Cymdeithas y Merlod a'r Cobiau Cymreig

The Welsh Pony and Cob Society

Becoming a Trustee of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society

This document sets out the legal responsibilities of the trustees of a charity, including the Nolan Principles, to which charity trustees should subscribe and the timetable for the elections.

Such documents often include a daunting list of qualities that are expected of trustees but to which few human beings can aspire. The key responsibility of trustees is to make sure that the Society is running well and is doing what it was set up to do. For this, you need a commitment to the Welsh breeds and a willingness to devote the time and energy to the often-unrewarding work required to help us deliver the charitable objects of the Society.

The Legal Duties of a Trustee

Council members are bound by certain legal obligations (also known as statutory duties), mainly drawn from their dual roles as charity trustees and company directors. Broadly speaking these legal duties mean that individuals serving on Council are expected:

- To ensure that the Society complies with its articles of association (governing document), charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- To ensure that the Society pursues its objects as defined in its governing document.
- To ensure the Society uses its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects: the Society must not spend money on activities which are not included in its own objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are.
- To contribute actively to the Council's role in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation, setting overall policy, defining goals, and setting targets and evaluating performance against agreed targets
- To safeguard the good name and values of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society
- To ensure the effective and efficient administration of the Society
- To ensure the financial stability of the Society
- To protect and manage the property of the Society and to ensure the proper investment of the Society's funds.
- To appoint the Company Secretary and monitor performance.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each Council Member is encouraged to use any specific skills, knowledge or experience they have to help the Council reach sound decisions.

Nolan Principles

- **Selflessness** - holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of public interest and not in the interests of themselves, their family or friends.
- **Integrity** – holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- **Objectivity** – in carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- **Accountability** – holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- **Openness** – holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty** – holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duty and resolve conflicts so as to protect the public interest.
- **Leadership** – holders of public office should promote and support those principles by leadership and example.

Other information:

- The Council meets on average ten times a year and between each Council meeting there is a Standing Committee Day. In addition, there are working groups and task forces which meet to progress specific projects.

- Most meetings will be held at the Society offices at Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, Ceredigion, SA48 8AG

- Council members are entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses incurred whilst on Society business. Please contact the Finance Officer on 01570 471754 for further information.

- Council members are required to provide the Society with a DBS check.

What next?

If you are interested in standing for Council, it is a good idea to read key documents on the website.

- The Articles of Association
- The Society's Balance Sheet and Accounts 2025
- Council meeting summaries 2025/26

You may also wish to talk with an existing trustee.

We must receive your completed Council nomination paper **by 12 noon on Wednesday December 9th, 2026.**

All sections of the form need to be correctly completed, including the signature of the member who wishes to stand and the nominators. Please note, the nominee, proposer and seconder must be current members. It is necessary to have been a member of the Society for at least seven consecutive years prior to your nomination.

Following the 2027 elections all new Council Members will be expected to participate in an induction programme.

Timetable and Deadlines	
by 12 noon on Wednesday December 9th, 2026	Closing date for nominations at 12 noon
January/February 2026	Ballot papers issued via Spring mailing
Friday 26th March 2027	Poll closes for Trustee Ballot
Saturday April 3rd 2027	Annual General Meeting Election results announced. Post AGM meeting of Council

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TRUSTEE NOMINATION FORM

PROPOSER'S DETAILS

Name of proposer:			
Postcode:		**Member since:**	

SECONDER'S DETAILS

Name of seconder:			
Postcode:		**Member since:**	

We, as members of the WPCS and entitled to vote at the AGM on April 3rd 2027 propose and second the appointment as a Trustee and Company Director of the individual named below.

Signed (proposer):		**Date:**	
Signed (seconder):		**Date:**	

NOMINEE'S DETAILS

All sections of the form must be completed in full for the nomination to be accepted.

Member since	____/____/_____	**Membership Number**	_____
Title		**Date of Birth**	____/____/_____
Forename(s)			
Surname			
Previous Forename(s)		**Previous Surnames(s)**	
Email Address			
Usual residential address			
Post Town		**Postcode**	
County / Region		**Country**	
Business Occupation			
Other directorships **(Please use additional pages if needed)**			

By signing this form, I declare that I consent to my nomination for election to the Council of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society. In addition, my signature also confirms that:

1. I have not been disqualified under the provisions of Article 26.
2. I fulfil the requirements of Article 22 (ii) and (iii)
3. I have read and understood the leaflet on becoming a Council Member. If appointed I accept the roles and responsibilities outlined and understand the legal duties that accompany such an appointment
4. I am prepared to sign a confidentiality statement.
5. I am happy to provide a DBS check
6. I have been a member of the Society for at least seven consecutive years.

Signed:	
Date:	

ELECTION STATEMENT

Nominees should email an election statement to **gemma@wpcs.uk.com** with the word NOMINATION in the subject line and enclose a copy if posting this form. This will be printed with the ballot paper sent to members. ***It must not exceed 250 words***. Please indicate below if you have enclosed a statement for printing. If you do not enclose a statement with this form, it will not be accepted at a later date.

Statement enclosed (please circle) Yes No

FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS WILL RENDER THE NOMINATION VOID:

- Nominees, Proposers and Seconders must be members of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society
- This form must be signed and dated by the Nominee, Proposer and Seconder
- Nominations must be submitted either by post, by hand or electronically to reach the offices of the WPCS, Bronaeron, Felinfach, Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 8AG no later than **12 noon on Wednesday December 9th, 2026**
- Under no circumstances will nominations received after that deadline be accepted
- If the nominee is currently recorded as a Joint Member, they will be required to become a member in their own right if elected to the Council.

It is recommended that nominations be sent via recorded delivery.