

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE HACKNEY HORSE SOCIETY HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2017, AT ROYAL MEWS AT 1.00 P.M.

Mrs B Stockton (Chairman), R. Connolly (Treasurer), S. Bamford, Ms S Barraclough, R. Bass, R. Carter, Mrs J Clough, J Chicken, M Cooper, J Cresswell, G Docking, G Dudley, M. Hardy, R. James, A McNinch, Miss P Peters, R. Robertson, A Ward, E Ward, Miss S Wormald, Mrs D Hicketts (Secretary)

1. Apologies were received from J M Neachell
2. Minutes of meeting 20<sup>th</sup> October were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mr Chicken seconded by Mr Cresswell with 8 abstentions. Minutes of the conference call were approved and signed by the Chairman proposed by Mrs Clough, seconded by Mr Cooper with 11 abstentions.

3. Code of Conduct and Duty of Confidentiality

Mrs Stockton received the signed code of conduct and duty of confidentiality forms from all members of council present apart from Mr Bass and Mr Chicken. Mr Neachell had already sent his to the Society's office as he was unable to attend the meeting. Mrs Stockton asked both Mr Bass and Mr Chicken if they were signing the forms. Mr Chicken informed Council that his solicitor had informed him not to sign it. Mr Bass asked if they did not sign the forms were they to be ejected from Council as the memo sent with the form stated they must sign if they wished to stay on Council. Mrs Stockton did say the Society had taken advice from the Society's legal firm with regard to the code of conduct and duty of confidentiality form and the memo before forwarding everything to council but at this stage she could not state they would be ejected from Council. Mrs Stockton said how Council had agreed at the conference call meeting in November to have a code of conduct put in place. Mr Bass stated how everything should be open to the membership, there should be nothing that is not allowed to be discussed outside of Council. Mrs Stockton said it was not that anything was to be kept secret but that Council had to feel they could talk candidly and sometimes things were of a highly confidential nature. Council must feel that they can talk freely and not to have things misconstrued. Mr Bamford said Council must not be made to feel uncomfortable when discussing things and that points could be taken outside of the room and reported incorrectly which could cause problems for individual Council members. Mr Chicken said how he had been involved with the Society for 50 years and there had always been leaks from Council. Mr Bass said it was never discussed at a full Council meeting as to whether a code of conduct and duty of confidentiality was to be put in place. Mrs Stockton said that it had been discussed at the conference call and agreed but Council were discussing it now and she wished to formally propose that if anyone wished to be on Council then they must sign the Society's code of confidentiality form to be able to sit on Council, seconded by Mr Connolly, with 2 against proposal carried.

Mr A Ward said to both Mr Chicken and Mr Bass that he could not understand why they would not sign the form and it was making everyone else feel uncomfortable, this the other members of Council agreed with. Mr Cresswell asked Mr Chicken if he could inform Council why his solicitor had advised this, Mr Chicken did not inform Council as to any reason why. Mr Chicken threatened to sue the Society if he was unable to say on Council if he did not sign the code of conduct and duty of confidentiality. Mr Bass informed Council he would also take legal action. Mr Chicken asked who the Society's legal firm was and he was informed it was Lawdata. Mr Bass said how he had introduced Lawdata to save the Society money not to deal with trivia. Mr Bass was thanked for introducing Lawdata to the Society as it had truly saved the Society money. Mrs Stockton said she would contact the legal firm for confirmation as to whether Mr Bass and Mr Chicken would be able to remain on Council if they did not sign the code of conduct and duty of confidentiality but Council had to make a decision as to whether for this meeting Council would allow Mr Bass and Mr Chicken to take part in the meeting as they had not signed the form. Mr James proposed although the directors are disappointed 2 other fellow directors have not agreed to sign the code of conduct and duty of confidentiality, until clarified with the legal firm as to the way forward the two in question had a moral obligation not to speak out of the meeting about any of the proceedings but they could stay and take part, seconded by Miss Wormald, with 11 for and 4 against proposal carried.

Mr Carter asked Mr Chicken and Mr Bass if the Society's legal firm confirmed they were required to sign would they do so, to which they both replied no.

**Action Mrs Stockton to confirm with legal firm**

4. i. Website

Mr Connolly reported his brother in law had re-looked at the website and felt it would be too expensive to the Society to update and for him to upkeep. He also said how, with everything that was going on at the moment, he would not feel comfortable asking a relative to do any work, he could then not be accused of anything improper. Mrs Hicketts stated as she updated the website on a voluntary basis she would no longer be prepared to do it as she was not going to have people throw accusations around about the length of time it took for items to go on and whether she paid people to put things on when she did it purely as a favour to the Society. Mr James said he would get a price for someone to update and upkeep the website and bring it to the next council meeting.

**Action Mr James to get quote for next meeting**

ii. Judges

Mrs Stockton asked Council to consider whether they wished Mrs Walsh to be a panel judge. Both Mr Dudley and Mr Cresswell said they had taken Mrs Walsh and felt she would be very good as a judge. Mr Dudley proposed for Mrs Walsh to be accepted onto the Judge's Panel, seconded by Ms Barraclough, with 2 abstentions proposal carried.

Council were asked to consider whether they wished Mr Walsh to be a panel judge. Mr Bamford said he had taken Mr Walsh and he was very knowledgeable. Mr E Ward said there was never a doubt about whether he was knowledgeable or could judge a horse but that he was confrontational. Mr Bass said it should not be about his personality. Council felt Mr Walsh swore a lot in the ring, was often late, had been disciplined and was not the type of person that would be suitable as a judge. It was proposed and seconded not to accept Mr Walsh onto the judge's panel due to his confrontational personality, with 12 for and 5 abstentions proposal carried.

**Action Mrs Stockton to write to both Mr & Mrs Walsh**

iii. Medals/Trophies

Mrs Hicketts informed Council that Firmins the original supplier of the medal had quoted £23.95 plus VAT for each medal. Mr Dudley showed Council the medal he could obtain and the cost including the box would be £5.18 per medal with an initial set up fee of £162. Council discussed whether to have just the original gold medal, only a gold medal of the cheaper design or for a gold, silver and bronze to be supplied of the cheaper design. Mr Cooper proposed to award a gold, silver and bronze medal of the cheaper variety for each class at Ardingly, seconded by Mr A Ward, with 1 against and 1 abstention proposal carried.

**Action Mr Dudley to organise**

iv. RSPCA Case

Mrs Hicketts informed Council of the outcome of the Smith case. She reported Mr Pat Smith was acquitted. Mr Eddie and Mrs Julie Smith both were given a 10 week custodial suspended for two years, disqualified from owning goats and horses for three years and made to pay £10,000 in cost plus £80 surcharge. Mr Michael Morley was given a £150 hours unpaid work over the next 12 months, disqualified from keeping and owning all animals for two years and made to pay costs of £2000 plus a £60 surcharge

At the moment Mrs Hicketts had not been informed of Mrs Wade's trial date.

Mrs Hicketts reported there was a possibility of another case with regard to Mr Wyatt. At the moment she reported he had not renewed his membership and she has been unable to confirm if the RSPCA were taking him to court.

v. Junior Officer

Mrs Stockton felt as there was a lot to discuss at this meeting would Council be happy to put this on the next agenda. This Council agreed to.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to include on next agenda**

vi. Driver Same for Championship as qualifying Class

This was touched on but there were several issues raised that could cause problems, some were: what would happen if someone owned and qualified more than one animal but wanted to show

them all, for a trainer who has several client's animals that qualified but all clients wished them to be entered into the championship and if an animal is sold after it has qualified. Again Mrs Stockton felt there was too much to discuss at this meeting to come to a decision that would be workable and asked if council were happy to put this on the next agenda. This council agreed to.

**Action Mrs Hicketts to include on next agenda**

- vii. Exhibitors/Judges Seminar  
Mrs Stockton said it is with great regret that we will have to announce that the Exhibitors and Judges Seminar scheduled for 19th March at Ashfields Carriage & Polo Centre will have to be cancelled. Unfortunately, two of the main presenters are now unable to take part. Hopefully it maybe re-organised at some point in the future.
- viii. Ridden Clinic  
Mrs Stockton felt that this would be better as a biennial event as opposed to an annual event. She thought Mr Fuller would be happy to run one biennial. Council agreed to this.
- viii. Pictures  
Mrs Stockton reported to Council that at the moment the pictures had not been sold. They would be put in their next fine art sale at Wintertons. If they are not sold then she would send them to one of the Thimblebys auction.
- x. Disciplinary Hearing  
Council were reminded a disciplinary hearing was called to discuss Mr Walsh which related to him using foul language and being abusive to the DJ at the last Dinner Dance. Mr Bass stated to Council how he thought it was a waste of time for everyone involved to be called to a disciplinary hearing over this type of complaint. Mr Cresswell said the whole thing could have been resolved prior if Mr Walsh had forwarded the letters he had from people attending the Dinner Dance who gave a different view of the situation prior to his hearing. Mrs Stockton said there were two totally different accounts, one from the DJ and a statement supporting from the person stated as being stood at the booth and then the 5 letters Mr Walsh supplied from various people who contradicted the DJ's account. The disciplinary committee felt nothing could be done with regard to this situation and to advise Council to write to Mr Walsh stating no further action to be taken. Mr James proposed to accept the disciplinary committee's advice and to write to Mr Walsh stating no further action to be taken, seconded by Mr McNinch, unanimous.
- Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mr Walsh**
- xi. Council felt this was a situation where there could be a conflict of interest with regard to Mr Bass and Mr Chicken. Mr Cresswell asked Mr Bass and Mr Chicken if they agreed with all the points put forward from the exhibitor's meeting which were to be discussed at this meeting. The Secretary was asked to read each question out so that Mr Bass and Mr Chicken could confirm whether they agreed or not with the points raised. Each item was read out and after each item Mr Bass and Mr Chicken were asked if they agreed with the point being put to Council. Of all four items raised by the exhibitor's meeting Mr Bass and Mr Chicken confirmed they agreed with all of them. Council felt this was a conflict of interest and asked Mr Bass and Mr Chicken to leave the room until the items had been discussed. Mr Docking was also asked to leave the room as again it was felt there was a conflict of interest. Ms Barraclough felt as she had Mr Chicken's pony for training and had only just returned one of Mr Vyse's that she would feel more comfortable to declare a conflict of interest and left the room.  
After about 15 minutes Mr Bass came back into the room and declared that both he and Mr Chicken would not wait for this item to be concluded and decided to give their apologies for the rest of the meeting.  
The rest of Council continued with the letter received from the exhibitors. The Secretary read out the members names who were in attendance and stated of the 49 in attendance only 32 were fully paid up members to the date of this meeting, also 5 people had their names included as being attending by proxy: C Moran, J Chicken (non-member) E Walsh Jnr, Ms C Brown, Ms N Wade, A Brazier (non-member) D Lee, F Walsh, Mrs H Walsh, Mr Kelly (by proxy non-member), M Ongley, J Smale, J Archer (by proxy non-member), W Creasey (by Proxy), G Brazier (by proxy not been a member since 1994), I Trott (by proxy non-member), G Baker, W Willett (non-member), R Allen, C Barnes, Ms D Milton, Mr R Milton, Ms C Vyse (non-member), Mrs E Allen, G McClenaghan, M Denness, Mrs P Denness, R Denness, Ms R Moore, Mrs J Manning (non-

member), L Huckriede (non-member), S Crowe, C Howell, I Howell, J Howell, E Elliott, Mrs J Elliott, J Randall, F Eastwood (non-member) T Thomas, Mrs L Walker (non-member), R Walker (non-member), Mrs L Walsh, E Walsh Snr, D Vyse, (non-member), F Fitzpatrick, J Catchpole, R Bass, Mrs A Ongley, G Haffenden (non-member), Ms J Sparrowhawk, Mrs P Haffenden (non-member), Ms E Haffenden (non-member), G Haffenden Jnr (non-member).

Council were reminded of the answers from the Society's legal firm which had been distributed to all:

*I note that whilst letter purports to be from the "hackney horse society exhibitors committee ", Clause 20(c) of the Constitution makes it clear that is for Council to establish any such committee.*

*If such a committee has not been established by Council then it's not a committee of the Society and should not be described as such. Moreover it is simply an anonymous letter, and I understand Council has a long established policy of declining to deal with unsigned correspondence.*

*Notwithstanding the above, I appreciate there is a wish to engage with all stakeholders in the Society and its events, and therefore rather than dismissing the letter, it may be preferable to establish the membership of the group as a precursor to addressing the issues raised. It would therefore be entirely appropriate to require a list of members.*

*Council may wish to consider formally establishing such a committee, in which case it should take minutes including a list of attendees.*

*As far as the points are concerned;*

- 1. Council appoints an Accountant to draw up the accounts. It's for Council to determine the level of detail to be included. I would not however expect the expense details of individuals to be published as a matter of course without consultation.*
- 2. This is a matter for whoever arranges the Commentator. I would expect it to be covered in the event risk assessment.*
- 3. I understand that Judges are chosen by the affiliated show over which the Society has no jurisdiction. I further understand that for the Hackney breed show and championship show, Council selects Judges from a list of Judges that have said they are available.  
This would seem to be a matter for further discussion between Council, exhibitors and show organisers.*
- 4. Clause 29 of the Constitution provides that any complaint about the conduct of a Member should be referred to Council. If Council considers that it requires further consideration that a Disciplinary sub-committee should be convened.  
As set out above, I understand Council has a long established policy of declining to deal with anonymous correspondence, and I would caution against adopting a different policy in this case.*

*Council should be conscious of its obligations under the Equality Act to ensure there is no victimisation, harassment, or discrimination of members in relation to protected characteristics.*

*In my view there is nothing in that Facebook posting to support a finding of misconduct, in particular because it does not mention the Society.*

Mrs Stockton confirmed she had received another letter from the “exhibitors” but signed only by Messrs. Fitzpatrick, Haffenden and Vyse, this was so that the points raised would be classed as not being anonymous. They stated they would no longer be known as “the hackney horse society exhibitors committee”. They acknowledge the response made in relation to the points that were addressed in their previous letter and would like to respond in particular to the following points: Point (1) in which they requested a breakdown of the expenses incurred at Ardingly. They said how they did not request a breakdown of expenses paid to individuals but wanted clarity on Society monies that is being paid out to stewards and judges and therefore do not feel it is inappropriate to request a total for the expenses paid out for judges and stewards hotel accommodation and hospitality as detailed in the accounts.

Point (4) they acknowledge reference made to clause 29 and the Council’s policy in dealing with anonymous complaints, they therefore wished to re-submit the complaint made against Mr Docking and would substantiate it by way of this letter being signed, the original letter was attached for ease of reference.

In their original letter it states “ This letter is sent on behalf of the hackney horse society exhibitors committee and the contents are the thoughts of the exhibitors as a collective group”.

Council felt the best way to deal with the situation was by individual points. Each question is extracted in full from their letter and is written below in bold and italics:

- 1. The hackney horse is a charity and exhibitors take no money from it by way of prize money or other means and request we know where the Society money is being spent. We are aware the accounts are produced and agreed by Council and are time consuming and take a lot of work to prepare. However, we feel they are not transparent enough and we have concerns that too much of the society monies are being spent on judges and stewards expenses. We feel that judges and stewards should not be financially rewarded for the privilege of attending our shows and request a breakdown of the expenses incurred for all accommodation and expenses during Ardingly. We believe it is an un-necessary luxury for judges and stewards to be put up, all expenses paid, at the Ardingly Inn and the Copthorne Hotel where it would be cheaper for them to stay on the showground. After all, most already have their own horseboxes or caravans. We require more clarity as to where our monies are being spent and request a breakdown of the expenses. Is there any reason this should not be provided as part of the accounts reporting.***

Mrs Stockton stated the accounts were prepared by an independent professional accountant in accordance with the requirements for both Company and Charity accounts. She said absolutely nothing was hidden from the membership and anyone could ask any question they wished. Council were happy for the invoices for the accommodation and the sandwiches for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday lunchtime (which is the total hospitality offered to the judges and stewards) to be forwarded to the exhibitors.

The Exhibitors had sent a list of 15 names which were supposedly happy to help at the show, two of which have since confirmed to the Society they have not volunteered to help. Mrs Stockton asked Mrs Hicketts to email Miss Sparrowhawk who had forwarded the names with the jobs to be fulfilled and the hours and days required to be in attendance. She asked for her to supply the list of names with the jobs they were prepared to do and the days and hours available and for someone to be nominated to oversee the change overs. She had not received a reply by Wednesday and she re-emailed stating a reply was required before 5p.m. 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017 so that it could be taken to Council, no reply was forwarded.

Council felt as no-one had specifically given timings or what they were prepared to do they could not take note of any of the volunteers put forward.

Council discussed the situation regarding offering accommodation and a lunchtime sandwich for stewards and judges and it was proposed and seconded to carry on offering accommodation where required to any steward or judge who offered to give their time to the Breed show or Championship show and for them to receive a sandwich at lunchtime. Also in future for the commentator to be paid, unanimous.

- 2. We request that commentators are not allowed in the ring when showing is taking place. It has been noted that increasingly we find commentators in the ring whilst exhibitors are***

***showing their animals and suggest this is a health and safety concern. We are of the opinion that only the exhibitors, their grooms the judge and steward should be in the ring until such time the judging has finished and the rosettes are being awarded. This ruling would not only satisfy health and safety requirements but also diminish any suggestions that commentators might be influencing the judge's decision.***

Council felt this was already covered under the risk assessment which is completed every year and it is common practice at the majority of shows to have the commentator in the ring. The point where they raised the situation of judge's being influenced, Council felt very strongly this is the fault of the judge and not the commentator. If they could be influenced by the commentator then they could be influenced by anyone either within the ring or outside. Council feel exhibitors must make a complaint about the specific judges in the future, stating when it happened, the name of the show and supplying any other relevant witness statements.

- 3. We request that better use of the judges list is made when choosing judges. We appreciate that we are bound to use the list of current judges but feel the same judges are being used for several shows throughout the year and the same judges being used for the main shows. We suggest that if a judge refuses to judge 3 times in the same year then they should be taken off the list (unless good reason is given). There are judges on the list who have not been seen for years so we need to clarify if they still want to remain on the list and if so if they are prepared to be used. The list of judges should be used on a rotation basis which would prevent the same ones being hand picked. This would give exhibitors more faith in the judging system and if they choose NOT to show under a particular judge would only effectively lose one show a year and not several main shows as with the current judging system. We also request that due to concerns raised last year in relation to the judging that only Hackney judges are used for the breed show and championship show. Is this possible and if not what are the restrictions.***

Council stated the Society had no jurisdiction over how any judge is picked by an affiliated show. The affiliated shows are sent a full judges panel list each year for them to utilise. Also Council would have no idea whatsoever as to what judges have refused any affiliated show when they have been asked to judge. The affiliated shows have their own systems regarding rotation of judges. With regard to the Breed Show and the Championship show all the judges were written to and the replies collated as to who was available and who was not, this list to be given to the exhibitors. Obviously with regard to the Breed show and Championship show judges often cannot judge at all as it would remove too many people from entering. Council confirmed only Hackney judges were used and they were the names on the Hackney Horse Society judge's panel which is included in the year book each year.

- 4. Finally our last item is raised with regret as it relates directly to the conduct of a council member who is also a judge and regular attendee at our shows. In the opinion of the exhibitors Mr Gary Docking's behavior and conduct is not acceptable and is detrimental to the society. Exhibitors feel that Mr Docking's constant sexual innuendos and comments made in public and during commentary is not appropriate and is offensive. Mr Docking's privileged position as an acting council member and as a representative of the hackney horse society is not an image that represents the hackney horse society. We do not accept that our families and children who are the foundation of the society should be subjected to the vile and crude comments made by Mr Docking when we are at our shows as either exhibitors or spectators around the ring. Our shows are somewhere where we have been going to with our families and children and generations before us and we will not tolerate this behavior anymore. It has also come to our attention that Mr Docking has been posting inappropriate messages on his face book. Unfortunately, when you accept a position of authority and are considered a representative of an organisation you are expected to conduct yourself appropriately within the public forum. However, Mr Docking has made reference on his Facebook to the hackney breed and responded to comments in a totally unprofessional manner. Please refer to the item below which is a copy of the posting taken from Mr Dockings Facebook page seen by several exhibitors. The exhibitors request the***

***Society take immediate disciplinary against Mr Docking and does not employ his services for any future commentary at our hackney shows.***

The above was also sent as a formal complaint to the British Driving Society clearly stating that it was sent on behalf of exhibitors for the Hackney Horse Society who are also British Driving Society members and exhibitors at both BDS and HHS shows. A further comment made within the letter of complaint was that “we are concerned that due to the negativity felt against Mr Docking, will have a detrimental impact on the shows and class entries this season”.

Council dealt with this complaint in two sections the first being the facebook entry and Council referred to the advice from the legal firm which was:

***In my view there is nothing in that Facebook posting to support a finding of misconduct, in particular because it does not mention the Society.***

Council fully accepted the legal advice and therefore would not deal with anything to do with the facebook entry.

Mrs Stockton said Mr Docking had been on Council since 1997 and has been commentating for the Society for free for most of that time from then until the present day. She said how she had gone through all the minutes and there had only been two complaints where Mr Docking’s commentating had been mentioned and that was where the audience habit of stamping feet and banging on the sides of the ring was complained about. Mr Docking was criticised for encouraging this. It was discussed at Council at the time and Mr Docking received a vote of confidence.

Since then Council has utilised his services and in their opinion they are unaware of any previous complaints with regard to his language. Council discussed Mr Docking’s commentary and agreed that they had all heard his commentary over the years and unanimously agreed it was professional, educational, entertaining and delivered with flair. Council wished to record that they are fully in support of him and would be happy to have him commentate in the future at any of the Society’s shows.

Regarding the use of foul language Council asked the Secretary to read out how they had just handled the complaint about Mr Walsh Snr. as that was also regarding foul language: The Secretary stated Mr Bass had said to Council how he thought it was a waste of time for everyone involved to be called to a disciplinary hearing over this type of complaint and that the advice from the Disciplinary committee was to take no further action to which council proposed and seconded the advice from the committee and Mr Walsh would be written to informing that no further action would be taken. Council felt that this situation was no different albeit Mr Walsh did have a date and venue where the incident took place and no such things were forward in Mr Docking’s complaint. Therefore it was felt the only way forward was to treat this complaint the same and to take no further action. Mr James proposed to deal with this complaint in exactly the same way as Council dealt with Mr Walsh’s complaint and for no further action to be taken, seconded by Mr McNinch, unanimous.

Mr Docking and Ms Barraclough returned to the meeting

**Action Mrs Stockton to write necessary letters.**

## 5. Approval of Accounts

Mr Connolly reported the bottom line figure on the accounts shows an operational profit of £8770 compared to the previous year of £4,494. Whilst these figures look encouraging you can all see the main support is from the Horse Race Betting Levy Board and for our next financial year it has been reduced by 18%. Due to the problems which have arisen regarding the exhibitors “get together” we have a potential loss for our 2016/2017 figures of between £5-8000. This is due to the fact that the helpers who organised the raffle and auctions have at this moment in time withdrawn their services and unless someone else “takes up the reins”

this is where our potential loss may arise. Also within this figure is potential loss of show sponsorship. Therefore we must look at to how we can maintain our income. There were no questions. Mr Connolly proposed to adopt the accounts, seconded by Mr James, unanimous

#### 6. Price Increases

Mr Connolly re-iterated his concerns over the potential loss of income and suggested two ways where the Society could save money. The first being to only send the Year Book out to anyone who was a fully paid up member at the date of the first Council meeting, if and when they paid their membership a book would be sent. This could potentially save £250 - £300 as the Society always loses a percentage of the membership each year. Second was instead of the cups being engraved and presented at a dinner dance for them to be given out at the show where they are won. If the exhibitor wishes to have their name engraved on the cup to do so at their own expense. This would save approximately £800 also there would be no need to hold a dinner and dance as there would be no presentation of cups. Council discussed the merits of the above ideas. Mr Cresswell said since there had been a dinner dance there had always been problems. Mr Connolly proposed to only send out the Year Book to members who are fully paid up at the date of the first Council meeting of the new year, for the cups not to be engraved and to be presented at the show they have been won at and for the dinner dance and presentation evening to be cancelled, seconded by Mr Docking, unanimous.

**Action Secretary to include in newsletter about the presentation of the cups and the cancellation of the dinner and dance**

Council stated how all actions have consequences and due to the situation Council find themselves in with regard to some of the exhibitors many of the helpers were no longer prepared to put their time in to organising and running the breed show. Council were extremely concerned as to the fact that the exhibitors "get together" was still stating they had another 20 items to put forward. The mood from the exhibitors "get together" as everyone could see from the notes taken was not pleasant. Council were very concerned for the other exhibitors and members who had not gone to the "get together" getting embroiled in problems at the Breed Show which could be of an unpleasant nature. The Society was already on a knife edge with the South of England as there had been two very serious complaints last year, one being where someone allegedly from the Hackney village had been verbally rude and abusive and had assaulted a young person connected to Shetland display and that allegedly Hackney people were passing their passes over the fence so people could get in for free so the Society could not risk any more problems at all.

It was proposed and seconded that with the current mood from the exhibitors who attended the two recent exhibitors meetings that this was maybe putting the future of this Breed show and any future shows in jeopardy. At the moment Council do not know what the other future points which have been alluded to by the exhibitors are and cannot risk the South of England not allowing the Society to continue to use their showground especially due to the incident with the Shetlands and the passes. Unless all issues are resolved prior to 31<sup>st</sup> March Council may have no alternative but to cancel the Annual National Breed Show 2017.

Council felt it was most important for the whole of the membership to be fully aware of all that is taking place and therefore it was proposed and seconded for Mrs Stockton to write a covering letter explaining the situation Council were in and that the Breed Show may have to be cancelled, sending out all correspondence that had been sent to date from the exhibitors meeting, for the invoices for the judges and stewards accommodation and food to be distributed, for the list of judges that are available for the Breed Show and Championship show to be distributed, the question and the reply from council which will be sent to the exhibitors meeting to be distributed this to be sent to all who were members last year and those that have already re-joined, unanimous.

**Action Mrs Stockton to write necessary letters. The Secretary to send necessary information to members**

7. Timetable/Classes for Breed Show
  8. Judges For Breed Show/Championship Show
  9. Breed Show/Championship show – Stewards, stable manager
- Council decided none of the above agenda items would be discussed.

10. Dinner Dance
- This was not to be discussed.

11. New Members/Prefixes
- Council agreed to the following new members:  
Mr M Kesans Bonymaen, Swansea - Leah Marshall, Ware, Hertfordshire – Mr & Ms J White Kislington, Northampton  
Re-application for Mrs M Brown  
Council discussed the application. It was proposed to decline her membership application in view of the Society's past experience, seconded, 2 abstentions, proposal carried.  
New Prefix Westcoast for Mr Hans Schaap  
**Action Mrs Stockton to write to Mrs Brown. Secretary to write to new members**

12. Any Other Business
- Mrs G Turner asked Mrs Hicketts to inform Council she did not want to do her probationary judging. Council asked why and they were informed she did not feel she should have to do any probationary as she was capable of judging.  
Mrs Hicketts said all the Rare Breeds were asked to join the Native Equine GB group, there would be a maximum charge of £50. This council agreed to.  
Mrs Hicketts said Mr Wadhams had asked for Baldwins I am Perfection to have his novice season re-instated due to the situation at the show last year where the gate was closed although he had been given permission to come in later and he was told the animal would not be judged. Mrs Hicketts confirmed he had not been shown elsewhere. Council agreed for the novice season to be re-instated.  
**Action Mrs Hicketts too write to Mr Wadhams**

Meeting closed 4.45