

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

Summary Minutes of the Council meeting held at 9:00am on Tuesday 17th March 2020 at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA48 8AG

Present: Colin Thomas (Chair), Wyn Jones (Vice Chair), Roger Davies, Liz Hampson, Brian Foster, Dilwyn Roberts, Debbie Jones, Geraint Davies, Elgan Evans, Daydre Chambers, Gwyn Jones, Barry Hall, , John Welsh

Apologies: Sharon Charlton, CR Davies (President Elect), Daniel Morgan

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

Minute Taker: Gemma Bassett-Burr (Office Manager)

Declarations and items for any other business.

Young Ambassador: Confirmation was requested as to whether she had contacted the Company Secretary regarding the plaque for the young ambassador. Company secretary confirmed that she had not yet.

A request for the details of a member's father funeral date and time etc to be added to the website. Actioned but removed as due to the Coronavirus, restrictions were put in place limiting the number of mourners.

A request was made that Standing orders be suspended to allow the discussion of Brightwells sales and Coronavirus (item 7 & 9 will also be tied in).

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

President joined via conference call.

Trustee joined the meeting

The Society AGM

A call put through to the Vale Hotel but no update yet. Events all over have been cancelled governments directive for large gathering to not take place. The advice yesterday was saying 'do not go to pubs, clubs' or anywhere unnecessary. Regarding the Vale, we are contractually within the 4-week period if we cancel they can charge the full amount. All London theatres have closed. Company secretary thinks we have to cancel - no one disagreed. He has spoken to the Charities Commission for guidance and also awaiting response from the Societies solicitor.

Trustees feelings were as follows:

To Cancel – DCh, RD, GJ, EE, JW,

To Postpone – BH, DR, LH, DJ, GD, WJ

If cancelling The Vale 100% of the cost is required from the society.

If we were to say we are cancelling the event, but we will re- book the meeting part again with you asap. We need to speak with The Vale to see where we are and the implications of this (Company secretary left the room to try and speak to them but was unable to get hold of them).

Dinner tickets - 226 are paid for; do we refund or those who are active breeders we could go back to them and offer as J1 credit. People also have room reservations some have cancelled, and they have not had to pay.

If dinner cancelled would we still have to cover the cost of the foods as this would not have yet been purchased.

Company secretary left again to try and contact The Vale

What is the small print on the package offered to us? is it a complete event package and how was it sold to us?

What message we convey to the membership and the wording is critical.

Company secretary spoke to The Vale who will confer with one of the Directors re their position. She noted that the majority of Events are postponing

Decision to be follow return telephone call later today

Sales

Brightwells Directors have made the decision to close the equine department immediately. WPCS made an announcement just after theirs. Everything was removed from their website immediately. Brightwells staff only told the evening prior. Since then a lot of talk via social media and contacting the office voicing opinions or expressing an interest in the sale. Invite everyone at the meeting to forward everyone who has shown an interest to include everyone. There seems to be some confusion over who owns the sales and we need to protect our intellectual property rights and should be issuing a license to those who run it going forward, be it the Society or an outside source. We do not own the sales name 'Fayre Oaks'. We should look at registering the titles of the Sales.

Company secretary shared a paper with the room on the Sales and provided the President a copy via email. If we were to enter in a Co venture with someone, we would need to register this with the Charities Commission as a Collaboration. The Chair asked if we could search for when the official sales were started and the involvement of the WPCS and the papers relating to this.

Brightwells had an agreement with the RWAS and a contract with us to make them official. This meant we had no contract with the RW. The timing of the contract finishing with us required 6 months' notice which was honoured.

Trustee had a phone call from a member saying he would be interested in

running the sales. He seemed to think the WPCS should set up a trading company to just do the sales. Would we want to do this?

Company secretary took a call from the Vale Hotel.

Opinions

The autumn sales need to take place, the platforms is there, someone needs to step in for the year who is well versed with selling livestock.

RW needs to look at the costs and a negotiation needs to take place for the cost of the sales. Welsh Government to be spoken to, Powys County Council as well to see if we can obtain backing for community benefit. The RWAS need to be met with asap.

The general feeling was to meet with Royal Welsh

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

RW should be met prior to any changes in Council. Prior to this they should meet to look at ideas. Suggested that we match the same number of meeting participants with the RWAS.

Company secretary returned to the room.

He confirmed that he had spoken to RWAS CEO on the day of the announcement and following their board meeting. He was happy to have dialogue.

Company secretary read out a list of those interested in supporting the auctions or discussing things further.

It was agreed that it was fantastic that other Auctioneers are putting themselves forward to support our sales.

The dates of the sales are currently held for the WPCS with the RW for 2020.

Company secretary is in talks with another Breed Society – a decision being made early in April and also another Breed Society regarding the possibility of working with them. They hold one sale at York racecourse and the other at Builth with Brightwells. They will decide about that sales future in May.

Company secretary raised the issue of the constricts of an OJEU tender process due to the sums involved breaking that threshold. Chair of Finance spoke against this if possible due to the long lead in times and impracticality.

It was noted and agreed that it be imperative that we keep that sales based in Wales.

Could previous auctioneers provide us with a template of the costings of the sales and the pitfalls?

It would be beneficial for a discussion to take place on what we expect. Looking at the roots and where we started and getting something realistic together as a concept.

Company secretary noted that the key issue is remembering the interest of the

amount of people and the amount of seating required to hold everyone. Are we still thinking big auditorium?

Company secretary Left the room to take another call from the Vale.

The Society need to look at a drop of entry fee to encourage more people to enter.

Venue needs to be found first.

Sales committee to meet with RW and Company secretary, but before this the board will have an input in what is taken forward.

Company secretary returned to the room

Society AGM Continuation

The Vale if we cancelled the have offered that we lose the deposit and owe no further money. If we cancelled everything on the 4th April but take the general meeting forward 20th June 2020 then would only lose part of the deposit.

The ideas of the online AGM were discussed. The Society solicitor's advice on this was also discussed with the room.

It was suggested that we announce that it has been cancelled, and the winners are announced for the vote to council and the award winners online.

Do we wish to cancel the whole thing until further notice? Do you want to have a quasi AGM online by sharing as much as possible online (removing the finance section)?

A decision was taken to cancel the 4th April AGM and we will look to re arrange a date subject to the advice of the government advice. Possibly the 20th June 2020.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

If an auction takes place at another date all money to go to Ty Hafan. Could we consider an online auction?

With dinner tickets offer refund, there would be three options, a full refund, a credit on the members J1 account or to donate to Ty Hafan.

Chair of Council thanked the President for his term and the effort put in to setting up the AGM and the work with the Associations.

The President left the meeting via conference call.

Coronavirus

A plan was shared as to a way in which the office can function if need be.

Events are going to be cancelled, affiliation fees have been paid but events have been cancelled. The reviews on Shows and Medals to be taken forward to 2021

Less work on shows and transfers are foreseen. Red and blue plan with people working different days and some from home. A plan was discussed with the

board of who would be doing what roles.

Closure of the standing orders.

Welsh Government meeting with Company secretary and Office manager

It was noted that the WG officers were less well acquainted with the Equine side of the departments work and requirements. They are very willing to help us, were happy with the changes to date and thought the tiered regs were good for other societies to consider. We shared some of the issues we are having. We asked if we hit the same problem issues again this autumn would they consider us issuing a license until passport is complete and ready to go. They will talk with their legal team regarding this suggestion. The Microchipping of older animals over 20yrs was discussed and exemption was asked for 20+. We asked re 6-month issue and year of birth on a passport from the Abattoir's point of view and year of issue and said would look into it. We also discussed the lack of awareness that the government changed the dates, talked about 4 laws, passport requirement, microchipping, foals reg within 6 months, and the legal transfer window. Campaign on the 4 laws. They could not confirm what the penalty would be for contravention of the microchipping law. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June.

Trustee left the meeting to try and work with the visiting Plumber to sort out the problem with the boiler.

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Corrections

Page 1 - spelling of name to be amended 2630.

Page 11 – 2280 should add that 'the social media policy has been sent to Society solicitor's' there is no need for it to be reviewed.

Matters arising

Page 4 - Have tried to contact the last known address of the Lady who owned Lyn Cwmcoed and the person living in the house opened and contacted us and said she had moved 30 years ago.

Page 8 - J&S book has been delayed due to the reviewing of the Investigation and Complaints' procedures. It was noted that any shows to be run under 2019 rules until we have 2020 books released to the membership. If the show season is wiped out, we need to review what the 2021 book will be like.

Pavilion meeting with the Pavilion cater is still scheduled for April 30th, 2020.

Minute 2291 will now be dealt with directly rather than through Brightwells

Proposed and Seconded

That the minutes were a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.

All in favour.

Council Meeting 02 March 2020 confidential minutes

(CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE)

Chair and Vice-Chair's Report

Chair of Council spoke to the board regarding keeping the society business going in the best possible way given the current coronavirus and thanked the Office manager and Company secretary for their work in looking into this in advance. Council are very grateful to the President for his input in the year and noted how the gala night has now been cancelled which was a great disappointment for the President after a difficult year and thanked the President again in his absence on behalf of the whole of council.

2660

Company Secretary's report

New registration form suggestion handed around

Action points in response

A, B, C, D to change to 1, 2, 3, 4

In Welsh at the top and then English below all paperwork to be amended.

Proposed and Seconded

Subject to above amendments all in favour

During the lunch break a member had spoken with the Company secretary – he realised a council meeting was taking place today and wished to convey that the matter is drawn to a close and that this is now closed. He wished to say that trivia like this and complaints were of less importance and that we should all move on. He wishes the council well and good speed in this tricky time and hope we all come through this.

Chair of Council felt that this was a nice gesture and hopefully this is a change in the trend going on and very welcome from the board.

It was agreed that Company secretary would send a card of thanks.

Company secretary noted that no Website feedback was received back from the Trustees so the office would now proceed to amend and adapt the platform for the Society.

Re visiting plumber - trustee returned to the room.

Staff Matters

(CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE)

Member of staff was invited into the meeting. The Chair thanked her on behalf of Council and the Membership for the 16 years' service to the Society and wished her all the best for the future.

Finance and HR

Following the initial budget meeting the projected loss for the Society was noted for 2020

The Society has not upped the membership for years and this is something that

may need to be considered. It was noted that the Society should be making an operating profit.

Company secretary noted that he had spoken to the Chair regarding the Fayre Oaks title and the position of Brightwells. Chair had then spoken to Paul Wilding Davies the son of the founder of the original FO Sale about retaining Fayre oaks sales. He wished that the name to no longer be used. His feelings were that it was the end of an era.

With the Projected budget has it been taken into consideration the savings already made? Is it possible to have more detailed information from the Finance Officer monthly.?

It was noted that the Direct debit system is not working for the Society now and we need to get this right.

Judges assessment - where can we cut .and save money? Is it possible to attract Sponsorships from feed companies and the cost for people to attend?

Every activity should be considered on a cost basis in first position. Before we action

Is it an idea to encourage Showing only - memberships for those who just show?

Event funding

nothing to report to date.

New Subject Access request

(CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE)

Summary Minutes

The Summary minutes to be done, Chair of Council offered to help with them if required. Company secretary thanked Chair for his continued support.

Stud Book

The Stud book meeting to take place on the 18th March 2020.

Royal Welsh Pavilion

Trustee had checked the RW pavilion, no water damage and outside flap blowing re secured and tiles re fitted. Only thing found was that the back windows and the back door could do with some paint, but the structure is ok.

Income from Pavilion caterer from Royal Welsh site will be impacted this year.

Freedom of Information Request

The letter has been sent noting that we are a Charitable body not a public body and therefore do not have to answer FOI requests.

Risk Assessment

General risk assessment - Company secretary to look at these. He has started

to be updated and working through them. If you think anything has changed and is now a risk, then please raise it with the Office.

Risk assessments to be added to the agenda when the new council is formed.

Enrolment of New Members & Renewal of Memberships.

A list was circulated during the day.

Proposed and Seconded that they be accepted All in favour

Area Association

The pledges from the previous Association meetings were discussed. They were not pledged – they were requests for Council to consider.

The 'Minutes' turnaround should be as soon as available.

Silver medal shows to be written to so they have a judge for each section.

Should the rule book only be printed every two years? It was proposed going forward the handbook is only put out every two years to fit in line with the assessments

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

Judging and Showing Handbook

Junior membership- If got right could be something very positive, could associations be pushing this?

Millcroft rosettes - A form similar to the medals should be produced so that we know the results to be included in the journal etc.

Look to sponsors to cover the cost of the medals or the alternative of a WPCS rosette.

Veteran scheme to remain as it is.

Due to present circumstances medals to remain the same for this year.

Publicity –

Medal winners to be listed online prior to publication of journal

Officer elections – could pictures of those standing be included in the Voting forms?

Trustee left the room

Priorities for the office are passports; showing is an add on.

Some questions had been received from the Associations:

Staggered fees for foal reg is it possible to change first bracket to 31st August – to be reviewed after this year has been done as a pilot year.

The Microchipping procedure – answer already resolved

Help during this time – No

Advise on likelihood of AGM taking place – the Council decision to be shared

Can the Society help with Medal costs – fundraising should be encouraged. The Society is unable to subsidise

Why do we need to breed or keep welsh ponies to judge?

Harmonisation of Studbooks

The Dutch contacted the society to say they were unable to register their ponies over here following Brexit but if we were seen to be renting a room in their office and it would pass as ok. Belgium expressed at the international meeting that everyone should join up to us as the Mother society.

Matter of urgency that each daughter society is written to using the charter as a supporting document and sign up to us under an umbrella.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour

Company secretary noted that Dual registration is another potential income from overseas ponies and cobs.

2021 AGM

20th March 2021 meeting and grand pavilion members tea in the conservatory pencil booked. Council to organise the dinner in the Metropole in the evening.

AOB

Young Ambassador brought forward could we have a plaque like the President board from when the Young Ambassadors scheme commenced?

This should be funded from the Young Ambassador budget. A different colour board and colour names.

Proposed and Seconded All in favour.

(CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE)

Medal issues

Lincoln all welsh - happy to award medal

NPS Area 11 – happy to award

Clwyd WPCA – happy to award

These to be actioned by Vice Chair of J & S.

Glanusk Premiums – if the same stallions are entered as last year we award them on the strength that they went through last year - then they go through this year. If new stallions are entered depending on restrictions a home visit could be discussed for suitability.

Sales meeting suggestions to go to the meeting at RW – should we discuss with POWYS council after meeting with RW to speak regarding community benefit and any grants. It was noted that an alternative venue should be priced up as a

backup plan.

With no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 18:02 pm by the Chair of Council.

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.

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