

THE WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY
CYMDEITHAS Y MERLOD A'R COBIAU CYMREIG

**Summary of the Non Confidential Minutes of the Council meeting
held at 9.30am on Monday 1st July 2019 at Bronaeron, Felinfach,
Lampeter, SA48 8AG**

Present: Colin Thomas (Chair), Wyn Jones (Vice Chair), Daniel Morgan, Gwyn Jones, Dilwyn Roberts, John Welsh, Barry Hall, Deborah Jones, Sharon Charlton, Elgan Evans, Daydre Chambers, Roger Davies and Elizabeth Hampson.

Apologies:

In Attendance: Brian Foster (President), C R Davies (President-Elect)

Minute Taker: Rob Allen (Consultant Administrator)

Welcome and Apologies

On behalf of the trustees Wyn Jones expressed sympathy to Colin Thomas for the recent loss of his brother.

Declarations and Items for Any Other Business

Geraint Davies declared a conflict of interest with one of the applicants for Company Secretary.

- BREXIT correspondence
- Welfare correspondence
- Members wedding request
- WPCS Pavilion update
- Chair's statement
- Member complaint correspondence
- RWAS lease
- Company Secretary recruitment

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 13th May and Matters Arising

Matters Arising

It was confirmed that there were over 60K hits on Facebook for the Royal Cheshire video to date. The response to the gelding film was noted as excellent. The film needs to go onto the website **Action point**

A trustee commented that a member had written into the Society and that member should also be awarded a gold medal. It was clarified that the Society had written to the two individuals who were awarded the medals in error but none had been returned.

- Referred to Judging & Showing agenda **Action point**
- It was agreed there will need to be statement in the 2020 Journal that the two medals were revoked. Referred to Member Services agenda **Action point**

In relation to the Society Issue Log a query was raised on the cups and trophies stored at Bronaeron. In previous discussion it had been noted that Lampeter Show stores its solid silver trophy stock at Bronaeron. Concerns had been raised that the level of stock in the building may not be reflected by the level of insurance. The Society needs to value, repair and maintain its stock.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the cups, trophies and pictures owned by the Society be photographed and valued. **Action point.**

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the cups and trophies owned by the Society are recalled to Bronaeron by the end of the August and when prizes are given out to members they receive a rider that states they are responsible for the insurance. **Action point.**

It was noted that the Society had offered to store Lampeter's trophy stock but not to insure it. A letter to be sent to Lampeter Show asking for the valuation and a copy of their insurance. **Action point**

It was noted that the museum is due to be tidied by the Deputy Company Secretary (DCS).

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the minutes from the 13th of May be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 3rd June and Matters Arising

Matters Arising

The International Meeting will be held at the Castle Hotel, Llandovery between 2 and 4pm on Sunday 21st of July. The cost for the rooms was noted as £100. The Metropole had quoted £800. Trustees were concerned that in 2018 there had been difficulties with traffic queueing and passes for members entering the RWAS site. Therefore it had been decided to move the location this year.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the minutes from the 3rd of June be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

Chair & Vice Chair Update

Confidential minute raised.

The Chair read from his report. He commented that he had been Vice Chair of Council for four years and Chair for the past few months and that he had been in regular contact with Gemma, the Deputy Company Secretary (DCS), over the past few weeks and she has been extremely professional and prompt with her work. Gemma has expressed to the Chair how helpful Rob Allen, the Consultant Administrator, has been to her and the Chair thanked him. He noted the successful GDPR training meeting, he thought it was wonderful and it took a lot of the fear factor out of it. In reference to recruitment of the Company Secretary the Chair asked that trustees declare any conflict of interest.

A trustee commented that there has been very positive member feedback about the office and the Chair expressed his feeling that the DCS has the confidence of the staff.

General Meeting 2019

Confidential minute raised.

The Chair tabled a report he has received from Aberystwyth University on DNA testing. It was discussed that at the General Meeting (GM) members are asked for their feedback on three options: delete the policy; continue with the existing policy; or change to another policy.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the university report and the previous report from the Honorary Vet be attached to the GM agenda in the mailing. **Action point**

Gemma Bassett-Burr (DCS) joined the meeting.

The Vice Chair referred to a report a trustee is writing for the GM. It was clarified that trustees had agreed that this report be included in the GM mailing in a previous discussion. They had also agreed to hold a pre-GM meeting of trustees on Tuesday 6th of August.

With reference to the letter to individual members, who made agenda suggestions, it was agreed it is to be personalised and sent out prior to the GM mailing. **Action point**

With reference to the draft GM agenda it was agreed to ask members to send in Any Other Business in writing by the 5th of August. These will be discussed on the 6th of August. A trustee requested that the AOB is published on the website prior to the GM. **Action point**

With reference to a possible welfare agenda item it was discussed that the Society is unable to discuss specific cases at the GM, as usually private and confidential, and therefore there should not be one. It was suggested that the 2017 welfare video be re-published on the website prior to the GM and it is reported that that the Society is going to be proactive in arranging college visits. **Action point**

A trustee spoke on the report he is writing explaining how and why he accepted the trustee nomination. This is because a member attempted to remove him as a trustee at the Annual General Meeting in order to replace him with another member. He has explained in the report why he accepted the nomination. The Chair commented that the trustee's nomination was not tribalism, a word that has been used outside of the Council, and although there are members from this part of Wales on the Council the reason is that nobody is putting their names forward. A trustee commented that it is a good report.

It was clarified for the minutes that this report will be published on the website as soon as possible and in the GM mailing. The GM mailing was confirmed by the DCS as taking place from the 15th of July.

With reference to whether there are special resolutions on the agenda or not, there were two that were discussed: what to do with the DNA testing policy; and whether to increase to 21 trustees over 3 years.

It was clarified that the members need to be asked on the day as to what they want to take place with the DNA testing policy prior to a special resolution.

It was confirmed that the DCS and CA had spoken to the Chair and had sought legal advice on the process of increasing trustees. The CA read out the advice on consulting with the membership prior to raising resolutions and the advice on introducing the additional six trustees in a phased implementation. The process for raising special resolutions and updating the Articles was also discussed.

A trustee summarised the trustee discussion that at the GM the changes can be discussed and if the members at the GM agree then the Society can progress to special resolutions.

The trustees broke for lunch. Daniel Morgan gave his apology and left the meeting.

Following the lunch break a trustee asked whether trustees wished to increase from 15 trustees to 21. It was queried if there will be enough members willing to stand as trustees to reach 21. It was raised whether the length of terms should be increased from two terms of three years to three terms of three years.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the number of trustees is increased from 15 to 21, two per year until 21 is reached.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the terms are increased from two to three then off for three years.

Trustees agreed that this second motion was not retrospective and that there should be one special resolution including both of these motions. It was clarified that these motions are the proposals to be discussed with members at the GM.

The Chair read out a thank you letter from a member. It was agreed that this will be read out at the GM. **Action point**

An updated GM agenda was tabled.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the updated GM agenda is approved and signed by the Company Secretary

With reference to an outstanding trustee query reference co-option of non-voting members to Council and standing committees, the CA referred to the legal advice. A suggestion which would not require a change to the Articles is to invite individuals to attend Council meetings as “advisers”. They would have no voting rights and would not be trustees. However, they can be chosen based on their skills/knowledge and where trustees feel that their input may be useful. It is important to note that they would not have any trustee duties/responsibilities

President Foster requested a resume of who is due to speak on each agenda item. To be agreed at the 6th of August preparation meeting. **Action point**

Draft 2019 AGM Minutes

The draft minutes had been distributed to the majority of trustees on the 26th of June. With reference to the calculating of attending members, with the absence of one attendance book from the 31st of March and the issue on the registration desk, it was agreed to consult with Baldwins as to how many members voted minus the proxy votes and to use this as the number attending **Action point**

The DCS commented on the registration of members for the General meeting. All staff will be available on the day and there will be two laptops registering members.

It was identified that the names of some contributors are missing from the minutes. This was due to their not identifying themselves. Two members of the office team have listened to the recording and were unable to identify. The draft minutes records them as “name not stated” and members will be asked to correct at the 2020 AGM. It was suggested that the wireless mics do not go live until the contributor has received the mike.

Trustees were asked to forward any comments or queries to the CA by Sunday 14th of July. The CA will be doing a final revision of the minutes on Monday the 15th with Council asked to approve for the autumn mailing on the 5th of August. **Action point**

Review of Standing Orders and Terms of Reference – deferred from 13th May 2019

Each document was reviewed in turn with trustees requesting alterations and changes as appropriate. The discussions resulted in the following:

- The Journal moved from the Promotions standing committee to Member Services where it has been on the agenda for some years
- Judges must have individual membership. The Judging & Showing standing committee to amend the annual form so that members have to tick that they have individual membership **Action point**
- The Young Ambassador applications need to be added to the Member Services agenda for actioning as soon as possible **Action point**
It was agreed that the President and the President-elect interview the applicants **Action point**
It was agreed that the mentor will attend the young people's meeting at the Royal Welsh Show. **Action point**
The mentor will need to supply a DBS check. If requiring updating the Society will arrange for a new one. **Action point**

President Foster requested that out of date publications should be removed from the Bronaeron foyer as they give the wrong impression.

Reports from Standing Committees

Finance and Human Resources (FHR)

The confidential minutes dated 3rd June were distributed.

The Chair of FHR gave a verbal report on the minutes and the recent FHR meeting on the 26th of June.

Confidential minute raised

Correspondence relating to the Mrs Thelma Carter legacy was tabled. It was reported that there will be a sizable value to the combined property and monies. It was noted that if the Society ceases to exist the monies remaining will return to the executors. Once the grant of probate is received the Society will announce the value and seek legal advice to ensure that the funds are ring-fenced as per the probate agreement. The Chair of FHR asked the Council to resolve a motion recommended by FHR in this matter.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that residual monies will be placed into investments and ring fenced as a legacy fund.

In addition:

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the property bequeathed to the Society by Mrs Thelma Carter be auctioned.

The 2020 AGM was discussed. It was suggested that the AGM should take place in Wales for the benefit of the welsh economy. It was discussed that the Society should analyse the database to find out where its members live and that members from outside of Wales are proud of being members of a welsh society. The Chair of FHR asked the Council to resolve a motion recommended by FHR. The cost to the

Society for the Presidents Dinner is £35 per head and therefore the ticket price needs to increase to £40 per head.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the price of the Presidents Dinner ticket for 2020 increase to £40.

Judging & Showing

The Vice Chair of J&S spoke on the J&S minutes from the 3rd of June 2019.

With reference to the Judges Conference 2019 it was agreed that the ticket price will be £20 and the cost of the ticket should cover the cost of the event including the food and venue. The invitations need to be sent out from the office list. **Action points**

A trustee raised a concern that as a panel judge the trustee gives their time freely to the Society but is then charged for attending the judges conference which is it mandatory to attend.

It was confirmed that the conference is on the 21st of September and all trustees are expected to attend. **Action point**

It was proposed, seconded and carried that a panel judge is given dispensation for not attending the conference this year but must attend the next one. A letter to be sent **Action point**

Education & Welfare

The Chair of E&W spoke on the minutes from the 3rd of June. It was noted that the Honorary Vet/Welfare Co-ordinator needs to be sent the minutes before the date of the meetings. The Chair of E&W thanked the Chair of Council for clarifying the facts around the DNA Testing policy.

In relation to a recent court ban as reported by the Daily Post:

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the Education & Welfare standing committee receive the full support of the Council to follow the lead of the courts and for the membership ban to be reviewed at the appropriate time.

Confidential minute raised

The Chair thanked the Chair of E&W for a very positive meeting on the 3rd of June.

Member Services

The Chair of Member Services spoke on the minutes from the 3rd of June. He confirmed that the next Stud Book is on hold until the new IT system is in place.

The Chair reported that the Welsh Government has clarified that the micro-chipping in the old passports can be in an appropriate position. The microchip number is in

the new passport template. The Society will need to provide stickers and advertise this. **Action point**

A trustee spoke on the fact that people do not have to be a member of the Society to own a Welsh breed and new owners often do not wish to pay the £15 transfer fee. It was suggested that the General Meeting would be a good opportunity to ask members not to be involved in the black-market transfer of horses.

Promotions

The Chair of Promotions spoke on the minutes from the 3rd of June.

Carlam Ltd had agreed to film at the Royal Cheshire and this was a major success for the Society. The gelding film had over 60K viewings. There were a lot of suggestions as to how to promote the geldings.

There will be a promotions plan for the next three years and the standing committee is working on which shows to cover in order to calculate the costs. There needs to be a plan for where the exhibition unit goes, which events the President is asked to attend and which shows the staff attend. **Action point**

It was commented that the Society needs to be consistent on its mark-up on its goods for sale. Referred to FHR agenda **Action point**

A query was raised as to why the Society does not run its own show, either hosted by an area association or run by the young people. Referred to Council agenda 2nd September 2019 **Action point**

Health & Safety

A change was made to the Health & Safety Policy. To be re-issued for signature of Roger Davies as the Health & Safety trustee at the next Council meeting. **Action point**

It was reported on the state of the Pavilion:

- There are rotten posts
- The apex of the main building is flaking
- There is running water all the time
- The manhole to the left of the building is not fitting properly and is a trip hazard
- The lights in the toilets are not working
- Portable Appliance Testing is due

It was agreed that the Chair of FHR will contact the builder and a trustee will action the PAT and toilet lights. **Action points**

Choice of Judges for Young Peoples Competition

Trustees requested a letter be sent to the organisers expressing the Societies disappointment in judges being selected without reference to the Council and the lack of representation in Section C. **Action point**

Correspondence

- a) Equine Studbooks Association protocol was tabled. The DCS will clarify with the ESA what is behind the protocol in order to identify consequences for the Society, if any, and contact the Dartmoor and New Forest societies. **Action point**
- b) Confidential minute raised
- c) Four trustees agreed to complete the Native Pony National Wildness survey. This will also be completed by the Hill Pony Improvement Society.
- d) Deferred from 3rd June, an e-mail from WPCV. Also tabled was a response from the Welsh Government in relation to the EU Exit and the risk of no deal. It was confirmed that the Society is on a list of UK breed societies, recognised by the EU as “third country breeding bodies”, applying for the status of official recognition. The list has been received by the European Commission but no formal response to date. It was commented that the Society has been offered the rent of an office on the European mainland. It was noted that the Society needs to lobby the relevant cabinet ministers and to speak to overseas associations to lobby their governments on the Societies behalf. Also, that the Ceredigion Assembly Member and the ESA should be contacted for their view of the situation. **Action points**

Defer as agenda item to the 6th August trustee meeting **Action point**

- e) A suggestion was made by the DCS for free sale adverts on the website for a limited length of time.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that sales adverts are agreed. **Action point.**

- f) *Confidential minute raised*
- g) Referred to Education & Welfare
- h) No further action – action by the Chair
- i) *Confidential minute raised*

Enrolment of New Members & Renewal of Memberships

The trustees reviewed the list of members from the 1st of May to the 30th of June 2019. Queries were raised on why some direct debits appeared on paper to be late in being processed. Passed to the DCS for comment. **Action point**

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the new members and member renewals are accepted.

Any Other Business

President Foster and President-Elect CR Davies made their apologies and left the meeting

Trustees agreed to a request for the photos of two members getting married to each other to be displayed outside of the WPCS pavilion. The members to be asked to write an article for the Journal. **Action point**

The Chair asked for standing orders to be stood down to allow for additional matters to be discussed by the Council.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously carried that standing orders are stood down.

Confidential minute raised.

Chair's Statement

The trustees discussed and agreed the wording of a statement for the website and to go in the GM mailing.

Trustees Report

The trustee will be adding to his report that trustees have not been pressing members not to sign the petition.

Company Secretary Recruitment

Five trustees and the DCS formed the short-listing panel with the DCS acting as panel administrator.

Next Council meeting to take place at 3pm on Monday 5th of August 2019 after the standing committee meetings.

The Chair closed the meeting at 6.00pm.