

## **17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Council Meeting Summary**

The chair welcomed all to the meeting, a number of trustees were online. A minute's silence was held for members who had recently died.

Owing to the recent storms the Hill Pony Derogation meeting has been postponed until 11<sup>th</sup> January 2025. The chairman thanked all who had helped at the recent WP&CS Awards Lunch which had been held at Stoneleigh. He had received many comments on its success together with plenty of ideas generated to improve the function going forward. A Sales meeting had been held with McCartneys. It was agreed to terminate the Official Spring Sale which is not proving popular. In 2025 it was agreed that, with declining entries, the Autumn WPCS Official Sale will be over two days with Welsh Section Cs, Ds and their partbreds( ie over 14.2 hh) to be sold on the Saturday and, on the Sunday, Welsh section As, Bs and their partbreds (ie 14.2 hh and under) . McCartneys also intend to have an earlier start to the sale each day. In future, it was decided that vendors must be paid up members of the WPCS BEFORE entering the sale. Entries to the sale will therefore be made through the WPCS members section of the website portal. It was agreed that tenders will be invited for the Official Sales from 2026 onwards in the New Year looking at a 3 year contract (ie 2026-28). Furthermore, the CS is now working on next year's budget so other tenders for WPCS business would be issued.

The CS reported that the ongoing issues with BT now appeared to have been resolved with the assistance of RP in setting up new contracts which should lead to a reduction in the accounts. The access to the online Grass Roots pedigree section of the website was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that, going forward, only full members would have access.

Daughter Societies had approached the CS to see if we could facilitate the transfer of ownership without the necessity of the WPCS passport being sent back to the UK which can prove so problematic. It was therefore agreed that, in the future, Daughter Societies may complete the ownership transfer themselves, inform the WPCS office who will issue an official 'sticker' to be put in the passport by the Daughter Society. The relevant costings for this were agreed.

The Glamorgan WP&C Association had suggested that staff might attend an informal meeting with their members to explain the array of Awards available to their members to enter. The staff were keen to do so and felt that it could be useful as a full information exercise for members that other associations might take up. The CS had had a productive meeting with the NPS's M&M committee. The NPS is delivering monthly features for their members, via social media, on the M&M Breeds. The first of the Welsh breeds will be in February. They also requested a paragraph on the Welsh breeds for their March 2025 newsletter.

The CS had attended a meeting with DEFRA where there was a suggestion that, in the future, there might be implications for the WPBR part of our Studbook. The CS is to approach the WAG to discuss future compliance issues.

The logistics of the AGM to be held in Newport next April were discussed. The CS reported that the staff had had a busy autumn but are on track. It was proposed and agreed unanimously by those trustees present that as a 'thankyou' the Society office would be closed between Christmas and New Year.

After discussion, the 2025 WPCS Showing and Judging Handbook was finalised ready to go in to print as soon as possible.

Correspondence was discussed and replies ascertained.

The next meeting is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.