

## Minutes of the Friends of the Dartmoor Hill Ponies AGM 01/05/2014

Present: Vicky Queen, Norman J Robbins, Anne Williams, James Gillespie(JG), Stacy Walsh, Vicky Pearse, Sam Goodwin, Lu Curnock, Tizzy Palmes, Karen Towill, Tayla Norris, SJ Norris, Sue Boxall, Georgie Nendick, Bruce Kemp, Christina Berry, Alex Bowden, Carolyn Owen (CAO), Charlotte Faulkner (CF), Tim Faulkner.

Meeting declared open at 19:10.

Apologies: Jane Bowman, Kate Legum, Anna Cole.

Matters Arising from previous minutes:

1. Seen as Comprehensive.

Chairman's Report:

1. James Gillespie took over the role last year. Sarah had found it difficult to fill the role from Scotland. We thank her very much for all of her efforts. She has been a cornerstone of the Friends.
2. Karen has been our wonderful treasurer, such a difficult role. Thanks for all your very hard work, giving so much of your time to our Charity. We will miss you very much.
3. Thanks to Charlotte Faulkner's (CF) hard work donations are finally coming in. £5000 from Pet Plan, £6000 from Dartmoor National Park (DNP), Charity Checkout £1800 so far. Still coming in, £200 due in during the next month. PayPal £1400. So we can say we are doing well financially.
4. Sadly there will be no sale of ponies at Tavistock this year.
5. Rendalls are hoping to have a pony sale, also the August sale for halter-broken ponies as part of the country fair is planned. Peter Farnsworth to be contacted by CF.

Treasurers Report:

1. Large donations this year. On-line donations working really well. Although no sponsored ride. With use of Charity Checkout our Government gives an extra 20% on top which is brilliant.
2. Pledges from Pet Plan +DNP are not in these figures, so those are still to come.
3. Fundraising from the Barn dance was £650 to pay for Display Team.
4. Our big out-goings are
  - i) Transport, both moving ponies to the Dartmoor Pony Training Centre, and onto new homes, and moving the Display Team to show dates.
  - ii) Veterinary Bills
  - iii) Adverts

- iv) Banners – we have two new banners this year, explaining about the Contraceptive Plan.
- v) Closing balance £3500 – very healthy.

Charlotte's Report:

- a) Contraceptive Scheme
  - i) 83 mares have been injected as part of the contraceptive plan. Following failure to get use of required land, other sites are under investigation. Some fencing may be necessary.
- b) dart gun report. Much success with meeting with Welsh, and dart gun would allow long distance administration of contraceptive drug, but also antibiotics or other drugs should they be needed. This has implications to our disease management plan too.
- c) John Horlock has been most helpful to Charlotte
- d) How to market ponies without our Tavistock sale. Charlotte proposes use of Facebook. Plans in developmental stage.
- e) Database for ponies on moor. Will be difficult to get numbers from pony keepers, let alone details of individual ponies, but this database is very necessary so that foal production and mare contraception can be closely monitored.
- f) Anne and Will Williams have had a fantastic year ploughing with their three Dartmoor Hill Ponies. They have been great ambassadors for the ponies and have handed out leaflets and information to anyone who would listen.
- g) Display team, many thanks to all concerned for their hard work and commitment.
- h) Land Rover. Last year CF sold her horse lorry to fund the first test of the contraceptive drug. An un-named neighbour saw her need and provided use of a Land Rover. So many thanks go to those folks.
- i) Joss Hibbs of Powder Mills came in to help.
- j) Thanks to all the men who regularly help on pony castrate days, Terry French, Mike Mudge, John Howe, Alex Bowden, Ken Edwards.
- k) Thanks to vet Uli Arnold for covering us at the pony sales.
- l) Thanks to Dart Vale Veterinary Group, especially Vets Victoria and Jonathan, for all that they do.

Meeting handed over to Anne Williams for voting in a committee.

1. James Gillespie proposed by CF, seconded by CAO for continuing as Chairman, voted in.
2. James Gillespie nominates CF for Deputy Chairman, Karen Seconded, voted in.

3. Treasurer CF nominates Vicky Pearce, JG seconded, voted in.
4. Minutes Secretary , JG nominates CAO, CF Seconded, voted in.
5. Helen Partridge, SJ Norris, Jane Bowman, Georgie Nendick, Tizzy, Bruce, Christina, Anna Cole, Nigel Tustain, and Stacy (this last person providing an overlap with the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association) proposed En-bloc to the committee by CF and seconded JG, voted in.

#### Funding:

1. Fully covered in the financials discussion.

#### Management Plan Update

##### 1) Worming

- a) A talk was given by Catherine Farrer, a Veterinary Nurse of Dart Vale Vets was a great success. The clarification of why multi-species grazing is to be encouraged gave another reason for keeping pony numbers high. We see a study of worms and worming as a possible project for the future.
- b) We suggest repeat talks to get audiences up, with info sheets and gory pictures, and simply worded.
- c) People outside the moor always suspect that our departing ponies are wormy. Now we know the fact that the wild ponies carry "good" worms which are free from insecticides and no danger to the environment can be stressed. This should no-longer put people off from buying moorland ponies.

##### 2) Display Team Update, given by team leader Georgie:

- a) Forthcoming shows:

Devon County 22/5/14

Corndonford 26/7/14

Totnes 27/7/14

Yalmpton 30/7/14

Manaton 9/8/14

Widecombe 9/9/14

Lovaton 28/9/14

- b) 14 horses and riders, 5 on foot, 5 or 6 small ponies

- c) Big thanks to Tizzy for all her hard work with the Display Team.
- d) This year our stand is not in the usual place at Devon County. We and the ponies are up in the countryside area. Ponies will be marshalled down to the Lady Clinton Ring. This does mean that the stand will have to be manned whilst the display is on, so rota suggestions and volunteers please.

Finding a Patron:

We will keep trying to find a good figurehead to represent us. Any suggestions are welcome please.

The Corndonford Pony Show:

Anne Sawyer to judge. All help much appreciated. The next day we will be at the Totnes Show!

AOB:

- 1) Karen tells us that some of the forms used on our websites and FB pages need some key information in order to be able to claim back gift aid. Courtesy Title, Initial, Surname, 1<sup>st</sup> line of Address, and Postcode. CF to action.
- 2) Minutes of this meeting cannot be ratified until the next AGM in a year's time, when the copy gets signed off. Until then, it is suggested that a copy is put on FB sooner as long as we add the text "Draft Copy". It is felt that by placing the minutes on the FB page and possibly the web-site, that we can keep our members more involved, even if they were unable to attend the actual meeting.
- 3) Trustees. We have two, Sarah Goodwin and Stijni Mulder. Should we have more? Tim Faulkner proposes John Walden. He is knowledgeable of the moor and has good links with the DHP Association. CF to write to him regarding the matter.

Meeting closes at 20:03.