue Burger was providing articles to magazines and Mrs Sandy Woodersen had expressed an interest in assisting with articles and PR.

The Committee wished to record their thanks to Mrs Jill Graham, President, on her comprehensive notes from the HOYS meeting.

The response from members with regard to the Spring Newsletter had been very positive.

Finance

Legacy: The Treasurer reported that work to invest the legacy was ongoing and it was agreed that the Trustees would discuss its possible uses at the June meeting as the legacy must be allocated to specific projects. It was understood that the sale of the second property was progressing.

General Finance: The Trustees accepted the accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2017 and these would go forward to the AGM.

The Trustees noted the auditor's advice to examine the trading activities of the charity and take legal and tax advice regarding the Charity Commission guidance (3.12 of CC35) requirement that such amounts do not exceed 25% of incoming resources. The Society fell within the guidelines for 2017 but the change in registration fees from 1st January 2108 should be considered.

It was noted that revised fees and the charge for upgrade passports was now listed on the website.

Breed Show Secretary

The Breed Show Secretary reported that she continued to await confirmation of sum to be paid to the Society from Exford Show.

Show Secretary/Pony of the Year (Item 11)

The Show Secretary reported that 2018 affiliations had been steady and that many shows had taken up the option of the Pony of the Year qualifier.

7. GDPR

The Trustees reviewed the GDPR information received from the solicitor together with the Secretary's notes from the meeting attended by a Trustee and the Secretary and information on cyber security.

A working group of two Trustees and the Secretary was set up to complete the compliance documentation.

All Trustees would be kept abreast of the ongoing work.

8. Inspections

Inspection paperwork had been updated again for 2018 to provide even greater clarity for veterinary surgeons completing the paperwork given the number of incomplete forms received in 2017.

Mrs Burger had re-written the Inspectors Guidelines and these had been circulated to the Trustees and following consultation would be amended wherever necessary and brought to the June meeting for adoption.

It was noted that an inspectors meeting was schedule to take place on 3rd June at Stoneleigh.

It was noted that where the breeder provided the sire and dam, the DNA parentage work generally took about 10 working days to come back to the Society with passports being issued upon receipt of confirmation of parentage verification.

It was noted that where the breeder's information did not parentage verify check, a number of given alternatives were tested and generally took a further 10 days to come back to the Society with passports being issued upon receipt of confirmation of parentage verification.

In a few instances, the breeder did not supply both a named sired and dam and in instances where this occurred the samples had to be tested against the whole database and was dependent on the availability of the laboratories to carry out such work.

It was noted that the laboratories work was to check the parentage given by the breeder and not to find the parentage of a pony where it was unknown or only a sire or dam given.

It was proposed that the Society would undertake to ask the laboratories to check the parentage of each foal as supplied by the breeder. Where such information was incorrect and the breeder supplied subsequent information a second attempt at parentage verification would take place. If the subsequent attempt did not provide for parentage verification then the breeder would be advised that the sample could be sent for testing against the whole database. In such instances, all costs would be met by the breeder.

In all cases, an ID only passport could be issued at the request of a breeder and subsequently upgraded if and when parentage verification was received.

9. Genome Project

The Project Officer advised that it was hoped that the initial results would be received by August 2018.

10. Articles of Association

The solicitor had advised that the Society take the revised Articles of Association to the 2018 AGM as there could be further delays in applying to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

11. Show Rules Sub-Committee

It was agreed that a number of amendments should be made to the showing rules and presented to the 2018 AGM. The Secretary undertook to prepare the documentation for the approval of the Trustees.

12. Pony of the Year

See Show Secretary report above.

13. Young Judge's Competition

Mrs April Westcott reported that plans were in hand for 2018 and the final at the Breed Show.

14. Website/Facebook

The website and facebook pages remained works in progress with updates and posts being undertaken as and when necessary.

15. Exmoor Pony Festival Trust

The schedule for the 2018 Exmoor Pony Festival Trust had been completed and flyers had been distributed at Snowdrop Valley. The website had been updated and further reports from the 2017 festival would be added.

16. Centenary Plans

Plans were underway for the event in 2021 and the Chair of the working group would continue to report to the Trustees on progress.

17. Any Other BusinessStatements to the press

It was noted that members wished the Society to take action both in terms of responses to and action against individuals. The Trustees had to weigh up the need to carry out its charitable aims and objectives as agreed by members against the time and expense of becoming involved in lengthy dialogues and of taking legal action.

A statement had been prepared and sent out to all interested parties setting out the Society's position and this would be made available on the website. The responses to the statement from individuals requesting further information had been widely accepted as a fair and reasoned response.

Requests from members and owners

A number of requests had been received from members and owners regarding registration of ponies, information on the ponies for publications and area representatives. Each had been discussed by the Trustees and the decisions conveyed to the individuals involved.

Dates of next meetings

2 nd May	Raleghs Cross
4 th June	Stoneleigh

Mr Brewer closed the meeting at 3.45pm.