

Annual General Meeting 2024

26th February 2024

7.30pm at The Globe, Chagford

Meeting Administration	Chaired by Charlotte Faulkner, Chairperson
Attendees	Ken Edwards, Ann Cole, Lynda Pellow, David Pellow, Hannah Fursdon, Charlotte Faulkner, Joss Hibbs, Martin Smith, Gill Smith, Mary Alford, Philip Coaker, Ann Williams, Clare Stanton, Gordon Mortimore, Micky Shears, Hayley Shears, Micky Hopwood, Mick Wilkins, John Shears, Angus Mortimore, Adam Partridge, George Abel, Phil Abel, Neil Cole.
Apologies	Lauren Abel, Richard Mortimore, Peter Mann, Vicky Pearse, Wendy Watson, Simon Booty, David and Sally Wonnacott
Membership Renewal	<p>Attendees were asked to renew Membership. The new Membership form is double-sided with the Member's Contract on the back. Signing the form means the Member agrees to comply with the contract.</p> <p>Question arising: it was explained that clause 1.6 of the Contract would allow the DHPA Secretary to provide an admin service to Members when updating the Online Database, if requested.</p>

Chair's Report	<p>Charlotte Faulkner read her annual Report. In it she gave thanks for the hard work of Gill Smith, volunteer for the Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony Charity, who undertook detailed passport applications for all ponies sold at the Drift Sales; Martin Smith, volunteer for Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony charity and DHPA Treasurer, who designed the computer system to support the passport application process at the Drift Sales; many volunteers from Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Pony, particularly Sheilgah Robson, for giving up their time, even on Sundays, to complete on-farm administration as ponies are Registered, microchipped, hair-pulled and photographed. Joss Hibbs, DHPA Secretary, for writing the Written Evidence submitted to the Agriculture Bill Review in 2018. Mary Alford for hosting the VIP Drift Event in October. Moorgate Vets</p>
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for their steadfast support. Rendells and Husseys Auctioneers, particularly Ollie and Amanda Mortimore.

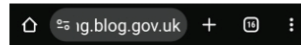
A summary of the key points made in the Chair's Report included:-

- The DHPA is now recognised by Defra as the Breeders' Association (equivalent to a Breed Society) for the Semi-wild Dartmoor Hill Pony.
- The Semi-wild Dartmoor Hill Pony has been added to the Native At Risk list.
- Native At Risk payments will be made on Moorland - ponies Registered with the DHPA as Dartmoor Hill Ponies will attract this (last chance to Register your ponies is Drift 2024).
- Defra has announced that there will be a Cattle AND PONY grazing supplement as part of SFI on Moorland.
- Moorland grazing management will not require winter-removal of ponies.

Clips from Defra's national webinar in January 2024 where ponies are mentioned were shown: <https://youtu.be/4D0uowmmasQ>

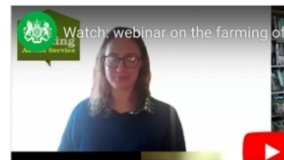
A post from the Defra Farming Blog following the webinar was shown:

Q&A After the Webinar



Webinar follow up: the farming offer in 2024

Becky Briggs, 9 February 2024 - [Sustainable Farming Incentive, Webinars](#)



On Friday 26 January, we held a webinar for farmers. We went through the actions and payments available through our environmental and management schemes in

Dartmoor Hill ponies and the cattle grazing and native breed grazing options

Dartmoor Hill ponies do fall under these options. There are additional payments where cattle and ponies graze moorland as an alternative to sheep. In addition where grazing animals are listed as Rare and Native there will be supplements available. This Rare and Native breed lists includes Sheep, Cattle, ponies.

[Read the full guidance on moorland actions](#)

Reference was also made the Dartmoor Review recommendation no.27 that NE should not decrease pony numbers:

Independent report

Independent review of protected site management on Dartmoor

Updated 13 December 2023

Appendix 1: Summary of recommendations

Grazing and vegetation management

27	Dartmoor's pony population is genetically important and invaluable for conservation grazing. Ponies and cattle should not be linked for the calculation of A-E agreement stocking rates and NE should not take actions likely to result in a decline in pony numbers.	23.2	NE, Dartmoor stakeholder organisations. Commons associations.
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The Chair also gave a Drift Sale Report:

The Drift Sale on the 2nd Thursday October at Chagford Market held with thanks to Rendells auctioneers went well, 253 ponies forward average price £215.87 up £46 40 on previous year 89.7% sold and so this year we organised a second sale at 2nd November, which although it was held in a storm, understatement for those who were there, 163 penned average price 166.34 86.5% sold. We also organised an on-line sale for the 3rd year in a row, with the co-operation and thanks to Ollie and Amanda Mortimore from Husseys auctioneers, 124 put forward, 75 ponies sold at an average price £141. Many were sold after the sale.

Guest Speaker:
Stewart Horne
Agri-BIP

New Farm Payment Schemes

Stewart presented what is known about the new Farm Payment Schemes, announced by Defra in January 2024 at the Oxford Farming Conference.

There will be three tiers:

High – Landscape Recovery (a team event)

Mid - Countryside Stewardship (CS)

Low - Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

It is expected that SFI and CS can be applied for in a single application process from July 2024. Full details should be announced in Spring.

There is no deadline by which an application must be made.

Payments will be made Quarterly.

You can opt to receive 'Premium Payments'. This means that if the Actions you and your neighbours are taking merge/link up you can receive payments without having to apply as a team.

The scheme is very flexible. You can start by agreeing to undertake some Actions, and add others on an annual basis, or at any time. If you have extended HLS, you can move to SFI without having to wait for the end of the HLS extension if you feel you would be better off. You can also move between SFI and CS.

Any landowners can apply – you do not have to have been claiming BPS.

There is no definition yet of what stocking level is defined as 'Low Grazing'. You can add the following supplements to the Low Grazing Supplement – Cattle/Pony supplement if you have the given percentage of cattle AND PONIES combined.

Payment for Moorland Management such as Shepherding.

Native supplement according to the type of Native cattle/sheep/ponies and the percentage of them.

It adds up.

There are Actions related to maintenance of boundaries such as hedges, ditches, stone walls, earth banks, stone banks. There are also Capital grants available for rebuilding them.

There are Actions related to Wood Pasture.

There are Actions for Moorland and In-bye.

You choose what land can be used best and choose Actions per field. Food production on the most productive land, Nature on the less productive.

Stewart explained that Agri-BIP is funded by Defra to give free advice to individual farmers on how to apply CS and SFI to your farm. You can have 12-20 hours of advice specific to your business. You can apply for this IF you have not already signed up for the same advice service from another provider such as the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project.

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Call 0800 592872

AGM 2023 Minutes

Charlotte Faulkner Proposed that the 2023 Minutes represented a true record of the meeting: Seconded by Mary Alford

Treasurer's Report

Martin Smith provided the Treasurer's report:

DHPA 2024 AGM account (Summary)

Sort Code:- 52-21-16

Date:- 24 February 2024

Account no:- 22011714

Cheque Signatories: Charlotte Faulkner/Joss Hibbs/Martin Smith

Online Banking: Charlotte Faulkner/Martin Smith

Opening Balance 3rd March 2023: £2,546.97

Income: £11,536.40

Expenditure: £10, 250,91

Balance: £3,834.46

These Income and Expenditure amounts include payments for running the DNPA Great Gather Drift events (2 x £3,556): money was paid in then paid out in equal amount.

If these Event payments are excluded, Revised income / Expenditure is:

Income:- £ 4,424.40

	<p>Expenditure:- £ 3,138.91</p> <p>Comments:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Information based on bank statement and receipts. 2 Accounts Time frame corrected to start in Feb following last AGM (1st March) - see note 8 3 Membership stands at circa 25 members 4 DHPA cash on account grew by £1K 5 FDHPA auction surplus credit £1,895 6 DHPA account covered last years auction costs 7 Some DHPA Drift costs still to be dispersed 8 Accounting year to start 1st Jan to 31st Dec 2024 - in line with Companies house 9 DHPA account moving to Starling Bank account
<p>Election of Committee and Chair</p>	<p>Committee Members and the Chair were Proposed en bloc by John shears, Seconded by Phil Abel.</p> <p>They remain: Charlotte Faulkner (Chair), Philip Coaker (Vice-Chair), Mary Alford, Lauren Abel, Phil Abel, George Abel, Adam Partridge, Peter Mann, Vicky Pearse, Angus Mortimore, Richard Mortimore.</p>
<p>Co-opted committee members</p>	<p>Charlotte Faulkner Proposed Martin Smith as Co-opted Treasurer and Joss Hibbs as Co-opted Secretary. Seconded by Mary Alford.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>None. Meeting Closed at 9.15pm</p>