

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD at Ardingly in the Hackney Tent on 8th June commencing 5.40p.m.

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

1. Apologies: Mr R Carter, Mrs J Clough, Mr R James,
2. MINUTES of the last meeting held 24th February 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by M Cooper, unanimous.

3. Matters Arising

i. BDS/HHS Joint Show

Mr Cresswell reminded Council of the letter he wrote to the BDS Chairman. He said how he had to chase for a reply and finally after 5 months heard from her to say they would be interested in getting together to see if there was a way forward for a joint venture. Mr Cresswell asked Council for their direction in how they wished him to proceed and confirmation they still wanted him to meet with them. He said that in his letter it clearly pointed out the Society's point of view regarding finances and the Rare Breeds and he would in any negotiations make sure they were fully aware it was them joining us not the other way around.

Mr Docking reported that the BDS would be losing the Osborne sponsorship so at this stage in any negotiations they would not know what would be taking the place if anything of the Osborne Championships.

General concerns were raised to the problems within the BDS at the moment especially as there is gossip regarding several break away factions. The fact they may not be able to keep the insurance as part of the membership and this would in evidently lose members and income, they have already lost a considerable number of members, more people are using their horses just for pleasure riding and driving and not showing.

Mr McNinch felt that the HHS could hold driving classes at the show whether or not it was a joint venture especially as a lot of the animals being used for driving are rare breeds. He said in the past it has been the BDS hierarchy that has not wanted to join forces and not the membership and therefore if classes were included in the show they would probably support them.

The general feel from Council was to wait for the BDS to contact regarding a meeting and then to offer the facility of using the conference calling as opposed to trying to meet at any venue.

Action Mr Cresswell to monitor the situation

ii. RSPCA Case

Mr Connolly attended the court hearing of the Smith family today and reported that Mr Morley had been charged with 19 offences, 18 separate dogs (failing to provide vet care for a number of conditions) contrary to s.4 of the Animal Welfare Act and 1 offence of failing to meet the welfare needs of 42 dogs by failing to provide a suitable environment contrary to S.9 of the Animal Welfare Act.

Mr Parkin 13 offences causing unnecessary suffering to one horse by failing to ensure it received appropriate foot care contrary to s.4 of the Animal Welfare Act, causing unnecessary suffering to three horses by failing to provide a suitable environment contrary to s.4 of the Animal Welfare Act, failing to provide a suitable environment for 21 horses contrary to s.9 of the Animal Welfare Act, causing unnecessary suffering to eight goats by failing to treat their overgrown feet contrary to s.4 of the Animal Welfare Act and failing to prevent the feet of a further seven goats from becoming overgrown contrary to s.9 of the Animal Welfare Act.

Mr E Smith, Mr P Smith and Mrs J Smith are all charged with all of the above offences (32 offences each).

Mr Connolly reported the trial date would be set on 10th July as the defence wanted their vet to look at the evidence.

iii. Section C Upgrade

The Chairman reported Mr Horst was not happy with the response from the Society and had written to DEFRA. DEFRA had replied to him that the Society had not discriminated against him. Mr Horst was still not happy with this reply and wrote to DEFRA again and threatened legal action. DEFRA have re-written to Mr Horst after discussing the situation with the Society further pointing out that the Society had not been discriminatory and that this referred to 1975 when there was no discriminatory legislation.

4. Annual National Breed Show

Mrs Stockton thought the show had gone very well for the first day.

Ms Barraclough asked if people bringing caravans and Lorries should not have to pay for two parking spaces. Mr Connolly replied it was only the vehicles that were being lived in that had to pay. He said the lorry should be parked in another area away from the lived in. Council members who were also exhibitors felt this would not be fair or suitable as most people would have harness etc. on their lorry and needed to have it close by. Mr Connolly said he would make sure next year anyone with a caravan would be either given two spaces or confirmed as to their requirements.

Mr Hardy said how both he and Sandra had gone around the Lorries and anyone without a pass was asked to pay for one. A question was raised as to whether a pass could be sold for just one or two days. This Council felt was not possible as parking was already a problem so we did not want to encourage more people to stay unless it was for the full cost.

Concern were raised as to roadways being kept clear for health and safety, both Mr Hardy and Mr Connolly said they needed to get their heads together to see what could be done for the best. If anyone had any workable suggestions then to contact either one of them. Mr Dudley said whatever is decided we must remember that this is most people's holiday.

It was generally felt by council that the new judging system was working and the exhibitors were pleased.

Action Mr Connolly and Mr Hardy to look into the parking for next year

5. Championship Show- Judges

Mrs Stockton read out the judges who were available to judge at the Championship show and Council discussed who would be best for each class. Council decided on the following:

Open Pony and Horse

Mr M Neachell

Proposed by Mr Docking, seconded by Ms Barraclough, all in favour

Novice Pony and Horse

Mr G Henson

Proposed by Mr Cresswell, seconded by Mr Cooper with 2 abstentions proposal carried.

Amateur Pony and Horse, International Pony and Horse, Junior Whip

Mr M Cooper

Proposed by Mr A Ward, seconded by Mr Docking, all in favour

Private Drive, Trade, Ridden

Mr R Connolly

Proposed by Mr McNinch, seconded by Ms Barraclough, all in favour

6. New members/Prefixes

Council agreed to the following new members:

Mr F van Baats-Roestenburg, Tilburg, Netherlands – Miss L Brazier, Downham Market, Norfolk
- Mr G Hurkmans, Langenboom, Netherlands - Ms R McCann, Newry, County Down - Mr T Magill, Newcastle, County Down - Mr T Meulengraaf, Best, Netherlands – Ms J Moore, Loughton, Essex - Ms K Scott, Thornhill, Dewsbury – Mr Seebregs Haaren, Netherlands - Ms J Soul, Cheriton, Alresford – Family Sytsema, Wolvega, Netherlands – Ms L Tomlinson, London – Mr & Mrs D True, Wootton, Isle of Wight - Mr J H and Mr J R White, Ware, Hertfordshire
New prefixes

There were no new prefixes

There was a re-application for Chantelle Brown, council considered her application and felt it could be accepted but they would not accept any misdemeanours at all. Mr Cooper proposed to accept Ms C Brown, seconded by Mr Dudley all in favour.

7. Any Other Business

Mrs Stockton said a letter had been received from a Professor Annaghmore Harvey who had made a complaint that Master Trimble had driven at Balmoral show with looped reins. It was decided that a letter is sent to Master Trimble asking if he was aware that he could not use looped reins unless he had a doctor's letter saying he was required to use them.

Action Chairman to write to Master Trimble and reply to Professor Annaghmore Harvey

The Chairman said an application had been received for both Ernie and Linzi Walsh to become probationary judges. It was proposed by Mr McNinch to allow them to complete their probationary in 2016, seconded by Mr Dudley, all in favour.

Action Secretary to write to both Mr and Mrs Walsh

Mrs Stockton said that perhaps the Amateur classes needed to be looked at as they really were not relevant for today's Society. Obviously it was not suitable to discuss it now as there was not the time and it did need to be looked at and if Council could look at it to discuss at the next meeting.

Action Secretary to include on next agenda

The Chairman said Victoria Foods had asked if their junior whip could be a qualifier for our Championship, this Council agreed to.

Action Secretary to write to Victoria Foods

Miss Wormald asked for Council to purchase as many 100 tickets as possible.

Mr Docking said how he was very concerned that there were rumours which showed a lack of respect to the Society's Secretary and also potential trouble making which could have caused serious damage to the Society. Council felt strongly that an employee should be treated with upmost respect at all times and assured Mrs Hicketts of their overwhelming support and stated the Society would always require a Secretary of similar calibre.

Date of Next Meeting September 2014 actual date to be arranged

Meeting closed 6.40 p.m.