

# 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 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2020

**Present:** **Via laptop/pc** President -Brian Foster Colin Thomas (Chair), Wyn Jones (Vice Chair), John Welsh, Geraint Davies, Elgan Evans, Gwyn Jones, Barry Hall, Daniel Morgan, Roger Davies  
**Via mobile phone or landline**  
Liz Hampson, Dilwyn Roberts, Daydre Chambers

\*Debbie Jones joined the meeting after minute

**Apologies:** Sharon Charlton, CR Davies (President Elect)

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

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

**Following Trustees connecting to the meeting room it commenced at 1.40pm**

## **Declarations**

The Chair thanked trustees for convening the meeting online and by phone to continue focused governance of the society on behalf of the members. He wished to thank trustee Sharon Charlton as a frontline NHS worker and her colleagues for all their hard work keeping the people of this country safe. All trustees agreed and endorsed the chair's sentiments.

The Company Secretary's probationary period.  
The initial 6-month appraisal has been carried out by the Chair. The Chair wished to express that he was impressed with the way the Society's governance business is being dealt with and wished to thank the Office manager for her sterling work and the Staff. He noted that he had not seen the staff as happy for a long time. The President, endorsed the Chair's sentiments and noted that in his opinion the Company secretary was doing a great job in the role. The Company secretary thanked the Trustees for their confidence and support.

## **Any other business**

Young Ambassador and the effect of the cancellations of all events due to the pandemic on the Young people's activities – consideration was given to implementing an extension of 1 year on age limits for all young member activities who would fall outside the age categories next year, to allow them to still compete given that they will have missed their final year due to the pandemic.

**Proposed and Seconded All in favour.**

A request to Suspend standing orders as 14 days' notice was not given for the meeting.

**Proposed and Seconded All in favour.**

**Minutes of the previous meeting.**



felt that this was not possible with the service certificate books as they were cross referenced against numbers. The Company Secretary noted that this has not been Office practice for many years. Spot checks do take place and no issues have arisen during this period. Discussion ensued about asking the stallion owners to notify the Society of their annual 'book' of mares for each stallion. Should we request that members notify via the website or in writing of coverings taking place? The Trustees happy for the Company Secretary to inform the membership that these books have not been linked and checked for at least 3 years.

Trustee left the meeting and re-joined

The Chair noted that Company secretary and Office manager are trying to reduce costs and the measures taken will not please everyone within the membership. He felt that they are doing a sterling job and Council needs to support them. Council approve of the new form format.

### **(Confidential Minute)**

#### **Sales Committee.**

At the recent sales Committee meeting, trustees were appointed as Chairman and Vice-Chairman. A shopping list of the basic requirements for the sale has been requested of the RWAS and a guide price is expected. Company Secretary has spoken to a number of auctioneers to ascertain if their interest in staging the Official sales was only based on using their own market facilities, or would they be happy to look at other locations. Their responses were all positive and they were happy to accommodate and consider other venues.

Advice has been sought of our charitable position from the Society solicitors regarding conduction and staging of sales and the benefits that arise for the Society and its members in the wake of such activity. The Society's position is noted within its Articles of Association and charitable aims and therefore the practice is acceptable. Company Secretary has also researched an online only auction in case large gatherings are still not allowed in the autumn. This auction would be online with live bidding taking place. The RWAS were approached and are happy to accommodate this model should the need arise. As soon as a response is received from the RWAS on the costings a further sales meeting will be scheduled.

President left the meeting at this point.

#### **DNA and the Animal Health Trust.**

A meeting of the AHT Trustees is due to take place on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020 to look at a rescue package for the trust. There is continued uncertainty as to whether the Genetics laboratory will continue to operate and offer its services. All staff are furloughed.

As an interim measure the Company Secretary has contacted other laboratories to procure a DNA profiling and parentage testing service. [REDACTED] offered a discount price per profile, but after negotiation Weatherbys Scientific in Ireland came down to a lower price plus vat for a guaranteed number of the next 500 profiles to be processed. They have the added benefit as being the lab that store the AHT profiles and data which includes the WPCS data.

The Company Secretary requested that Council approve the use of Weatherbys Scientific for an interim period until such time as the new long-term deal with a lab can be tendered? This would enable the immediate processing of Stallion licenses, Mare profiling and parentage testing. The DNA Kits and labels are ready in place if approved. Council were all in favour

#### **Welsh Government and Defra**

The Company secretary has been in contact with the Welsh Government and Defra via the British Horse Council to ask for guidance regarding the movement of Breeding stock during the

Covering season. The current situation with lockdown and the social distancing restrictions on what was deemed 'essential' travel were not clear. The advice received from the WG was not definitive. Discussion ensued as to what would be deemed 'essential'. If a breeder only owned only one mare and it does not impact on the persons income the feeling was that the authorities might not deem this essential. It is down to individuals to choose whether to travel a mare to a stallion at their own risk. The Company Secretary has been updating the Society website and FB pages regularly with any updated information and guidelines from WG and Defra.

### **Government guidelines and support for Charities.**

The furlough scheme will be applied for, in the case of the three employees. The Charity grant schemes offered do not seem to be applicable to animal charities, their emphasis being geared towards hardship and health support. A request was made to Council that if they know of any schemes or grants which might be accessed by the Society that they make it known to the Office.

### **Judging and Showing Handbook**

Judges Assessment - Discussion was had regarding the problems in hosting the Assessment in the autumn and the fact that many of the candidates would not be able to probation as there are no shows to attend because of the coronavirus. It was proposed that the 2020 assessment be postponed.

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

It was further decided to open applications again for additional candidates to apply to attend in 2021. A Letter has been drafted to go to everyone who is due to attend in 2020.

The new amended 'Judges declaration form' will be sent out with the Judging and Showing handbook and a letter to explain the handbook's remit will be extended to cover the 2021 showing year. It will not be sent to shows unless they have affiliated for 2021. There are several changes, by sending it out now it will provide Judges the opportunity to read and familiarise themselves with the changes. Council were all in agreement regarding carrying it over to include the 2021 year.

### **Website update**

The website. Many of the policies are out of date on the website. The aim is to review all documents and update to 2020 with Council approval.

### **Proposed and Seconded All in favour**

### **Employment matters**

Three employees are furloughed. With the Office manager and a member of staff in the Office should they have to isolate at any point, then another member of staff and Company secretary could replace them to keep the Office operational. The member of staff would take the calls and the enquiries.

### **Covid 19 and risks for forthcoming events**

Restrictions on social gatherings will be in place for some time and we are in the hands of the government. It is unlikely that many shows will take place this year.

### **Correspondence**

**(Confidential minute)**

### **Enrolment of new members and renewal of membership**

Office manager to circulate the list to the Chair and Vice-chair only for approval due to GDPR.

## **Any other business**

### **Harmonisation**

A Member from Holland had requested a decision on harmonisation at the last council meeting. As time did not allow and the lockdown since that meeting, it has not been discussed. He declared that he is confident their stud book is clean. Following discussion, it was decided to send the Society solicitors had advised on a letter, which had been sent to the WPCV and the NWPCS to inform them that the harmonisation would not happen at the present time.

### **Stud book**

The members addresses will not be included in any future stud books as advised by the solicitors under the current privacy notice unless that is amended. Trustees queried this advice and evidence of previous conversations to be provided for review. [REDACTED] has received some content. The Company secretary raised the issue of the Index and whether it was timely to create one (once every 5 years). Discussion followed regarding the potential lack of demand for a printed index, the appetite for an index could be researched in the Autumn mailing.

### **Young Ambassador**

The negative effect of the pandemic and it's curtailing of the term of Office for the Young Ambassador was discussed. It was suggested that [REDACTED] (YA 2019) and [REDACTED] (YA 2020) work together this year until April 2021 and then [REDACTED] to remain as Young Ambassador for an additional year until April 2022

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

With no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 5:09

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## **NOTES**