

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD at Ardingly in the Hackney Tent on 5th June 2017 commencing 4.25p.m.

Present: Mrs B Stockton (Chairman) Mr R Connolly (Treasurer), S. Bamford, Ms S Barraclough, M Cooper, G Docking, G Dudley, A McNinch, Miss P Peters, R Robertson, E Ward, Miss S Wormald, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. Apologies: R. Carter, Mrs J Clough, J Cresswell, M Hardy M. Neachell and A. Ward
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 21st March 2017. Mrs Stockton said under Any Other Business with regard to Mr Horst in the last line of the last paragraph, it should be the parcel had been clearly incorrectly addressed at some point. With these changes the minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Cooper seconded by Miss Peters, unanimous.
3. Matters Arising
 - i. Website
Mr James informed Council in order to get a proper quote then he would need to know exactly what Council want from the website as all three companies he had spoken to could not give a ball park figure without this. Council discussed whether or not the website needed updating and it was felt that this was the way of promoting the Society but if the site was updated it would need to be more than just a small revamp but a complete change. Mr Osborne pointed out to manage a Website properly it takes someone a lot of time. Mr Docking said that any website was only as good as the Editor managing it and someone would be required to find information, obtain photos to continually update it if it was going to be a more involved site. Mr Bamford suggested a Facebook page for the Society as this seemed to be a very good way of moving information widely very quickly and easily. Mrs Stockton was concerned about the policing of the information with regard to Facebook but she was informed it could be set up that only information was displayed once confirmed by an editor. Council felt it could be a good way forward as long as there was someone to manage it and Mr Bamford was asked to look into it and bring it to the next meeting as to how it could be managed and what and how information would be displayed. Mr James to look at what would be suitable for the Society's website and to bring to the next meeting some ball park figures.
Action Mr Bamford to look into Facebook and Mr James to confirm what is required from the site and obtain ball park figures
 - ii. RSPCA Case
Mrs Hicketts reported at the moment she did have any update on the Smith's appeal or Mrs Wades case. She had asked the Inspector for an update but to date had not heard anything.
 - iii. Code of Conduct – Mr Bass, Mr Chicken
Mrs Stockton said that everyone would have received Mr Bass and Mr Chicken's letter of resignation. She informed Council she had written to them saying that it was regrettable that they felt they had to resign but accepting both of their resignations. Miss Peters asked if this was now an end to the situation. It was felt it was but obviously Mr Bass or Mr Chicken could consider to pursue their threats of contacting the Charity Commission. Mrs Stockton said she had taken legal advice and it was advised it would be better to not co-opt anyone to replace Messrs Bass and Chicken but to wait until each of their natural end of term.
 - iv. Junior Officer
Mrs Stockton said this was something she really wanted to introduce. It would be for someone to give advice, training etc. young people who wanted any help. She said how pleased she was to see so many younger handlers in the ring this year and how well they had performed. Mr Dudley said he thought this may be something Jessie Dudley-Apicella may be interested in and he would speak to her and would inform Council at the next meeting.
Action Mr Dudley to speak with Miss Dudley-Apicella and to inform Council of her decision at the next meeting
 - v. Mr Horst – Proposal to suspend Membership due to non-compliance to Council's request
Mrs Stockton said Council had received all the information to date from Mr Horst and the Society's reply. It is obvious that Mr Horst will never agree with Council on any of his queries. In the last correspondence sent to Mr Horst and copied to Council from the email trail alone it can be clearly seen our Secretary was expecting a parcel from him and querying its arrival. Council felt for Mr Horst to continually state the Secretary was lying and to also inform other members it was totally inappropriate of him. Mr Horst had informed Mrs Stockton he would not apologise as Council requested. Council felt as Mr Horst had not complied with their request then they would suspend his membership until such time as he did. Mr Docking proposed to write to Mr Horst stating as he had not complied with their previous request from Council to apologise to Mrs Hicketts then his

membership would be suspended if a written apology was not received within 28 days from the date of the letter, seconded by Mr Bamford, unanimous.

Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Horst

vi. Exhibitors

Mrs Stockton reported she had not heard officially from Messrs Haffenden, Fitzpatrick or Vyse after they responded about the judges with Mr Docking being in an untenable position and Miss Peters removing exhibitors as they were unable to show under her and Councils reply where they were informed that two judges would be at Ardingly for 2017 to alleviate these problems. The only response was from Miss Sparrowhawk who informed Mrs Stockton she would no longer take any correspondence for the group and Mrs Ongley who also said she would not take any more correspondence.

vii. Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr Bamford informed Council he thought a medal or something similar could be awarded to anyone who had achieved a lot with breeding or exhibiting or who had helped with stewarding etc. He thought it could be one person per year chosen from Council. Council discussed the merits of an award and felt it was something that could be looked into. Council discussed whether it should be a long service award of something like 40 years in breeding, showing etc. or whether it should be just a committee to look into and nominate certain individuals. Mr James proposed to give a Long Time Service Award of 40 years' service in anything associated with the Society, seconded by Mr Dudley, with one against proposal carried. Council thought it needed to be discussed at the next meeting who would make up the team to decide on who should receive the awards and what the award should be.

Action Secretary to include on next Agenda

4. Annual National Breed Show

Mr Connolly reported that Mr Hyatt and Mrs Wade had been verbally abusive to him with regard to them not having a car pass. They had not stopped at Security even though they had been asked. Mr Hyatt also telephoned Mr Osborne who advised to either walk in or purchase a pass. Mr Connolly said that in the end they did purchase a car pass.

Mr McNinch said he was disappointed that no-one from the members who said they would help from the exhibitors have come forward even though he had written to everyone personally. He said that it was also a little difficult with the stewards as some were now also involved more in the judging.

5. Central Equine Database

Mrs Hicketts informed Council that the Central Equine Database should be up and running by end of August beginning of September. She said how she had asked DEFRA for the data protection form so that she could upload the information but to date nothing had been received.

6. Probationary Judges Invitation/Request

Mrs Stockton said the Society needed to look at getting more judges onto the panel. She asked if it would be more appropriate to invite judges forward who Council thought would be suitable. Mr Docking felt it would be better if the judges were interviewed and also they should write a resume. Mr Ward felt the existing panel needed to be looked at. Mrs Stockton felt Council could look into supplying half a dozen names for consideration at the next meeting. Mr Robertson said how the Shetland's would not allow anyone to become a judge unless they had been a member for 5 years and that they should have been a steward for the Society as well. Also they were not considered a probationer but a trainee. Council discussed whether or not judges should be invited from in the Society, whether outside judges should be invited, advertise in the newsletter or for Council to consider names. Council thought it would be suitable to form a Judges Committee. Mr James proposed to form a judge's committee which would consist of three Council members, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous. Council nominated Mr Connolly, Mr Docking and Mr Dudley to form the Committee. Mrs Stockton asked for Council to bring names forward to the next meeting for the judge's committee to consider. Council did think it was a good idea to change the name of probationary judge to trainee judge. Council want the committee to consider the ruling for the trainee judges as to whether they should be interviewed, write a resume etc. then to bring to council to ratify or not.

Action Secretary to change name from Probationary to Trainee, Judge's Committee to inform council at next meeting of ruling etc.

Mrs Hicketts said it had been mentioned to her about whether Mr Vyse could come back onto the judge's panel although he had not asked so she was not certain whether or not he would want to return. Mr Docking proposed for a letter to go to Mr Vyse stating he would be put back onto the panel unless he wrote in stating he did not want to, seconded by Mr Ward, unanimous.

Action Mrs Hicketts to write to Mr P Vyse (NB Mrs Hicketts saw Mr Vyse at Ardingly and mentioned to him about returning as panel judge and he verbally agreed to have his name back onto the panel)

Mrs Hicketts to include on Judge's Panel

7. Selection of Judges

Mrs Stockton wondered whether the way of picking judges needed to be looked at, a suggestion she made was for a vote to take place at the AGM. Council discussed the various ways judges had already been picked by the Society which were, exhibitors to vote at Ardingly, names withdrawn from a hat, Council choosing from those judges who have indicated they could judge and also whether to allow the AGM to pick the judges from a show of hands. Council decided to continue to pick the judges for the Championship show and Ardingly in the manner they are doing now

8. New Members and Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Charlie Bailey, Maidstone, Kent - Jack Braizer, Downham, Kent – Stuart Buroughs and Shaun Creamer, Portsmouth, Hampshire - Emma fitch Westerham, Kent – Demi and J van Nispen, Holland – James Scammel, Wickford, Essex – Mr Mark and Mrs Louisa Stevens, Tonbridge, Kent

Resignation of Members

Miss E E Smith and Mr J Hendy. Mr Hendy also resigned from the judge's panel due to ill health.

There were no new prefixes

9. Any Other Business

Mrs Stockton informed Council the secretary reported that an email had been sent in asking if a judge and member of Council who had been convicted of GBH could stay on as they have signed the Code of Confidentiality. The person in question confirmed to Council he had been charged with ABH and not GBH and was fined £100 for hitting a family member. Mrs Stockton informed Council she had been in contact with the Society's legal firm and he had stated in his opinion it would be a spent conviction, it would not be a breach of the Code of Conduct and a fine of £100 suggested it was not classed as serious. Council noted the legal firm's comments.

Action Mrs Hicketts to reply to the email

Mrs Stockton informed Council that an email had been sent from HOYS to all the Rare Breeds to see if they wished to take some space in their retail area. The cost varied depending on size from £428 + VAT to £727 + VAT. Council felt this was something that could be considered but more details were required and volunteers if it was something Council could consider.

Action Mrs Stockton to investigate

Mr Docking asked if as the Rare Breeds Show would be affected by clashing with HOYS especially the Private Drive. It was thought it should not have too much affect especially as the Private Drive classes were on the Wednesday.

Mrs Stockton thanked Mr Dudley on behalf of Council for organising the medals for the Breed show. Council were very pleased with them and thought the exhibitors liked them as well.

Mr Cooper asked if the Society could ask Royal Windsor to supply some benches around the ring where the Hackney classes took place. Mr Osborne was concerned if the Society was to complain to Royal Windsor. Mrs Stockton said she would see what could be done but she would not officially write to them.

Action Mrs Stockton to deal unofficially

Mr Osborne asked if Fish and Chips would be suitable to supply for the food for the AGM. Council thought this would be more than suitable.

Date of Next Meeting September 2017 actual date to be arranged

Meeting closed 6.10 p.m.