

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 9.00am on 13th May 2019 at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter,
SA48 8AG**

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

Apologies: Brian Foster (President)

In Attendance: C R Davies (President-Elect)

Minute Taker: Rob Allen (Consultant Administrator)

Prior to the Council meeting, the Chair welcomed Stuart Everitt and Mark Ellison from Central Equine Register to speak on the progress of a new equine database for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society. The Office Manager joined the meeting for the presentation.

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed trustees and asked everyone to work together for the Society to move forward. Trustees spoke their names for the benefit of the recording sound level.

Declaration and Items for Any Other Business

There were no declarations.

- Two queries relating to Judging & Showing
- Thelma Carter Legacy
- Cost of the new database
- The Society could work with Area Associations to promote transfers
- The Studbook 2016
- Daily Post report of individuals receiving a court ban
- Letter from a member of staff (Colin Thomas) – to be discussed in confidence
- Letter received on the 12th of May (Colin Thomas) – to be discussed in confidence
- Suspension of Standing Orders to be proposed to raise additional business

The proposed training in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is due to be delivered by the WCVA and dates are awaited. Subject to prior notice trustees had no issues with attending. **Action point**

An e-mail was received from a member but could not be accessed by the Society. An acknowledgement will be sent. **Action point**

Trustees agreed that it was not acceptable that members are sending correspondence the day before meetings. There needs to be a dead-line for correspondence of ten days before the meeting dates. It is also necessary that all correspondence is acknowledged. **Action point**

There was a discussion around if Society responses should be marked private and confidential". If the matter is not confidential and the response is straight talking it was asked what the issue is with being placed on Facebook. However, it was noted that individuals have the habit of putting letters and signatures onto social media, without redaction, and that anybody can copy and paste signatures. This can be open to abuse. The Chair was not comfortable with his signature being published in public. It was suggested that this could be a topic for the GDPR training. **Action point**

Minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 29th April and Matters Arising

Matters Arising:

There was a discussion around how summaries are published on the website and what they consisted of. It was confirmed that motions are published as having been "proposed, seconded and carried" with the names of trustees removed. That the summaries are based on minutes that have been ratified and should not be published before they are.

It was noted that there is no need to record who voted for what in the actual minutes however it is the current practise for the Society to do so. Actual minutes are retained in the office and on the network and there is a process by which individuals can ask to see them with redacting possible.

It was commented that the minutes on white paper should be acceptable to be published and that therefore the ratified minutes from 29th April should be able to go out as they are. It was reported by the Chair that in 2017 the Council passed a motion that Council minutes are not published (**Minute 1128 31st March 2017**). The Charity Commission guidelines advise that minutes do not have to be published. The Chair stated that there needs to be an agreement amongst trustees on how to move forward. It was agreed to continue this discussion when standing orders are stood down later in the meeting **Action point (NB this did not take place – deferred to next Council meeting)**

It was confirmed that an advert has been placed for Company Secretary on Indeed and in the Western Mail and Horse and Hound. The closing date is the 31st of May. Although Indeed is only forwarding curriculum vitae there is an expectation that applicants will submit a statement against the job description. The position has been advertised on Society social media.

It was confirmed that the 2018 ruling on Brood Mares was on the website as of Thursday 9th of May.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that Gwyn Jones be Vice Chair of Finance and Human Resources.

Daydre Chambers is to sit on Judging & Showing and Member Services to progress the Journal.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the minutes from the 29th of April be accepted as a true record of the meeting.

There was a break for lunch. The meeting re-convened at 1.15pm.

Chair/Vice Chair Update

The Chair reported that his work has been hectic. He reported that he has been dealing with a lot of correspondence including, with the Office Manager, two Subject Access Requests. He will arrange a day with the Office Manager to discuss staffing matters. It was noted that correspondence for the attention of standing committees needs to go to the Chairs. **Action point**

The new website will go live by the 26th of May although it will not be complete due to the IT. The Chair has suggested to the Office Manager that someone from the IT department of Aberystwyth University be asked to assist. Trustees agreed this was a good idea. **Action point**

Society Issue Log

Confidential minute raised.

General Meeting 2019

The WPCS Strategy Day Action Plan was tabled.

It was agreed to discuss the procedure for correspondence on Monday 3rd of June at 3.00pm. **Action point**

General Meeting Agenda

There is a need for the Society to hold the General Meeting soon as possible at there needs to be a positivity. Members are concerned that this is not progressing with a sense of urgency. It was clarified that President Foster will decide on the venue once a date has been chosen by the Council. It was noted that the President has been in contact with the Vale Resort, Cardiff regarding AGM 2020. It was also noted that Stoneleigh has been offered free of charge but nothing has been received officially from Grandstand Media. It was suggested that all the topics put forward by members are included on the agenda and trustees speak on each agenda item. It was felt that several topics are already progressing or completed and therefore will not take long to discuss. The General Meeting should open with a professional report covering what the Council and the Society are already doing. There will be a

trustee preparation day before the meeting. Any members who exhibit poor conduct should be asked to leave the General Meeting. **Action points**

Dates in June, August and September were discussed, also early evenings and weekends and whether a Saturday or a Sunday. It was felt that following the meeting with the Area Associations, and the very clear message that their shows are struggling, the General Meeting should avoid clashing with any of their shows. Also, that the Society follows its previous process of mailing to all members to reduce the risk of missing out members who are not online.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the General Meeting is held on Saturday 31st of August or Sunday 1st of September, subject to the President's approval on the location. **Action point**

It was agreed that any published statement will refer to the Societies wish to avoid competing with Area Association shows, the trustees having listened to their concerns raised at the recent meeting and will only be published once a date and venue has been agreed. A query was raised as to whether any special resolutions will be put before the membership for voting and the need to increase from 15 to 21 trustees. It was noted that the original decrease in trustees was an outcome from the Pamela Wood Report from 2006. The Chair will e-mail to trustees for their information. **Action Point.**

Concerns were discussed as to how encouraging members to stand: the distances travelled from outside of Wales; the decrease in trustees during 2018/19 from 15 to 10; whether former Council members will wish to stand for re-election; and the need for a balance between professional people and breeding and showing people.

The Chair promised he will contact President Foster with the motion as quickly as possible. **Action Point.**

Publicity

Lampeter Show Statistics

Trustees commended the work of Euros Llyr Morgan. A letter to be sent to him thanking him. **Action point.** President-Elect Davies spoke on how Euros and the BBC are going to be filming soon with his stallion. Also, the BBC has filmed the microchipping of foals for the Off the Beaten Track programme to be broadcast later this year.

Publicity Officer

It was noted that Mrs Angela Kember is a volunteer publicity officer, a letter to be sent to her thanking her for her continued support. Refer to correspondence 10L. **Action point**

It was proposed, seconded and carried that Mrs Kember be asked to cover Kent County, South-Eastern and South of England for the 2019 season.

Confidential minute raised.

Exhibition Unit 2019

The list of where the unit was attending was noted by trustees. The Society should not be charged by Aberystwyth Show as it is a charity. To go onto website **Action Point**

STANDING ORDERS

The Chair asked for Standing Orders to be stood down in order to table additional Council correspondence. He explained he would need a proposer, a seconder and 75% of the vote in favour.

It was proposed, seconded and carried that Standing Orders were stood down.

Confidential minute raised

Signature

A letter was tabled. Trustees received the correspondence regarding this matter and it was decided that the original decision stood.

Review of Terms of Reference

Deferred to next Council meeting 1st July 2019.

Distribution of new trustee induction packs and capture of signatures

Packs distributed and some signatures captured. Continuing at next Council meeting **Action point**

Correspondence

10l Tabled under agenda item 7

10m Report from the Young Ambassador including a request for funding to represent the Society at the International Show 2019 in Australia.

It was proposed, seconded by Elgan Evans and carried that the Society funds an economy class air ticket from the Young People Fund. **Action point.**

10n No further action

10o A letter to be sent to Mr Len Bigley congratulating him on his success as President of the National Pony Society **Action point**

10p The Chair updated trustees that the Office Manager and a member of her staff had met with Aberystwyth University and will have a response by the 1st of June.

10q The correspondent is receiving a stallion license, the Honorary Vet has advised in this matter and the Officer Manager has accepted it. The Chair will ask the Office Manager to send an email to trustees clarifying. **Action point**

10r confidential minute

10s confidential minute

A query was raised by a trustee in relation to whether the Society has received correspondence relating to entries being taken on the day. It was agreed the Society to publish a web statement reminding members of the rules for 2019. **Action point**

Approval of draft Area Association Minutes

Subject to a minor spelling correction and the updating of three names the minutes were approved to go onto the website and to be sent to the Area Associations. The trustees went through an action plan agreeing which standing committee each pledge will be referred to. This action plan to also go on the website. **Action points**

A trustee spoke on how the Area Associations had been clear that they are finding it difficult to maintain their shows. What was coming out loud and clear was the cost of judges and that sometimes they had to go a long distance to get a panel judge and pay for accommodation, it is costing the smaller shows a lot of money. The trustee asked if the Judging and Showing standing committee would consider suspending the need for judges for bronze medals for a period of up to two years as an experiment. **Action point**

Enrolment of New Members & Renewal of Memberships

It was agreed that a review of the process for maintaining the Society members register take place in the spring of each year. The calendar of trustee meetings and agenda items to be updated to reflect this. **Action point**

Any Other Business

Gold medals

It was noted that a member of staff has apologised that the two medals went out in error.

Thelma Carter Legacy

It was proposed, seconded and carried that after the probate has been finalised plaques are put up at Bronaeron and the Pavilion in the memory of Mrs Carter.

How many medal shows can a panel judge attend?

In response to a query raised by a trustee it was clarified that there was a previous change from 5 medal shows down to 3 medal shows. If a judge is planning to judge 4 medals in 2019 then that judge will need to relinquish 1.

New Society Database

It was proposed, seconded and carried that the Society confirm with Central Equine Register that they complete the final IT system of the Welsh Pony and Cob Society subject to contract. **Action point**

Promoting Transfers of Ownership

Referred to Member Services standing committee agenda. **Action point**

Daily Post report of individuals receiving a court ban

It needs to be clarified if one of the individuals is a current member of the Society and if so a flag placed on the membership record and the member banned for 8 years. The Society to apply for the court ruling and to be referred to Education and Welfare agenda. **Action points**

The Council meeting was closed at 5.40pm with no further business.

A short Council meeting will be held on Monday 3rd of June, following the Standing Committees.

The next full Council meeting will be Monday 1st of July.