



Annual General Meeting 2023

21st February 2023

7.30pm at Powdermills

Meeting Administration	Chaired by Charlotte Faulkner, Chairperson
Attendees	Angus Mortimore, Phil Abel, Phil Coaker, Ann Cole, Charlotte Faulkner, Joss Hibbs, Ann Williams, David and Lynda Pellow, George Abel, Lauren Abel, Neil Cole, Hayley Rollins-Allen
Apologies	Mary Alford, Helen Radmore, Verity Nicholls, Peter Mann, Vicky Pearse, Richard Mortimore, Nick Abel

Minutes AGM 2022	The Minutes of the AGM 2022 were agreed as a true representation of the meeting.
Treasurer's report	Charlotte apologised for a delay in getting Association books straight and accounts will follow. With regard to costs of the Chagford Drift Sale passport administration, Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony usually subs us. However, with the impact of Covid Lockdown on Charitable donations, this was not possible for Drift Sale 2022.
Election of Committee	The following committee Members agreed to continue: Richard Mortimore: Angus Mortimore: Peter Mann: Vicky Pearse: Phil Coaker: Phil Abel: Mary Alford: Charlotte Faulkner: Lauren Abel George Abel Adam Partridge All were proposed En Bloc by David Pellow and Seconded by Hayley Rollins-Allen

Election of Chair	Charlotte Faulkner agreed to continue Chair.
Election of Officers	Phil Coaker agreed to continue as Vice Chair.
Election of President	The office of President remains vacant whilst we find someone synonymous with Dartmoor and who could represent the Dartmoor Hill Pony in far reaching places.
Election of Co-opted Members	Joss Hibbs agreed to continue as a co-opted Member and Secretary. Martin Smith agreed to take over as co-opted Treasurer and to work with Sally Wonnacott (Auditor) going forward.
Appointment of Auditor	Sally Wonnacott has agreed to continue as DHPA Auditor.
Presentation	Joss Hibbs gave a presentation summarizing the History, Genetic rarity and Native nature of the Semi-wild Dartmoor Hill Pony Herd (see Publisher presentation).
Chair's Report	<p>Our ancestors' knowledge about grazing and the animals best suited to achieving wild farming has been passed on through the generations by word of mouth. Evidence and scientific proof was needed to confirm what our ancestors knew if this knowledge was to be recognised for the future.</p> <p>In 2017 it was arranged for the DNA of 105 Dartmoor Hill Ponies from all four quarters of Dartmoor to be genetically analysed for the first time. The results showed that those 105 ponies were recognisable as one equine type, distinct from all other equines. Dartmoor Hill Ponies are far from uniform in height, shape and colour so, until this initial study, the ponies' value had been misunderstood and underestimated. We are learning that looks are not everything.</p> <p>An international consortium of equine genetics researchers analysed horses and ponies worldwide and we put forward the Dartmoor Hill pony for this study. It discovered that Victorian horse breeders had crashed the diversity of equine species across the globe by breeding-in their favoured Arab pony. Only a handful of equine types remain substantially free of Arab blood, and they discovered that the Dartmoor Hill Pony is one of that handful found in Western Britain and Iceland. So the Dartmoor Hill Pony is considered intrinsically valuable to the equine world. This study has been peer reviewed and published in Nature one of the top scientific journals. Joss and I are considered co-authors, even though we only understand the pictures.</p> <p>The same team of researchers has gone on to use the Dartmoor Hill Pony genome as being archetypically British when investigating the history and genetic influence of the horse in America. This highly acclaimed body of work has now been peer reviewed and will be published in a top science journal called Science at the end of March. So our science evidence is building to support the Dartmoor Hill ponies rare credentials, older and important than breed.</p>

	<p>Now we have scientific evidence that Dartmoor Hill Ponies are very rare, the time has come to identify, map and conserve this genetic rarity in the moor's pony herds before they disappear due to our lack of understanding.</p> <p>Dartmoor now knows it is responsible for an internationally important equine. In response, members of the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association and the charity Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony are working together on possibly the biggest genetic investigation of any UK native pony.</p> <p>So, In 2020, the DHPA and Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony worked with a genetics testing laboratory and Aberystwyth University to develop a new test which can both identify the existence of the rare genetics in a specific pony and also confirm a foal's parentage from mares and stallions in the herds. The initial findings from pilot 1 were so important that funding had to be found to continue with a larger pilot, to see if it was possible to create a way forward to include all the Dartmoor Hill Pony herds.</p> <p>Having proved the efficacy of the test, a team of vets, volunteers and pony keepers were able to identify and test a further 350 ponies. At the same time each pony was identified with a microchip which, alongside the pony's brand, identified each pony and its owner.</p> <p>With thanks to a research grant from the Dartmoor Society we have been able complete 24 genetic analysis tests and with a new funding stream that we have secured, we will be able to analyse and genetically map and evidence the value of these ponies to secure their future.</p>
<p>Any Other Business</p>	<p>Members present were asked if it was thought appropriate that if Karla, Livestock Protection, when dealing with a sick/injured/dead pony which has been microchipped through the DHPA scheme, the Secretary should give Karla the name the Owner using the DHPA register. This procedure was passed by a show of hands.</p> <p>It was agreed that, in line with the re-election of Chair, Secretary and appointment of Martin Smith as Treasurer, signatories at the bank for the DHPA account would be arranged to be Charlotte Faulkner, Joceline Hibbs and Martin Smith. And that internet banking would be added as a feature of the DHPA bank account</p>