



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

Summary Minutes of the online Council meeting held at 1.30pm on Friday 19th June 2020

Present: **Via laptop/pc** President -Brian Foster Colin Thomas, Wyn Jones, Barry Hall, Elgan Evans, Liz Hampson, Sharon Charlton, Geraint Davies, John Welsh, Gwyn Jones, Roger Davies

Via mobile phone or landline
Debbie Jones, Dilwyn Roberts, Daniel Morgan

Welcome and Apologies: Roger Davies (President Elect) Daydre Chambers

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

Minute Taker: Gemma Bassett-Burr (Office Manager)

NOTE. The Confidential minutes are read out at these online meetings, they are not circulated.

The Chair welcomed everybody present to the meeting and thanked them for continuing to take part in this way.

Declarations – There were no declarations.

Any other business –

The Boiler for the heating system at Bronaeron - Trustee

The New Roll of honour to commemorate the Young Ambassadors from the past at Bronaeron

(Confidential Minute)

Corrections to Minutes 20th May 2020

Page 7 Chair of Finance noted it was not a 'projected profit of [REDACTED]' but is a profit of [REDACTED] to the end of April 2020.

Page 9 The minute should read that trustee left and re-joined the meeting as it was a drop in the call and he re-joined almost immediately prior to the discussion on the Agenda point. *(for clarification this is just a technical issue where TEAM notes the leaving and re-joining of an attendee)*

Matters arising

Page 3 - A letter has been sent to a member. This matter should have been added under 'Correspondence' at the April meeting but was raised in the March meeting under AOB. It was discussed in the May meeting. This clarification negates the need for rescinding the minute as referred to here.

The 'Press gang letters' have been sent and responses received a few ideas for journal articles journal ideas have been put forward. The deadline to receive those proposed ideas is the end of June.

Harmonisation – the minutes to be amended to make it clearer that harmonisation was refused after consideration.

Page 5 - A letter has been sent to a member explaining the reasons and logic for the changes on the registration forms. At this point the Chair read out an email received from the member thanking the Office manager and a staff member at the Office for their hard work.

Page 6 - The Company Secretary has been working on the fees in particular increasing fees for the non-members. This will be circulated soon for Councils' comments.

Staff can now take holiday while on furlough leave. It was noted that the Company Secretary does not see this as a probability given the current restrictions that are in place. But this will be brought to their attention if they wish to use it. Staff to be asked if they would prefer to be paid for holidays accrued to date in line with what many other companies are offering in order to avoid a huge accrual of holiday which would cause a strain on the Office. A trustee noted that a staff member has up to two years to take the leave accrued under furlough. However, if a staff member takes holiday whilst on furlough the Society must pay the 100% salary.

P7 - the Company Secretary has received the price quote from the RWAS.

P8 – the Company Secretary has approached Printers.

P9 – The Company Secretary has drawn up the terms of Reference for the Journal Committee

P11 – The Membership form is almost ready to be circulated

P12 - Welsh Government meeting are happy for the Chair and Vice Chair to attend the next quarterly meeting scheduled for 26th of June.

P13 – Letters have been sent to all applicants postponing the Judges assessment for 2020

Breeding Rules - Company Secretary and Office manager are checking the minutes.

P14 – Bereavement Document

The Bereavement document is in draft form and will be circulated soon.

It was proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and that they be accepted as such.

Proposed and Second All in favour.

Correction to Minutes 3rd of June 2020

There were no corrections

Matters arising

The Company Secretary explained the latest position on the Bill regarding the allowing of an extension period going through parliament at this time. There are 11 stages for the bill to go through currently at stage 9 with the final reading on the 23rd June 2020. It would then go to Committee for final changes before going for Royal Assent and become law. It looks highly likely that it will happen before the deadline for the Society.

Admin cost and pricing – the office is looking at all activities for instance there will be a lot of work with the new microchipping legislation. The form can be downloaded from the WPCS site therefore ensuring savings on printing. Consideration has been given to charging per animal on the form.

It was proposed that the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting and that they be accepted as such.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour

Chairman/Vice Chair's report

The Chair thanked the trustee and all the NHS staff for their hard work. He then thanked trustees for their positive attitude and attending meetings online to ensure the Society's keeps moving forward. The Chair also thanked Company Secretary, Office manager and members of staff for keeping society office operational and the business moving forward.

The Vice Chair wished to reiterate the Chairs' sentiments and thanked the staff for their hard work.

Company Secretary report.

The Company Secretary thanked trustees for their support during this time. He noted that a member of staff is back in the building and is working from the council room, separately from the other two team members thereby ensuring social distancing. The team have been most resilient in their approach to the challenges of the pandemic. When other staff return the practice of 'pairing' will continue.

The Company Secretary detailed some of his recent activities since the last meeting, creating the sales tender, online show, editing the tape for the subject access request, liaising with the Society solicitors regarding the AGM, dealing with many old stallion DNA requests, attending two webinars. He has prepared an article on 'Why haven't I received my medal' in response to one of the biggest headaches for the Society and Office staff in particular. Every year the same problems arise, and this article should hopefully go some way to ensuring that a lot of these problems can be avoided. The article will now go to Judging & Showing for approval, before being shared with the membership.

He has also prepared terms of references for some of the sub committees and a draft of the 'Bereavement package'. The Office have been negotiating with the sales team who provide our franking machine to make savings for next year.

Sadly quite a few members have been lost over the last few months and a document to guide relatives on how to deal with WPCS issues would help as part of the bereavement

process. In death many members leave a partner or family who have no clue as to what they need to do with the animals.

A recycling deal has been changed to only collect on demand rather than monthly, hopefully resulting in a cost saving.

The Company Secretary is also working on the autumn mailing to form a booklet to make this easier to pack.

The next quarterly meeting with the Welsh Government is scheduled for the 26th June – where the issue of equine welfare in wake of the pandemic - the outcomes of which will be discussed at the next Education and welfare meeting, and any actions can be put in place. It was noted that the Minister at the Welsh Government Office need to be chased up for a potential meeting as no response had been received

Given the lack of response from the Cabinet ministers office, a trustee suggested that he contact the Shadow minister. This was agreed.

A trustee raised the issue that the cost of animal carcasses varies greatly – a cow costs' less than half that of a horse.

The Company Secretary noted that he had been informed that the next International show in Germany has had to move dates slightly due to the changes in the Olympic dates. Germany have asked if they can put the judge's names forward for the show in the absence of the international meeting at Royal Welsh.

Following discussion and the impracticality of organising a physical meeting the Company Secretary was asked to go back to the German Society and convene an Online International meeting.

The Company Secretary noted that he had received an invitation to speak to the Swedish society in November

The Company Secretary noted that WPCS Australia have their AGM online tomorrow and have sent an invitation if anyone wishes to attend.

Finance and HR Report

A meeting is due to take place on the 29th June. Office manager is working on the accounts to present at this meeting.

Sales Committee.

It was noted that the legal tender process was commercially sensitive information and had to remain confidential

(Confidential Minute)

Ed and Welfare Committee

The Chair of committee reported that the Seminar and Producer meetings are to be rescheduled once government restrictions on gatherings are lifted. The Committee have placed 'Colour genetics' and 'the practice of using young stallions pre-licensing' on the agenda for discussion.

A trustee noted that as a result of a FB post which showed an aged animal, trading standards were contacted. The RSPCA and a Vet were involved but it was not a Welsh animal.

Chair of E & W noted that [REDACTED] from Horsewatch North Wales has been excellent during these times and has offered to attend the seminar if invited.

DNA – the Animal Health Trust are back working, Weatherby's currently have 500 profiles as a temporary contract. We will probably have used up the 500 profiles with Weatherby's by end of August 2020.

Judging and Showing Committee

The Chair of committee reported that the 2020 Judging & Showing handbook has been sent to all Panel judges and we have had some feedback which will now be discussed at the next meeting. The self-declaration form also went out with these and there has been a good response to date. The deadline for their return is Friday 26th of June 2020.

An example of suggestions received was regarding the ruling about the Earpiece within the ring. Should this be amended to state 'with the exception of a hearing aid'. Another example was 'Judge must not use a mobile phone in the ring should be amended to state 'should not take a mobile phone into the ring'
Judging & Showing will report back to Council on any suggested amendment.

Promotions

The Chair of committee reported that much of this committees' activities were on hold due to the lack of events in the wake of the pandemic.

A discussion was had regarding the vehicle – its state and whether it was fit for purpose and the possibility of replacing it.

Promotional videos and new stock have been placed on hold. The committee is keen designate early which shows are to be attended in 2021.

HOY's attendance was agreed for this year, but we are currently awaiting confirmation if it is to go ahead this year.

It was suggested to look at costs of kitting out the current exhibition unit with shelving etc to hold the stock. Costs to be sourced from. Alternative options mooted were a 4x4 and trailer unit, and a Gazebo

Members Services Committee

The Chair of committee reported that members are wanting us to press for the shows to go ahead next year. There has been concern amongst some members regarding the extra costs of the tiered registrations fees and the limitations of the vets visiting to microchip. This was raised in the April meeting and Council's decision was to keep with the tiered pricing. Concerns were raised that foals are being microchipped far too early at 2 days old in some instances. This topic to be added to the next agenda of the Education and Welfare committee meeting and a recommendation be suggested. The registration form will need to be updated in the wake of any such decision.

It was noted that 'Prefixes' are to come under the jurisdiction of the Members Services committee for approval from July 1st 2020 prior to going to Council and the Central prefix register to avoid the passing of common names or names that are too similar to existing prefixes.

Honorary membership nomination forms have been amended. Honorary nominators should not have to ask the individual who is proposed for an award to sign the form. The nomination and the award if approved should come as a surprise to the nominated individual.

Investigation Companies and Disciplinaries

Contact has been made with numerous companies. Not many companies offer this service, so we are continuing to search and look for guidance on suitable people or companies.

A trustee suggested using a consultant service on an ad hoc basis rather than a retained understanding.

2021 Journal

The Chair declared that following the last meeting, a trustee had called him to say that she disagreed with a trustee's idea to offer the membership a free stud page and that if it was carried she would withhold all the articles she has regarding the journal.

The trustee in response noted that it was only a suggestion, if the Council did not wish to implement it he would withdraw it. This was discussed and was unanimously voted on that it should remain. It was suggested that a Journal committee meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible. The Company Secretary noted that he had received an estimated quote for the production and design of the 2021 Journal.

Stud Book

The work on the next stud book is proceeding well. All the pure-bred entries have been collated and laid out. The CS and AG are working on the additional content and there are a few international animals to be checked.

2020 AGM Awards

Once we have a definite date for the AGM we will work back to a launch date to enable an auction to raise money for Ty Hafan using the President's auction prizes obtained for the AGM. The Company Secretary to speak with Brightwell's regarding their trophies to ascertain what they wish to do now that their Equine staff have left the company.

All Awards are to be given out at the AGM once re-arranged.

Duplicate Gold Medal

After lengthy discussion it was agreed that that the duplicate gold medal be issued but this would be marked as duplicate. It was agreed that the cost to be charged as a deterrent. Retrospective medals would only be considered for award in the situation where there has been a fire, flood or other extenuating circumstance. It was agreed that every case would be assessed on a case by case basis.

Proposed and Seconded 7 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstained.

Transfer of prefix

The use of a Prefix inherited by a daughter from her late mother was granted.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

Transfers and registration update

There are still over a hundred outstanding applications from 2019 which have problems. The office is working their way through them case by case.

The response to the new registration form has been encouraging.

Online Show

The reference to Silver medal status to be removed to avoid any confusion over the criteria for awarding Silver medals exercised by the Judging & Showing committee. This is a fun show and not meant to be super competitive.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

It was suggested to add the word 'fun' to the title.

It was proposed that it be called The WPCS World Online Fun Show and that it be actioned

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

A trustee thanked the Office manager and Company Secretary for setting this up. The Chair also thanked both on behalf of the Trustees

The Website – there are slight changes with more downloadable documents added. The IT member of staff is now dealing with all the telephone calls to the office therefore the overhaul of the website has had to be put on hold.

Employment matters

To be raised at the Finance and HR meeting.

DNA Parentage anomalies

Following the DNA working group's work and the number of anomalies or queries raised by the DNA process; the Office has requested the setting up of a DNA Parentage committee which is a spinoff of the Education and Welfare group (including the Hon Vet). This committee will meet at least four times a year to look at individual cases – with the aim of establishing policy on recurring themes. Each case has an individual narrative, but the current period is very busy due to the covering season and the licensing of new stallions. There are currently 13 issues at present 12 colts and 1 mare. The Company Secretary was requested to set up a meeting as soon as possible. Another trustee also offered to join this committee.

Most issues arise because of the practice of 'swopping a follower' putting a second stallion in later in the season and removing the original stallion.

Correspondence

The Society had received a Letter from the Queen via her Equerry thanking the WPCS for the copy of the 2020 journal which she had very much enjoyed reading.

Enrolment of new members and renewals

All new membership applications have been checked by the Chair and Company Secretary are acceptable.

Change of prefix on a Section C Filly

A letter was read out to trustees.

To be thoroughly investigated and to be brought to the next council meeting.

AOB

Discussion ensued as to the viability and cost of repairing the old boiler. It was decided to investigate grants prior to the next Finance & HR meeting. It is a priority to ensure it is working properly if cannot be put right, a new system to be priced and installed.

The 'Young Ambassadors Roll of Honour' board. A trustee requested permission to carry on with its construction and installation once it is possible to work in the Bronaeron office. Young Ambassador has requested that the monies raised for the Charities be transferred as soon as possible and the presentation of the Cheques to take place at a later date. The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed 18:38

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.

NOTES