

13th October 2025 Council Meeting Summary

A minute's silence was held in respect of members who had died recently.

Apologies were received from the President Elect and PL. The chairman, after welcoming trustees to the meeting, reported back on the ongoing discussions about the Virtual Reality exhibition proposed for St Fagan's. He hoped to have more information on progress at Christmas.

Very positive news had been received from the WA and DEFRA concerning the passporting of Welsh Part Breds. A full statement to members would be issued shortly. All council thanked the CS and Ben for all their hard work in getting this achieved and finalised. The CS commented that the office will be even busier passporting those WPBs which have been 'on hold' over the last six months. It was agreed that those WPBs who had been given an Equi Cymru passport will be transferred to the new WPB passport where appropriate.

On 7th November 2025 at Park Lane, London, the Animals at War Remembrance Service will take place. All trustees are welcome to attend but please notify the chairman by 17th October. Jacky Kirk has kindly donated the wreath from the WPCS as usual.

An Association meeting had taken place on-line chaired by PL but very little had been put on the agenda by the Associations.

The chairman said that the recent Judges' Conference had been generally well received with plenty of feedback that would be analysed to feed into future conferences. The Judges' and Showing Handbook 2026 has been finalised and, after a few amendments, was agreed by council.

The CS reported that new staff appointments have been made with one full time and two part time staff appointed which will give some flexibility in the office. The TH and EP to attend a meeting of the Dyfed Association on 13th November. The company secretary has also been invited to attend a meeting of the Carmarthenshire Association. The office is very busy at the moment fulfilling registrations in line with DEFRA's legal requirements.

The 2027 AGM will be held on 3rd April 2027 at the Vale, Cardiff.

The Horse of the Year show had been a great success for many owners with their Welsh ponies and cobs. JP, EP and MD were thanked for all their efforts in setting up and running the stand which was appreciated by members and potential new members. It was suggested that a larger stand might be looked at for the future with, possibly, something to celebrate 125 years of the WPCS. CF offered to discuss this with Grandstand Media etc. This year the stand was very busy and the CS, who attended on the Wednesday, transferring passports and updating gelding details on Passports said that members were grateful for this opportunity.

A meeting with the RWAS will take place on 27th October 2025. Various issues were suggested for discussion - access to the showground on the Sunday before the show, scheduling of the office's catalogue checking before the RW and Winter Fair shows, the YH finals which took place in the next ring to judging of the Welsh cob stallions (although it was noted that possibly this was because the YH ring was running late), proper planning for the Breakfast held with the RW Young Ambassador, and the issue of burger vans on Horse Hill..

Correspondence had been received from the committee organising the Dutch International show next year re sponsorship, deadlines for publicity/ newsletter, concern over the travel costs/difficulties of transport for any exhibitors wishing to attend from the UK.

The YAs are to organise a Treasure Hunt for youngsters at the Official Sales and it was agreed that the society should give them £100 to purchase suitable prizes whilst other individuals were donating prizes too. Interviews for future YAs were to take place on the Sunday of the Sales.

Digital membership proposals by PL will be disseminated by the CS.

Cyber Security /GDPR: A risk assessment had taken place, and more on-line training would be undertaken. Staff have been urged to change their passwords regularly (monthly). The society has a GDPR handling policy with a named member of staff.

EP is organising a Dinner on 21st November 2026 at the Vale, Cardiff, to celebrate 125 years of the society.

The Official Sales: The CS commented that too many members had not adhered to the 1st August deadline for the registration of foals that were to be entered in the official sales. Some members were sending in their foal registration applications very late. This was sometimes compounded by the fact that in some cases the dam's DNA had been applied for in a timely fashion.