

MINUTES
Annual General Meeting
Dartmoor Hill Pony Association 7pm, 21st January 2020
Prince of Wales, Princetown

Attendees: R&E Newbolt-Young; K Edwards; A Mortimore; R Mortimore; S&F Martin; J Colton; M&H Radmore; G Goddard; G Mortimore; P Abel; N Abel; M Alford; M Alford; P Coaker; N Cole; B Brown; T Lear; A Cole; D Alford; C Caygill; P Mann; A Partridge; J Shears; C Faulkner; J Hibbs; M Saunders

Apologies: A Came, I Mortimore, S Partridge, C Abel

Minutes of 2019 AGM were agreed with no matters arising

Chairman's report

John Shears gave a short report – he made reference to the work done to lobby DEFRA for a pony payment, which was discussed in more detail later in the meeting. See below.

Chagford Pony Drift Sale

Copies of Rendell's Pony Drift Sale report were circulated and discussed.

A video of the 2019 Sale and the passporting administration undertaken by Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony was shown: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_JoGOLTuhA

All agreed it was a highly successful event under difficult circumstances caused by changes in passporting legislation and special thanks were given to Charlotte Faulkner.

Charlotte confirmed that all is in place for the 2020 Sale.

Treasurers report and Adoption of Accounts

In the Treasurer's absence, copies of the Accounts were circulated and agreed. The accounts showed low funds and it was agreed that Members must be chased to pay their subscriptions. It was agreed that only Members who were up-to-date with subs should be allowed to sell ponies at the Drift Sale.

Elections of officers:

The following were proposed and seconded to be members of the committee:

Chairman: John Shears (proposed P Coaker, N Cole)

Secretary: Charlotte Faulkner (proposed J Shear, M Alford)

Treasurer: Vicky Pearse (C Faulkner, B Brown)

President: Mary Alford

Additional Quartermen: Neil Cole, Nick Abel, David Pellow, Adam Partridge, Hazel Pearse, Richard Mortimore

John Shears confirmed that we would not be standing as Chairman at the 2021 AGM

Pony Payment Scheme

Charlotte gave an update regarding the work done in the past year to lobby for the value of ponies on Dartmoor to biodiversity, tradition and culture, tourism, to be recognized in future farming schemes by DEFRA. This had begun with a submission of written evidence to the Agriculture Bill Review Committee November 2018: <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5801/cmpublic/Agriculture/memo/AB01.pdf>

The Written Evidence was submitted following a postal vote, which canvassed the opinion of Commoners Associations and Pony-keepers, agreed it should be. Appendix 2: Vote Results, adjudicated by the Farm Business Unit at Duchy College. A show of hands in the room confirmed support for that result.

Charlotte gave a report on pony payment scheme funded by the Dartmoor National Park Authority and Natural England has supported only some pony herds on the commons – Appendix 3.

The proposed payment scheme pays for stallions and mares: there was discussion over whether geldings should be included. It was explained that the aim of the scheme was to conserve genetics, hence geldings not included. A grazing scheme was be able to include gelding.

It was confirmed that proposals for a pony payment were designed not to take money paid for grazing cattle and sheep.

Graham Goddard proposed that the DHPA should push forward with discussions with DEFRA, supported by a show of hands in the room.

Association Name

It was proposed that the name of the Association should be changed to 'Ponykeepers of Dartmoor' to better demonstrate that its Members kept both types on ponies associated with Dartmoor – Breed and Semi-wild.

After due discussion it was decided that the Association's name should remain Dartmoor Hill Pony Association as it was known and respected in so many quarters.

Any other Business

With no other business raised, the meeting closed.