THE FELL PONY SOCIETY

Summary of the Minutes, to be published on the FPS website, of the Fell Pony Society Council meeting held on

***Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 13.00hrs at Orton Market Hall***

# *Approval of Council Minutes: meeting held on 9 January 2024*

***Matters arising from the minutes***

1. *Discretionary Trust – solicitors notified that the Society will invest some of the funds in a no risk, higher rate deposit account.* Initially Council believed that the £100k was for the Society’s use and that additional funds required for the upkeep of the ponies would be sent through as required, from the discretionary trust, which indeed it was, until a change in personnel at the solicitors in 2023, advised the Society that the purpose of the legacy received in 2018, is for contributing to the care of the two fell ponies. The restriction on the funds (as shown in the accounts) is limited to the care of the one remaining pony and on its death, the balance will be transferred to the charity’s unrestricted funds to use towards its charitable purpose.
2. *FPS Overseas branch – updated criteria and application form approved and on website*
3. *Epona Rheged Display – Exhibition opened on 20 April to launch ‘Epona The Wild pony of the North’ a proposal for a piece of land art in the Tebay Gorge. Expected to last 3 months, photos and narrative submitted by the Society.*

***Chairmans Report***

The Chairman reported that he recently conducted judges training for interested parties in Sweden. 20 people took part via zoom. He also reported that he would be attending an NPS M & M Breed s meeting the following day.

***Secretary and Treasurer’s report***

The Secretary reported that:

The 2023 Stud book was in the final stages of editing. Total registrations for 2023 are 311 plus 37 registered by the NFPS. The number registered to the Hill Bred Herds is 107 (35% of the total).

Current membership totals 880, with renewals and new memberships still coming in.

590 members are eligible to vote for Council.

A card had been sent to King Charles and a reply received form his private secretary with thanks and warmest good wishes.

The office insurance has just been renewed.

Kind donations recently received from the Trustees Caldew Riding Club and the East Anglian Native pony Show.

The office rent has been increased slightly to cover an increase in costs of services provided.

Dodd & Co accountants produced the accounts as required.

**Learning with Fells 2024**

Around a dozen people have expressed an interest along with 4 studs.

**New Young Handlers competition**

A new Young Handlers points scheme will run for this year, with the award presented at the AGM next year.

A Young Handlers competition with the final taking place at the 2025 Breed Show, will see qualifiers from September of this year.

***Sub-Committee Reports***

Reports received from the Show, Judges and Conservation Committees and Display Team.

**Changes in membership fees / issue of Magazine proposals**

Council discussed the various options. The general response from members was to continue sending out the twice yearly magazine and to increase the membership fees. It was agreed that an increase in membership fee by £5, to put to the members at the AGM and to look into alternative methods of sending out the magazine.

**Correspondence**

Agreed for FPHT to attend with a stand both the Stallion Show and Breed Show

**AOB**

Agreed details for Sale 26 October – Show 9.30am and Sale not before 11.00am.

A painting by Betty Walker of Sleddale Angus has been donated to the Society, offer of a donation accepted.

Individual Points Awards Winners have been posted on Social Media.

NEXT MEETING Tuesday 14 May 2024 at Orton Market Hall