26th October 2026 Council Meeting Summary

The chairman welcomed trustees to the meeting after a busy late summer and early autumn. She expressed her thanks, on behalf of council, to the CS and everyone involved in the very successful '125' Display at HOYS which had been appreciated by so many people - members and non - members. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Sandy Anderson for allowing us to have the opportunity to celebrate '125 years at HOYS' as well as commissioning the outstanding visual display of the connection of the WP&CS, breeders and owners with HOYS over the years. An appreciation to also be sent to Mr David Blair and Mr Tom Best who invested so much time and effort in its preparation.

The trustees were delighted to hear that Miss Eleri Roberts has been selected as the Young Ambassador Elect for 2028. She is very keen to promote the history and breeding of Welsh ponies and cobs to a younger audience within the society.

Ed Gummery reported back on a successful meeting with St. Fagan's who are very keen for the society to have a role is new ventures at St. Fagan's. The WA is also very supportive. It was agreed that a meeting with trustees should be held at St.Fagan's to discuss the way forward. The museum is looking at a new display as part of its next Ten Year Strategy and, with investment, the society could offer an interactive component on Welsh ponies and cobs. The farm at St. Fagans, as a working museum, also has potential for Welsh ponies and cobs to take part. With such a large footfall, the potential for the WPCS's input is immense.

The CS reported that, despite many issues with some applications, passports were provided for the Llandovery Sales' vendors: 3 potential (catalogued) vendors had not even applied for their passports, for 2 applications to register foals the DNA results were not back from Wetherbys and 2 applications to register foals were problematic as the sires were not stallion licensed.

The CS covered/confirmed various bookings that were required for the AGM. Eg the photographer. It was agreed that the Dinner tickets will be £50.

The 2027 Judges' Conference will be held on 25th September, 2027 and it was agreed to book Builth Wells as the venue.

Financial matters were discussed. The total cost of the '125' Show is just being finalised as well as the Display at HOYS. It was felt that members had been provided with enjoyable celebration events. Some trustees felt that more investment is required in the WP&CS stand at HOYS as it has huge PR potential for such successful equines. A business case for the 2027 show will be made.

The 3 year contract with McCartneys for the Official Sale is confirmed ie until/including 2028.

The Staff Handbook needs a comprehensive update and it was agreed to get external guidance on this so that it is 'fit for purpose'.

The WP&CS Disciplinary Procedures also need updating and it was agreed to appoint an external (legal) expert to expedite this.

A further discussion was held over VR in light of the opportunities that St. Fagans offers. Further costings are required as this would be a long-term investment by the society and important in meeting its educational requirements in our Articles.

The Journal: quotations for its production/publication have been received. It was decided to go with Zenith and that the P&P would be undertaken by the office with assistance from trustees. Sadly, as at the 16th October, few adverts, photographs and articles had been received despite FB reminders.

The chairman reported that the annual meeting with the RWAS had been positive. It was agreed that the society agree to renew its sponsorship for the Gelding classes which have proved so popular. The RWAS have requested that the preliminary judging of the Young Handlers might be undertaken by non - panel judges or past winners: possibly judges who had retired from the Judges' Panel. This was agreed by the trustees as long as the final judging be undertaken by a current Panel judge.

Martyn's Law comes into being in 2027 (ie basically a Risk Assessment for public events relating to terrorism). It was suggested that associations be reminded to add this to their usual Risk Assessment when undertaking events.

Finally, correspondence that had been received was discussed and replies agreed.