

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

**Minutes of the Council meeting held at 9:00am on Monday**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA48 8AG**

**Present:** Colin Thomas (Chair), Wyn Jones (Vice Chair), Daniel Morgan, Dilwyn Roberts, Barry Hall, Sharon Charlton, Elgan Evans, Daydre Chambers, Roger Davies, Deborah Jones, John Welsh, C R Davies (President-Elect), Geraint Davies and Elizabeth Hampson

**Apologies:** Brian Foster (President), Gwyn Jones

**In Attendance:** Gemma Bassett-Burr (Office Manager) Meirion Davies (Company Secretary)

**Minute Taker:** Gemma Bassett-Burr (Office Manager)

Condolences were offered to Chair of Council for the sad loss of his Cousin.

**Declarations and Items for any Other Business**

No items for AOB

A Trustee thanked Company secretary and Office manager for the minutes.

**Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> January Council Meeting**

Corrections – none

Matters arising – none

**Proposed and Seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record of the meeting. All in favour.**

A Trustee and President-elect arrived

*Confidential Minute*

**Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> January Council Meeting**

**Corrections**

Page 1 – Paving slabs

Page 2 – Show jump

Page 5 – Vet

**Matters Arising**

A show – following their committee meeting they have confirmed that there will be no time to fit in a driving display.

Young Ambassador Card – A card thanking her for all the hard work is to be issued at the end of her term. It was suggested that she has something other than a card as she has done a fantastic job but as a society, we cannot do one thing for one and something different for another. The mentor is to take this suggestion to the Young people to see if they feel a gift would be appropriate or not from them as a collective group rather than the society.

**Proposed and Seconded. All in favour.**

*Confidential Minute*

### **Chair/Vice Chair of Council update**

There is a huge amount of work going on and Chair asked everyone to please bear with the staff. Chair expressed how pleased he was with the work of the IT suppliers and thanked the trustees and staff. The DNA group has also reached a milestone, and this will be for the best interest of the Society going forwards. Chair also expressed his disappointment at the accusations of Trustees tampering with the Articles of Association.

### **Company Secretary/ Office Manager**

We were pushed to announce the launch of the Online pedigree sooner than anticipated as the online link was uploaded by our website provider sooner than agreed. There are split views on this from the membership; some absolutely love it others are negative towards it. The passport layout is now in line with the other native breed societies, and we will be working with a Trustee to provide a Welsh language version of the passport.

Promotional activities should also be considered in Welsh.

With regards to the system the ICT switches have been realigned to speed up the system.

The microchipping of older animals is set for England in Oct 2020 and Wales Feb 2021 The deadline is applicable to where the pony is held not where the Society is based.

The RWAS are to be contacted to confirm the microchipping status for both shows this year and a joint press release regarding flu vaccinations at the Royal Welsh show.

### **Additional updates**

- Chair has been assisting with creating the draft summaries to go onto the society website.
- Monthly bulletins have been well received by the membership.
- Minute taking workshop has been agreed and a date is to be scheduled.
- Working on a new style registration form
- The Welsh National Show has offered the National Hall free of charge on the evening prior to the show which could be offered to the Young Ambassador to run something with the young people.
- Two trustees have both put themselves forward to be JMB reps

- Discussion was had regarding having a projector in the office to use. Costs to be checked on this.
- A gentleman has been in touch with the society regarding two old silver WPCS medals to ask if we would like to purchase them. Agreed that we could offer £50 per medal
- A member has said that she is happy for us to place a direct link on our website to her Shows website.
- Regarding the performance awards we should be working more closely with the Organiser, we sold approx. £300 worth of stock. The video needs to be more focused toward the target audience; The Young Ambassador's speech to the room was brilliant.

Names who have offered to help during the upcoming mailing include 8 trustees, two trustee's wives and two members of the Society.

### **Amendments by the solicitors on Disciplinary Procedures**

It was discussed that the subject of the complaint should have the option to conduct the investigation in their chosen language. Changes which are to be added to the handbook during the year are to be looked into further. Possibly look to liaise with another organisation. The outsourcing of Independent Investigations was discussed.

Prior to a disciplinary both sides should have the opportunity to put forward evidence at the investigation stage. It currently doesn't state in the Judging and Showing handbook how the investigation takes place nor when you will be informed of a complaint against you.

Section 3 supplied by solicitors - points in red discussed and accepted or amended. Section 1-2 also need to be reviewed by the solicitors to check the correct process and that it flows with section 3 to prevent any contradiction.

### **Terms of Reference**

These were shared with the room at both Council and Committee meetings.

Review of Council terms of reference

Page 1 - should read objectives

Page 2 - principal officer to company secretary, attendance at meetings  
principal officer to company secretary and office manager.

Second bullet point to remove the first two words and replace with Being.

**Proposed and Seconded. All in favour**

*Confidential Minutes*

### **GM Review**

Company secretary is currently 2 ½ hours into the recording. Everyone has now been attributed correctly and this is quite a lengthy document. This week's priority is to now get this done. There has been some difficulty in doing this as

the minute taker had moved things around that so conversations were not in the right place, due to the sound problems.

### **Gift Aid**

This is on the agenda for the Auditors meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### **GM Minutes Final Draft**

The terms on council were discussed and whether or not a 6-year length of term was considered enough for continuity, or if this should be increased to 9 years.

Consideration given to the below

- 9yr term, 15 people
- 9yr term, 21 people
- 9yr term, 18 people
- 6yr term, 15 people
- 6yr term, 21 people

A report is to be created on the advantages and disadvantages of having more/less people on council ahead of the AGM including a recommendation from Council

The level of Expenses available to Trustees are also to be looked at and reviewed

### **Report from DNA panel meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020**

This was a constructive afternoon and the Chair of E & W was thanked for chairing the meeting and he also thanked all those who attended, and the Company secretary for inviting the external visitors to participate. The next meeting is to look more at the costs and a cost benefit analysis, and it is hoped that some recommendations can be put to Council following the February meeting. There are 7,000 different markers when looking at DNA and we only currently use 17 as part of the parentage test. We could be working with other organisations such as the Laminitis trust to establish markers that contribute towards identifying a propensity for laminitis in ponies. The possibility of also working with other Native breed societies to negotiate a better deal when sourcing a DNA provider is to be considered.

### **Educational Seminar**

16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 was accepted as a revised date, due to the availability of the venue.

*Confidential Minute*

## **Journal Report**

Journals have gone to print and are due back with the society on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020A lot of hard work has gone into this and a Trustee was thanked for all her hard work sourcing articles etc.

## **DNA of Hill Ponies**

The DNA harvesting of the hill ponies in 2015 was done as a University Academic project and only shared the file and numbers, no cross checking took place and anomalies were not checked from what we understand. The academic project was not fit for purpose for what the WPCS requires for Mare DNA purposes. We therefore need to establish how many of those mares surveyed are still alive and the Society should potentially look at picking up the cost of re-profiling DNA tests in some cases to protect our stud book.

**Proposed and Seconded. All in favour**

## **Website**

We hope to set up a meeting with the website provider in the next 3 weeks to review the website. This will be reviewed in sections and we hope not to take the website down while it is being updated. Trustees were asked to look at the website and offer ideas or improvements to the Company secretary? Sub committees also to look at their relevant sections. Lettering size and font to also be reviewed.

## **Insurance Cover for WPCS**

This will remain with the current supplier. During the summer other companies are also to be considered for the 2021 provision.

*Confidential Minute*

## **2020 AGM Progress report**

A meeting took place at the Vale Resort with the Sound engineer, and 'Only Men aloud' representative. Currently 77 of the 125 rooms have been sold. Two tiers of staging will be available for the trustees and two tables for the awards. We will have a designated Wi-Fi code to allow us to sign members in. 15 Items have been received for the auctions and these will be announced at the end of February / early March.

## **Registrations – pricing and suggested fees**

This is on the agenda for the 6<sup>th</sup> February and will then be fed back to the board.

The suggested tiered new registration fees are

- Jan-July £22.50
- Aug-Sept £25.00
- Oct-Nov £30.00

**Proposed and Seconded. All in favour.**

## **Stud Book Quotes**

The designer who has previously created the stud book layouts for the Society has quoted for the 4 outstanding books. Printing costs will be on top of this. In a previous meeting it was agreed that we would print runs of 70 books for each Stud book.

**Proposed and Seconded. All in favour.**

## **Broderick Trophy**

Embargoed minute

## **Members List**

A proposal that the list of new members be accepted

**Proposed and Seconded. All in Favour**

## **Long Service Recognition**

A report has been looked at and approximately 21% of the society membership has had 40+ years' service with us. The option of a badge for individuals who have achieved this milestone was discussed. Quotes are to be sourced for badges to be provided.

It was proposed that a badge is provided for those with 40+ year's service to the society.

**Proposed and Seconded. All in favour**

*Confidential minute*

## **Honorary Nominations/ Future Candidate Submission Forms**

These are to be reviewed and brought to a future Council meeting.

## **AOB**

The owner of a prefix has recently passed away and her husband would like to carry on the prefix. In order to do this, we require a formal letter from the next of kin to transfer the prefix.

A request has been made if there could be a Special award to mark the achievement of winning the Sire ratings for 10 years. The Council's feelings are that the award each year is sufficient, and we will acknowledge the 10 years of winning the award via social media prior to the AGM.

A Trustee noted that Lampeter Stallion Show is coming up and the Stock to be taken to the show needs to be considered

A Trustee asked if there had been a response from the Royal Welsh regarding the Young handler Gold medal. To date we have not yet had a response.

**With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 4:20pm.**

This report is prepared solely for the purpose of Council. It is private and confidential to members of Council. They must not be produced or disclosed to any other individual. The remarks made by any specific members of Council as reported in these Minutes are their personal views and not the views of the Society unless ratified by the Society.