

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 9.00 am

On Monday 1st October 2018 at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, SA48 8AG

Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting with apologies as noted above.

Any Other Business

- Disclosure forms - **Action point.**
- Asterisk forms - **Action point.**
- 2019 Australian International show / nominated judges.
- Germany International show / judges 2021.
- Young Judges award at Fayre Oaks.
- Chairman asked for help with the Gelding show to be held at the cob sale

Matters Arising:

Page 7 Deceased members to be placed in the Journal under a Memorandum page.

Page 12 President-elect was disappointed to hear that there is a threat of an Association disbanding, despite them having a large membership. He also thought the speaker at the Gwent Area Association on Friday night was excellent

He also thought that we should have Boom Cymru to do a TV programme about the retired Publicity Officers lifetime experiences with the WPCS, a trustee supported this. President-elect further suggested that if this materialised that any proceeds go to Ty Hafan Hospice.

Action point President-elect and Chair to speak to the relevant person/s.

Confidential section

2067 - Suspension of Standing Orders:

Chair asked for the vote to Suspend Standing Orders

A trustee Proposed seconded by a trustee - voting unanimous.

A request has been made for a Prefix to be transferred,

Proposed and seconded by that we allow the transfer.

Vote unanimous.

A trustee brought up about a letter that a judge has written in requesting that she be reinstated back on to the judge's panel list.

Due to the extenuating circumstances

A trustee proposed that the judge be reinstated to the panel, but must attend the next conference; a Trustee seconded the proposal - voting unanimous.

Action point - judge to be notified by letter.

A Trustee informed that a letter had been sent in to the Office, by the Secretary of a Pony Imp. Soc. requesting Bronze medal status for the forthcoming Foal and Youngstock show

Proposed and seconded that this be granted. Voting unanimous.

Action point - Improvement Society to be notified by letter.

Standing Orders meeting closed.

Main meeting continued.

2068 - Chair and Vice chair report:

The trustees were given a full update by the Chairman of why the phone line access was curtailed and he made that decision because critical business was falling behind. A Trustee and other members of Council was concerned that phone lines were not fully operational and it was not meeting Minimum Operating Standards for PIO's. Chairman noted the concerns and assured that he will avoid closing phone lines down in the future.

Chairman addressed the meeting with regards to confidentiality leaks and he was absolutely disgusted with this behaviour that seems to be happening all time. There is also unnecessary legal expense being accumulated by trustees.

Confidential section

Trustee left the meeting.

Further update on Staff matters by Report by Chair of Finance & HR

Chair of Finance & HR gave an update of the present position with staff. One member of staff was on sick leave and another was leaving on the 25th of October. Vice chair expressed his concerns to the Board. After a general discussion - **Trustees proposed and seconded that the Chair of FHR contact agencies to seek suitable candidates or a consultant to remedy the staff shortage - voting unanimous.**

Chair of Finance Report:

May and June were very bad months, July wasn't much better. The income in August improved we have made profits of £6.300 and the overall income was slightly up at the end of to this time last year. To date registrations are slightly up, membership is down by 0.5%, this is a very positive report and I would imagine September will be better because we have had so many registrations in, plus we have had the caterers money in which is slightly higher this year because of the RPI.

We have previously held a very good meeting with the Investment Manager of an Investment Company and they are offering very good optional financial returns on investments. Because of this, we have offered our present investors to meet with Finance & HR. They have agreed to meet in November; we will be seeking to have similar returns from the money invested with them.

If the Board decided to transfer investments from our present Investors to the new Investment Company, we have had assurances that they would pay severance fees.

We will be seeking three tenders for all contracts, but this has been put on hold until we resolve staff issues.

Printers have quoted an 8% increase for printing the Journal. We have requested tender quotes from another three Print Companies and are waiting for responses.

I am hoping that the month of September will show similar trends.

Vice chair of Finance thought that the months of October, November and December should be good with sale transfers and registrations.

It was agreed that trustees and volunteers would further assist staff with the autumn mailing.

Trustees were also notified that there was a mistake on the front page of the mailing.

Chair of Council thanked Chair and Vice chair of FHR for steering the finances, the report was very positive and heartening.

Reports from Working Groups: - No reports.

Representatives Reports from other Society Meetings: - No reports

Young Ambassador:

WPCS Young Peoples Fund:

Chairman read out an email from a member re-travelling and accommodation costs of the WPCS Young people regarding their attendance at Hoys. There were allegations within the letter that the Council has washed their hands with Young People. The Chair of Council and Chair of Member Services and trustees, agreed that this was clearly not the case and this was the first they had heard about this.

Regarding correspondence - asking for clarification regarding the Bank account for the Statue at the Royal Welsh.

The cheque by the Society has been sent in full and final settlement of the horses head and neck as previously agreed by Council.

Regarding the setting up of a Bank account to accept further fund raising or sponsorship for the complete statue.

Trustees proposed and seconded that the responsibility by the Society to the remainder of the statue has closed.

The Young Ambassador has his own agreement with the Royal Welsh from here on and banking and accounting arrangements of any further finances for the project is solely with that person.

Reports from the Standing Committees:

Education & Welfare:

Chair of E & W, went through the minutes

Minutes approved.

Confidential section

It was confirmed that we ask the Welfare Coordinator to do a report for the Journal.

Judging & Showing:

Chair of J & S - went through the minutes

Additional points raised.

Chair thanked staff, trustees and volunteers for their help at the Judges Assessment day and thought everything went well.

There were five persons who failed to pass the assessment, one of these complained, but it was decided that we support the assessors.

Complaint regarding an exhibitor at Denbigh & Flint Show, the matter has been investigated by Chair and Vice chair and it was decided because of grey areas, it was decided that it was not in the best interest of the Society to pursue the matter.

A Trustee congratulated the Chair of J & S and everyone else involved at the judges assessment day at Hartpury, there was good animals forward to judge, everyone worked hard, the facilities available to everyone was good and the feedback from outside was excellent.

A Trustee has some complaints / suggestions handed to him.

- Postcode information for Hartpury was wrong
- No information signs around the campus
- Scheduled plan and times of the day
- Catering no special diet needs / e.g. diabetics
- Access to food / refreshments needs reviewing, there were no set times, some had made a very early start
- There was a query that no information was given regarding a qualified First Aid being present
- It can be a very stressful day for some; candidates should not be left in a room for long periods. The suggestion was that someone attends a First Aid Mental Health course before the assessment day.
- Induction talk by Chair, some were concerned with him saying that he couldn't face an exam like this - the Chair only give an opinion about himself and it was not said to off put anyone and if it did he was sorry that they took it this way.

Trustee explained the change in schedule was due to only one Section B candidate applying. Trustee thought it was a day for the candidates and it was for the assessors to carry out the assessment politely.

Re Hartpury judge's assessment day - **Trustees proposed and seconded vote of thanks to employees - all in favour.**

Action points:

1. Asterisk form to revised on website
2. Disclosure forms to be sent out
3. Judges Agreement form?

Members Services:

Chair of Member Services - went through the minutes.

Minutes approved.

Chair supplied copies of minutes of a meeting held September 27th 2018 with the Young Ambassador-elect.

Minutes approved.

Additional points discussed

President-elect thought the successful Young Ambassador-elect had a very good ideas when she was interviewed, saying that we should involve Young Ambassadors from overseas and President-elect thought that this should be explored sooner rather than later. It could be one of the positives for Facebook.

Another thing Young Ambassador-elect brought up in the interview, the reason for entries being down in the shows because there were far too many shows on the same day within the 40 mile radius.

2019 Journal was now in progress and articles were being sourced. Meeting to be convened.

A meeting has been held to progress the next Stud Book. Printing deferred, until the critical business is brought under hand by the staff.

A trustee raised the cost of microchipping every animal in 2020 and the cost of replacement Passports - Discussion took place Chair and Vice chair of FHR regarding the costs of replacement Passports. Vice chair of FHR said we should get clarification off the Welsh Assembly and also look at the possibility of doing replacements of other breeds, it may be business opportunity.

After a lengthy discussion - this was deferred to the next Members Service committee.

Promotions:

In the absence of the Chair of Promotions a committee member went through the minutes.

Minutes approved.

Additional items discussed.

Forthcoming sales and Winter Fair:

Additional item, volunteers for Exhibition unit at Fayre Oaks 2 members of staff.
Volunteers - 7 persons.

Cob sale - 2 members of staff
Volunteers - 5 persons.

Winter Fair - Exhibition items to be in the Pavilion office.

Correspondence (Re: 826 ESA Comments on the draft version of MOPS)

Vice chair said that the Chair of ESA had sent a document to the Office with her comments on the document; however neither he nor the Office was unable to respond at the eleventh hour on comments that may differ for Wales. The office has notified the Chair of the ESA meeting that two Council members would be present in Stoneleigh on October 12th 2018.

Confidential section

Member re WPCS Judge's Handbook

A member raised in his email correspondence that the description in the J & S Handbook was incorrect - A Trustee stated that this description was changed in the 2007 Stud Book; Vice chair said we need to check if this was passed in an AGM.

The reason for him not having the medal at the Vale of Glamorgan, because the Show secretary didn't return the results. This year the rules have changed so that exhibitors have the medal and the show gets penalised.

The other points raised by the member were noted and referred to the next J & S meeting.
Action point - agenda item for J & S meeting agenda.

IT updates

Brief overview Council was informed that there have been problems, but the Company secretary was working with another organisation CED who was giving a free overview of the new system. The new system will have to shut down for 3 / 4 days for testing, this will be done over the weekend to try and avoid as much disruption as possible.

Mailing

A number of trustees and volunteers were involved in the completion of this, so staff could carry on with critical business.

Correspondence

- Members letter - **Action point respond by letter**
- Facebook comment.
Member put a derogatory generalised comment on regarding the volunteer's staff and Council - **Trustees Proposed and seconded that we respond by letter reminding her of the Social media policy.**
Action point write to the member.
- International show - correspondence from them to the Company secretary, after discussion - It was decided that we allow International status for the 2019 show. We also write a letter reminding them that we are disappointed that they have failed to follow the rules or had the courtesy to respond to the names that we selected.
- Judges for International Show in Germany - they are to be notified of the selection process in due course.
- Member re Carmarthen show - **Action point deferred to J & S Committee Agenda.**
- Resignation letter - the response by Vice chair has not been put forward - **Action point - deferred to next Council meeting.**

AOB

- Disclosure forms - **Action point.**
- Asterisk forms - **Action point.**
- Royal Welsh meeting date - **Action point write to Royal Welsh asking them for available dates.**
- Young judge's presentation at Fayre Oaks - **President has kindly offered to make-up any shortfall in bursary money.**
- Chairman asked for help with the Gelding show at the cob show, the rosettes and sashes has been purchased; Trustee has sponsored a trophy and five trustees sponsored the rosettes.
Volunteers to help - 5 trustees.
Meeting closed.

