



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

**Summary Minutes of the online Council meeting held at 9.30pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>  
December 2020.**

**Present Via laptop/pc**

Colin Thomas, Gwyn Jones, Elgan Evans, Geraint Davies, Wyn Jones, Brian Foster, Liz Hampson,

**Via mobile phone or landline**

Roger Davies, Debbie Jones, Dilwyn Roberts, Daniel Morgan

**Apologies:** CR Davies; John Welsh, Sharon Charlton

**In Attendance:**     **Via PC Miriam Pritchard**  
                              **Via laptop Meirion Davies (Company Secretary)**

**Minute Taker:**     **Miriam Pritchard**

**Welcome and Apologies.**

The Chair welcomed everybody present to the meeting (09.43)

■■■■, ■■■■ ■■■■ - Apologies

**Declarations.** There were no declarations.

**Items for Any other business** There were no items raised.

**Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> of October meeting.**

**Corrections**

**Matters Arising**

**CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

It was proposed that the minutes are a true reflection of the meeting and that they be accepted.

**Proposed by** ■■■■■■

**Seconded by** ■■■■■■

**All in favour.**

**Confidential Minutes from the 29<sup>th</sup> of October.**

**Corrections** *CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES*

The Company Secretary read out confidential minutes of the last meeting.

P2 - Correction - *announced and tendered* instead of *tendered and announced*.

It was proposed that the minutes are a true reflection of the meeting and that they be accepted.

**Proposed by** [REDACTED]

**Seconded by** [REDACTED]

**All in favour**

### **The Chairs report / Vice Chair's report**

Passports – I am pleased to report that we are now in a much better position than previous years. Although we received 800 or thereabout at the end of the closing date.

This last couple of months has been extremely busy for the office, with registrations, transfers, and quite a lot of online meetings. Once again, a couple of our members keep on raising old investigations / disciplinary issues. We have also had a Subject Access Request which involves many requests and cause multiple hours of work for staff.

Company Secretary will update you of all progress with matters relating to the office.

There is positive work going on, I will let the chairs of the relevant committees notify you of any progress with their committees.

I am most pleased that we may see some light at the end of the tunnel with the announcement of the vaccination against coronavirus, let's hope the spring of 2021, will bring some positives for the members and hopefully a way back to normality.

Sadly, to date a lot people have lost their lives, on behalf of Council I pass our sincere condolences to their family and friends.

Let's hope the coronavirus immunisation programme will allow Government restrictions to be eased, so that we can hold live Council meetings in the spring. Also, it will be nice to see live shows and sales back in 2021, although there will probably be restrictions in place.

I would like to thank trustees for their support in 2020.

The Vice Chair concurred and added that he would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and thank the staff and trustees for their hard work during the year.

### **Company secretary**

The Company Secretary wished to apologise for the newsletter which featured a named animal. It was not an intention to promote anyone. He was not aware that this would cause any problems and the newsletter had been approved.

██████████ had to withdraw from office due to a Covid contact -a discussion ensued about how to proceed. CS mooted that it could be possible for a staff member to have to isolate repeatedly if they were unlucky.

It was discussed that a policy be put in place where if possible, the person would work from home.

The fifth and last Online sale was quite flat- with only eighteen entries. 6 out of the 7 sold, went overseas. Two animals originally offered and sold on sale 3 and not paid for; were given free entry and sold on this sale which was a good result for the vendors.

#### The 2021 Calendars

They were to be delivered today (300 copies) they need to be heavily promoted. £7.00 including p&p and on request they can be sent as gifts to a different address. Limited edition as 120 years. ██████- asked about Society Xmas cards-CS notes that we haven't produced any this year.

█████ and ██████ agreed that this is a good opportunity to design new ones.

Spring mailing – The Company Secretary requested that trustees send anything they would like to include to him as soon as possible.

#### Junior members Christmas Gifts.

The Company Secretary noted the trouble of finding an age range appropriate gift. The Office has created and designed a Record book for Children. 300 copies have been ordered at a cost of ██████████. They will be sent to the junior members who have elected not to receive a Journal.

██████████ has given us permission for us to use his images. ██████, ██████ and ██████ have been involved. It promotes several aspects of the WPCS- Young ambassador. Online pedigree, Performance awards and will not date. It will be for sale on the website after Christmas and available to sell on the exhibition unit in future.

█████ welcomed the interaction with the society that the book provides and congratulated the Office on the production.

Company Secretary - noted that in future we will ask the junior members to denote their age group when joining to enable age suitable gifts to be targeted.

Distribution of past Journals within the Ceredigion Schools. – the Company Secretary has contacted the Welsh books Council distribution centre.

DNA samples – there are 90 currently outstanding, we still have people registering late with applications who are from mares which need DNA profiling.

Passports – compared to 2019 the Company Secretary estimates that we have a third of the total unprocessed. This is being monitored and reported on weekly.

█████ noted that some people are still waiting 4 months for passports. Why was this?

Company Secretary - it will be because of DNA profiles and the fact that we are awaiting their delivery. We cannot process these applications until this is sorted. If there is an error on a submitted form a Blue form is sent back with the registration application noting to the breeder what needs to be addressed. Once the form has left the office the timeline is in the hands of the breeder.

A breeder had told a trustee that their paperwork had been lost by the Office.

Company Secretary firmly states that no passports have been lost, (this breeder's allegation was subsequently found to be untrue)

█ suggested an email to people as confirmation of receipt.

CS says that this is something we are working on- adding an email for every application is another layer of work that would be required.

It was asked if the Office could publish a list of the names of animals received? Breeders could then check that their submission had arrived. The Company Secretary noted that the Trustees would be surprised as to how a small number of the members act and their incompetence and lack of attention to detail when submitting paperwork.

█- requested that the pedigree in the passport be enlarged. Company Secretary stated that this is the database that we have purchased, and this is the compromise when you don't build a bespoke system but buy an off the shelf software format. This is on the list for when we will be meeting with Grassroots to see if there is any possibility of adaptation.

█ noted the problem with the inclusion on some passports of the birth colour. The Company Secretary noted that this has now been rectified. Company Secretary confirmed that if a member has received one of these passports then if they would like to have them amended the Office would do so at no charge as long as it correlated with the original form submitted.

Company Secretary - we may need a registration committee in the first week of January- the Company Secretary will circulate some of the problems brought up via round robin re pending stallion licences where the sire only has blood and is now dead.

Reading glasses for staff-

It was confirmed that the Society pays for 50% of the cost. The Company Secretary suggested that we should put a cap on this. It is valid to pay that, but if they want designer frames- adapt it for the lenses not the frames. The Chair was in agreement with this principle.

The CS and OM hope to meet █  
█ online in January /early February to discuss their registration processes.

The Audit will take place remotely between the 14<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> of January.

A Staffing review is planned before the end of January.

The Boiler is now working, 35% full of oil. The intention is to fill it now and then in the spring when the weather is kinder move to purchase a two skinned plastic tank to be positioned outside the building.

Office Manager had requested guidance on the list of Events to be attended so that staff can be allocated early thereby avoiding availability issues. ■ agreed. Company Secretary stated that this should be done in January – COVID-19 dependent.

The Chair asked the Company Secretary if there were any Health and Safety issues that needed addressing. The Company Secretary confirmed there were none.

Christmas opening hours- The Chair shared the decision that the trustees wished to allow the staff the Christmas eve morning as annual leave. The Company Secretary thanked the trustees for their kind gesture on behalf of the staff.

## **Committee meeting minutes**

### **Education and Welfare Committee**

The Chair ■ read out the minutes of the last meeting. There are currently no welfare issues reported and he thanked the members for that status.

Minute 3121- it was noted that the Microchipping decision had not been discussed in full Council and that more evidence was required before a decision was made. There is no guidance on the actual microchips to be used from Welsh Government.

Discussion ensued on the process where sub committees discuss and recommend to Council.

The Chair of Council noted that it had been proposed that members could only buy microchips solely from the Society.

■- noted that it should not be mandatory to use our chips but recommended.

The question was asked why should a member buy from the Society?

The CS noted that microchips purchased via the Society are cheaper and that we could offer further discounts if members order in bulk. The Society's Hon Vet has been promoting this proposal for many years so that they are easily identifiable when 'unidentified ; animals are found. It was noted that this only affects a tiny number of animals involving the RSPCA and the Police and with mandatory microchipping of all stock now it should be easily identifiable on the CED.

■ noted that her Vets charge £10.50 each that cost does not include the insertion or call out. The Society currently sells them at £4.50 each with an applicator. We haven't had any complaints from vets about the microchips. We have a secure long dated applicator which will not deteriorate if kept for a long period without use.

■ states that the applicator is the issue. The Chair suggested a case be built around why members should support the Society by using our chips rather than enforce. ■ agreed.

The Company Secretary would like to get a fixed price for 3-4 years. He has spoken to the current supplier. The price negotiated by [REDACTED] 5 years ago and they have honoured the price even though orders have diminished. We would need a bulk buy. Company Secretary would like to offer a competitive price and range. We don't have to purchase microchips from one supplier. Company Secretary put a case example forward of the variable scenario. He does not see the benefit of having a unique number sequence just because it aids the RSPCA. [REDACTED] would like evidence- we need the prices and exactly what we will be selling. Company Secretary noted that if we were to offer different styles it would be hard to have our unique number. The numbers operate very much like an ISBN system. A sequence of numbers unique to that one supplier. [REDACTED] stated that the Hon Vet had noted that the chip applied by the smaller applicator when used on a Cob wouldn't read. The CS noted that it could be the quality and power of the scanner that was at fault. [REDACTED] and Company Secretary to look at the prices and advise to ensure advantages.

[REDACTED] explained why he was anxious about bringing it to Council. [REDACTED] wished to note that he had stated that at the Ed and Welfare meeting. [REDACTED] noted that a decision from Council is needed on the matter and proposed that the newsletter statement be amended to reflect that the use of Society chips is recommended rather than mandatory.

**Proposed by** [REDACTED]  
**Seconded by** [REDACTED]  
**All in favour.**

### **Members Services Committee**

[REDACTED] read out the minutes of the last meeting. He noted that there was a feeling amongst members that the July registration deadline was too early for many breeders. He asked if the Office would register foals from older unchipped mares. The Company Secretary noted that the policing of this was an issue for DEFRA and the WG. Company Secretary noted that based on discussions on social media many breeders in England where the deadline has passed seem to have ignored the legal directive.

The Chair pointed out that in the case of Hill ponies they have derogation and do not need to be chipped unless moved. He also noted that if members don't comply it is at their own risk.

[REDACTED] noted would it be useful to publicise that it is a DEFRA demand not the WPCS's. The Chair noted that the Company Secretary had already made that clear to the membership. [REDACTED]- stated that Government letters were not sent out in England warning of the impending law change. Discussion took place around the fact that because of lockdown the Vets cannot administer the microchips before the deadline. The Company Secretary suggested that we ask the WG for guidance

regarding the deadline and noted that people will probably only be driven to do it once fines are issued. He also noted that the WG needs to be reminded that we do not want breeders to submit their passports as the current Government literature encourages them to do so.

It was suggested that the Society post 'If you haven't microchipped yet, you are now illegal.'

The issue of passports being sent to new owners of foals was discussed. The Company Secretary stated that the Office currently send the passport to the breeder that so that the foal can travel with the passport unless specifically requested otherwise. The Office should honour the details on the form.

The Company Secretary noted that this would-be part of the review when the meeting would be held with Grassroots. Hitherto the Office has taken on board any comments from the members and tried to adapt the software.

■ asked if both sections of the new form were being used regarding the inbuilt stallion service certificate. Company Secretary confirmed that many had used this element with no problem. It is down to the individual as long as they include the key information needed.

Stud book- the running sheets have been delivered and are set for approval with printing planned in a few weeks It will sell at £30. ■ requested that regular purchasers be informed.

The Chair asked if would they be ready before Christmas?  
Company Secretary stated that the delivery date is 18<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **Promotions Committee**

■ – Read the minutes of the last meeting.

The 2021 Calendar is now being printed.

■ would like to commend the Company Secretary and staff for the Children's gift book.

■ asked for destination suggestions for Exhibition Unit to attend at events for the coming year (COVID-19 dependent)

The Chair suggested that a gift from the Society be given to the person who is kindly storing the vehicle and a letter of thanks. The Company Secretary noted that the vehicle is currently on SORN and there is a reduction in the insurance premium as a result.

A discussion ensued about the stock we still carry and which markets to target. Branded Clothing was discussed.

The Company Secretary suggested that the Society should look at unisex clothing, limited editions in short runs, so as to avoid carrying stocks of sizes which won't sell, they should be available to order online but original products are needed. It would be possible to celebrate the

120 years of the Society 120 to celebrate the society. It was felt that it was better to sell out than to have stock left over for many years.

Trustees suggested the following items.

- Waistcoats / gilets
- Embroidered day rugs
- Branded buckets.
- The old style ties.

It was noted that there is currently a significant number of ties in stock.

Company Secretary to check with the Young Ambassador regarding the funds raised from her events and the payment made to the chosen Charities.

### **Judging and Showing Committee**

Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting.

Judges assessment. - It was estimated that we have already had around eight applicants per section which are held over from the cancelled event of 2020. These will be joined by new applicants who can now reach the qualifying criteria to apply.

NPS –Performance Medals

■ explained why the extension to allow NPS panel judges to award the WPCS performance medals had been discussed. The issue is that the shows won't put the Welsh classes on as they have to have an extra judge specific to those classes from the WPCS panel. In order to encourage more shows to offer the Performance medal relaxing it so NPS Panel judges could award them would do so. She was of the opinion that will be of benefit to the Society and competing members for this.

It was noted that this could not be changed in the current rulebook but could be amended in future versions.

■ asked if the NPS allow WPCS judges to award their medals? ■ confirmed they do.

■ - noted that people complained that there weren't enough WPCS judges and that is why the rule was changed.

■ was of the opinion that it is too early to change this. Where is the evidence that the NPCCS allow WPCS? - Company Secretary noted the rule on page 23 of the Judging and Showing handbook?

Discussion ensued about the rule stating that performance medals can be awarded anywhere that a Welsh breed is successful as in multi discipline events rather than just Showing competitions.

■ asked why the shows do not want a Welsh panel Judge?

■ - notes the main reason is cost e.g., having two judges. Gives an example of a judge that is on ridden and in hand panel it makes commercial sense for the show and maximises the use of that judge.

■ notes that there is plenty of choice on the panel.

The Chair asked if it should be put it forward for further review.

Company Secretary - asked for clarification whether the two years rule was from printing or the decision date.



The Chair clarified that the Trustees reviewed this request for the 2022 J&Sh handbook.

It was noted that the 2019 [REDACTED] results and handling of the medal awards had been problematic and the show had been written to.

The asterisk application date for the Judges panel is set for 29<sup>th</sup> January. The J&Sh committee will approve in principle and bring a list of recommendations for ratification by full Council.

The [REDACTED] show- have requested a WPCS rosette to award- this was approved.

#### *CONFIDENTIAL MATTER*

[REDACTED]- noted that more than one probationer should not be in the ring- There should be a rule of one judge with a probationary judge at the time.

Company Secretary asked that at the topic of Complaints be addressed at the next judges' seminar – and noted clearly that it should go to the show first.

The Chair felt that the probationary rules should be tightened. [REDACTED] requested that the Company Secretary place this on the Agenda for the next J&Sh meeting.

#### *CONFIDENTIAL MATTER*

### **Finance and Human Resources**

*In confidential minutes*

#### **Online Sales**

Chair - confirmed a review meeting to be held on the 16 December.

[REDACTED] asked about the income to the Society. [REDACTED] confirmed that this is being discussed with the auctioneers in the next meeting but that it was important to note that the Society had received considerably more income from these sales than the total from the past traditional sales of 2019. Company Secretary confirmed that the traditional sales tender will be announced in January.

[REDACTED] suggested that another Online sale could be held in May. [REDACTED] suggested an earlier pre-season sale. The date of the next sale would be confirmed with the auctioneers in the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Journal meeting**

[REDACTED] as Editor noted that numerous adverts being submitted, and a number of high quality of articles have been produced.

Company Secretary notes that members who would not usually have time to write having been approached directly have now submitted content because of COVID-19 which is a positive aspect.

█ noted that meetings for the final approval of the journal would take place in January prior to publication.

### **International Meeting**

Company Secretary noted that there was nothing to report since the last meeting.

### **Brexit Update**

The Chair asked the Company Secretary to confirm the 3<sup>rd</sup> country status. The EU have recognized the WPCS stud book. Company Secretary has asked for conformation from DEFRA if our registered animals will be recognised in the EU.

Company Secretary had also asked for the clarification regarding registration. A deal will be needed to register the overseas foals, trading will commence with a reduced quarantine time now as third Country status has been granted.

### **Irish request.**

The Company Secretary read out the communication from the Irish association- and the possibility of the two current associations merging as one. They would like to become a daughter society named WPCA of Ireland. This was a formal request to become a daughter society. Company Secretary noted that one of the Irish associations were the first to sign the charter.

It was proposed that they be given daughter Society status.

**Proposed by** █

**Seconded by** █

**All in favour**

The EU by awarding the UK 3<sup>rd</sup> country status, place the Country in the same position as Australia. The questions, as soon as it becomes clear about Brexit what the legality of the situation is registering registrations from stock bred outside the UK and within the EU. It is clear that we can only provide passports for UK animals, but we may be able to provide a registration number for EU passported animals to enable their inclusion the WPCS Stud book.

The Company Secretary noted that the Council should be aware that the Society's current position is as a result of previous Councils decisions regarding harmonisation. This would have enabled the continued ability to produce passports as the Society Stud book would be inexorably dovetailed with the European societies. █ noted that the Trustees will need an emergency meeting when Brexit is announced. The Chair was in agreement.

## Disciplinaries

*CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES*

### Hill pony Improvement Inspection Foal Scheme

Company Secretary and ■ suggested reviewing this in February (COVID-19 dependent)

### Confidential Staff and Trustees matters

*CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES*

### ESA Correspondence

The Company Secretary will forward correspondence.

### Social Media and Internet Policy

Office Manager will be looking into a wording which relates to the way the staff are mentioned online. Company Secretary asked if this could be pushed forward to the next meeting. The Chair confirmed this was acceptable.

### Christmas opening hours.

As seen above.

### Enrolment of new Members & renewal of Memberships

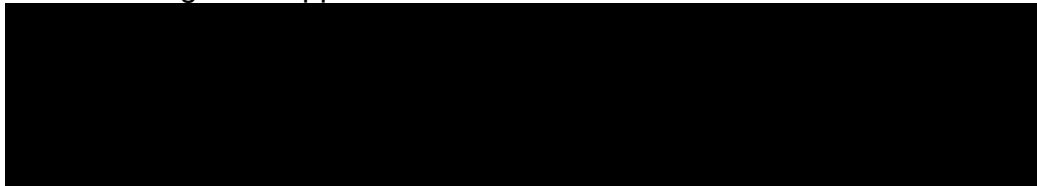
A list was checked by the Chair and Vice Chair

Proposed by ■

Seconded by ■

### Prefix

A list of prefixes for approval was read to the Trustees.  
The following were approved.



Three requested prefix Extensions were approved.

### Extensions

A list of prefix extensions for approval was read to the Trustees. Just for information the Company Secretary read a list that Central Prefix Register (CPR) have approved. ■ asks if they are protected if registered with WPCS. Company Secretary notes that they are linked - Company Secretary will clarify where we stand after the meeting with ■. ■ would like the evidence of the CPR's legality? Is this a title that is given to them or a government initiative, or are they a private company?

**Correspondence**

There was no correspondence tabled within the 14-day timeframe.

**AOB.**

No other business was raised.

The meeting closed at 16.25 pm by The Chair wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanked all trustees and staff. Company Secretary asked the Chair to pass our regards from the staff on to Trustee ■ who has been unwell.

*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***