

**Minutes of the 95th Annual General Meeting of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society at Gullanes Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 at 2pm**

**Council Members Present:** Mr Noel Brett (President), Mr Jim Mullaney (Vice President), Mr. Dermot Power (Finance Officer), Mr. Noel Farrell (Human Resource Officer) Mr. Sean Carey, Mr. Michael Naughton, Mr. Andy O'Donoghue.

**Society Members Present:** Mr. E. Bermingham, Mr. J.F. Brady, Mr. R. Brady, Mr. C. Braga, Mr. N. Brett, Mr. J.T. Brien, Mr. J. Burke, Mr. M.J. Burke, Mr. J. Byrne, Mr. P. Cafferty, Mr. S. Carey, Mr. K. Casey, Mr. A. Casserly, Mr. M. Clancy, Mr. D. Clynes, Ms. E. Colgan, Mr. P. Connaughton, Mrs. A.M. Conroy-Conneely, Mr. S. Cooney, Mr. C. Coyne, Mr. T. Cunningham, Ms. A. Curran, Mr. C. Curran, Mr. G. Curran, Mr. P. Curran, Mr. F. Cusack, Mrs. J. Dahill, Mr. T. Dempsey, Mr. L. Diamond, Mr. E. Doyle, Mr. K. Egan, Mr. T. Faherty, Mr. N. Farrell, Ms. E. Feeney, Mr. K. Feeney, Mr. F. Finnegan, Mr. J. Finnegan, Mr. H. Flaherty, Ms. M. Flaherty, Mr. P. Folan, Ms. S. Galligan, Mr. M. Gannon, Mr. J. Gaughan, Mr. E. Gavaghan, Ms. K. Geoghegan, Mr. P. Geoghegan, Mr. S. Geoghegan, Mr. G.P. Gibbons, Mr. D. Gill, Mr. M. Golding, Mr. T. Grimes, Ms. F. Grimes, Mr. T. Gullane, Mr. J. Gunning, Mr. J. Harte, Mr. W. Heavin, Ms. J. Hession, Ms. B. Hoffman, Mr. M. Houlihan, Mr. M. Igoe, Ms. O. Igoe, Mr. M. Jennings, Mr. F. Joyce, Ms. G. Keirns, Mr. P. Kennedy, Mr. S. King, Mr. M. Laffey, Mr. B. Lavin, Ms. J. Lewis, Mr. P. Lydon, Mrs. J. Mac Clancy, Mr. E. Madden, Mr. J. Mahon, Mr. N. Mahon, Mr. J.F. Mares, Mr. B. Mc Cormack, Fr. C. Mc Cormack, Mr. G. Mc Cormack, Mr. M. Mc Cormack, Mr. P. Mc Mahon, Mr. M. Mc Menamin, Mr. F. Moloney, Mr. M. Moran, Mr. P. Morgan, Mr. J. Mullaney, Mr. J.N. Mullen, Ms. G. Mulligan, Ms. L. Murphy, Mr. G. Murray, Mr. K. Murray, Mr. K. Murray, Mr. H. Musgrave, Mr. M. Naughton, Ms. E. Nee, Mr. M. Nee, Ms. D. Norton, Ms. C. Oakes, Ms. M. O'Connell, Ms. N. O'Connell, Mr. A. O'Donoghue, Mr. J. O'Malley, Mr. P. O'Malley, Mr. J.J. O'Neill, Mr. H. O'Toole, Mr. P. O'Toole, Mr. D. Power, Mr. F. Quinn, Ms. A. Reade, Mr. J. Riordan, Mr. M. Ryan, Mr. P. Scott, Mr. D. Sheedy, Mr. E. Spain, Ms. C. Stuffle, Mr. J. Treacy, Mr. B. Tuohy, Mr. E. Walsh, Mr. L. Walsh, Ms. M. Walsh, Mr. P.J. Watson

**Apologies:** Ms. Margarite Morrin-Cullen, Mrs. Gill Glynn, Mrs. Phyllis Jones, Countess April Merveldt

**Also in Attendance:** Ms. Carol O'Connor (Secretary), Mr. Donal Gavin (Solicitor) Mr. John Kenny (Auditor), Ms. Emer McNamara and Ms. Angela Carleton (Office staff)

**Order of Business : Presidents Report**

The President Mr Noel Brett opened the meeting and welcomed those present. A vote of sympathy was extended to the families of all members who passed away since the last AGM and a minute's silence was observed.

Ms. Ann Marie Conroy addressed the meeting regarding three motions submitted in writing to the CPBS office. Ms. Conroy accepted that motion 2 was not submitted within the correct format, and asked for motion 1 and 3 to come before the members. Mr. Brett refused to let motions through stating they were not part of the agenda. Mr. Jerry Mahon disagreed with this stating diplomacy and that under the constitution the motions should be dealt with now. He advised that there are different types of meetings – ordinary/AGM and EGM's, and he felt the agenda should have included the resolutions. Mr. Hugh Musgrave spoke and said that with the greatest respect for Mr. Noel Brett, he must let the people be heard as they are in compliance for these resolutions. Mr. Dermot Power advised that under Company Law, at an AGM the agenda needs to be followed. Mr. Donal Gavin informed the meeting that the motions should be addressed under AOB. Mr. Jerry Mahon asked for a declaration from Mr. Noel Brett that the resolution will be heard, addressed and recorded on the minutes. Mr. Noel Brett agreed.

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

At the request of the President the Secretary read the notice of the meeting the confirmed the agenda for the meeting to the membership present.

### **Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2017**

Ms. O'Connor apologised that the attendance list was missing due to technical issues. The adoption of the minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting was proposed by Mr. Dave Sheedy and seconded by Mr. John Riordan.

### **Matters Arising from Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **Motions**

Ms. Conroy read out Motion 1 and 3 and spoke about the reasons for the motions

*Motion 1: This AGM of Cumann Lucht Capaillini Chonamara proposes a vote of no confidence in the Executive Council and Company Secretary, namely Mr. Noel Brett (President), Mr. Jim Mullaney (Vice-President), Mr. Dermot Power (Finance Officer), Mr. Noel Farrell (HR Officer) and Mr. Andy O'Donoghue (Company Secretary) of Cumann Lucht Capaillini Chonamara (CPBS)*

Mr. Gerry McCormack proposed and Mr. Philip Morgan seconded Motion 1.

Motion 3: That this AGM of Cumann Lucht Capaillini Chonamara proposes an external independent audit of the company's financial affairs covering the years 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Mr. John Joe O'Neill proposed and Mr. Johnny Brady seconded Motion 3

No counter proposals and both motions were carried.

### **Adoption of the Society's Financial Statements for the Year ended 31/12/2017**

Mr. John Kenny (Arkins Kenny Accountants) presented the 2017 CPBS accounts. He advised that the Income amount was similar to the previous year. There was a 25K loss recorded which was due to HWSD testing, but apart from that the figures were very much in line with the previous year. He asked if there were any questions from the floor. A breakdown of the hoofwall costs was requested and Carol O'Connor advised that DAFM fund 50% of the HWSD costs. Mr. Philip Morgan stated the HWSD costs should be added to the Parentage costs (as per 2016). A number of questions came from the floor, one being why there were two sets of accounts published. Ms. O'Connor advised that on the first set (signed by the President & Treasurer) the line item 'Stallion Farm' should be 'Stallion Weekend' – it was deemed to be slightly misleading so was amended (no change in figures just the word 'Farm' was changed to 'Weekend' and the accounts re-published. It was also asked why the other Directors names were not listed – Mr. Kenny advised that this is not necessary. Mr. Philip Morgan asked about a 'Cash Journal'. Mr. John Kenny advised this is just a petty cash account, which he is totally satisfied with as it is approximately €1500 which equates to less than 1%. Mr. Morgan drew attention to the March P&L and asked were there lots of mistakes – Mr. John Kenny replied no, but there are adjustments to be done at year end which is why the end figures are slightly different. Mr. Philip Morgan wanted details of the show accounts and inspections. Mr. Dermot Power stated that during 2017 show week, people billed food to the CPBS in the Station House which was never sanctioned by the Society.

Mr. Philip Morgan questioned the staff's wages and focused on the maternity leave/pay given to a previous employee. Ms. Ann Marie Conroy questioned how long the person was on leave, how much was paid & unpaid leave and stated that maternity leave is six months. Mr. Philip Morgan stated that the figures don't tally up and that the wages bill in 2017 was higher than ever which he stated seems wrong.

Mr. Liam Diamond wants the office to be manned '24/7'. Mr. Frank Quinn questioned if a Land Rover was purchased for a staff member. Mr. Philip Morgan questioned expenses stating an increase in light, heat and printers. Ms. Denise Norton asked about the difference in expenses between the Spring weekend in 2016 and 2017, also the cost of judges between the two years. Ms. Carol O'Connor advised that there was a Hall of Fame & Dinner held during the Spring weekend of 2017 (not during 2016).

Mr. Philip Morgan stated that the catalogue sales and gate entries were down from 2016 to 2017 – Mr. Dermot Power replied that the weather played a part and that Mr. Percy Hyland had handled all the money for the show. Mr. Morgan asked for the purpose of the floor if Mr. John Kenny had attended the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> April, Mr. Kenny replied yes. Mr. Fergus Maloney stated that the accounts were left to interpretation.

Ms. Denise Norton stated the Judges cost in 2016 was €1572 and €4700 in 2017. The 2017 figure included both Judges accommodation and Judges fees. Mr. John Joe O’Neill questioned who signed for the photocopiers.

It was deemed at this point that Section 186 had been complied with and no more questions would be taken on the accounts.

### **Appointment of Auditor**

Ms. O’Connor informed the meeting of the three quotes received from auditors for handling the CPBS accounts for next year

1. Arkins Kenny, Galway (€4,460 + VAT)
2. Michael Moran & Co, Galway (€4,950 + VAT)
3. K O’Connor, Galway (€5,250 + VAT)

Ms. Ann Reade proposed and Mrs. Julia Hession seconded Arkins Kenny as auditor. This was counter proposed with Philip Morgan proposing M Moran which was seconded by Ann Marie Conroy.

The meeting agreed for the members to vote by secret ballot and the following tellers were selected.

Mr. Philip Morgan proposed and Mr. Gerry Mc Cormack seconded Mr. Jerry Mahon.

Mr. Willie Heavin proposed and Mr. Jackie O’Brien seconded Fr. Christy McCormack.

Mr. Kevin Murray proposed and Mr. Frank Quinn seconded Mr. Michael Igoe

### **Bane and Mullarkey**

Mrs. Bernadette Mullarkey from marketing company Bane & Mullarkey addressed the meeting on the five year strategic plan the company are undertaking for the CPBS. Mrs. Mullarkey informed the meeting of the process involved and encouraged members and breeders to participate in an online survey which would be up on the CPBS website in the coming months. Mrs. Mullarkey welcomed questions. Mr. Igoe asked Mrs. Mullarkey about the previous project Bane & Mullarkey was commissioned to do. Mrs. Mullarkey informed Mr. Igoe there was a copy in the office and he could contact her if he had any questions on the report.

### **President's address incorporation Council report**

Mr. Brett thanked all the sub committees for their work throughout the year. Mr. Brett complimented the work down in the showgrounds with Ring two and stated he would like to see more improvements to the grounds in the years to come. Mr. Brett thanked the Department of Agriculture for their generous funding and support, LEADER, Horse Sport Ireland and all organizations and businesses that support the CPBS and the Connemara Pony Show. Mr. Brett congratulated all the competitors and winners of the Show and stated they are looking forward to the future and the Centenary in 2023.

Mr. Brett thanked the office staff for their work all year.

### **Secretary Report**

Ms. Carol O'Connor gave a summary of the work carried out by the Council and office over the year. Ms. O'Connor gave a breakdown of DAFM funding and spoke about Connemara ponies performing Internationally.

### **Sub Committee Reports**

#### **International Committee Report**

Mr. Dermot Power informed the meeting that the Michael O'Malley Award for 2018 was presented to Susan McConnell, USA, for her long term and selfless work for the American Connemara Pony Society and ICCPS. Mr. Power stated the CPBS are in the process of updating their stud book principles. Mr. Power spoke about the ICCPS and their strategic plan. It was hoped that the CPBS could seek funding for educating judges and inspectors in the daughter societies. Mr. Power stated at the ICCPS AGM in Clifden in August the CPBS spoke to the ICCPS about the breeding programme and classification and the problem areas that the daughter societies encounter.

#### **Show Committee Report**

Mr Jim Mullaney (Chairman) thanked the office staff and the show committee for their work all year in the run up to the Show. Mr. Mullaney acknowledged the work of volunteers for the show without whom would not make the show possible. Mr. Mullaney informed the members of the drainage work which took place in Ring Two and the new movable spectator stand. The meeting discussed the stand with members raising concerns over the costings. Mr. Eric Walsh and Mr. Liam Diamond raised concerns over an adequate warm up area for the show.

### Result of Election to fill vacancies on CPBS Council

The Secretary confirmed the following candidates elected on to the Council

#### **Ulster**

Mr. Philip Morgan (Seat U2) 2 year term

#### **Munster**

Mr. Dave Sheedy (Seat M1) 3 year term

Mr. Michael Houlihan (Seat M3) 1 year term

#### **Leinster**

Mrs. Phyllis Jones (Seat L1) 3 year term

Mr. Pat Geoghegan (Seat L2) 2 year term

Mr. Noel Farrell (Seat L3) 1 year term

#### **Connacht**

Mrs. Fiona Grimes (Seat C1) 3 year term

Ms. Barbara Hoffman (Seat C2) 3 year term

Ms. Ann Marie Conroy (Seat C3) 3 year term

Mr. Ray Halpin (Seat C4) 3 year term

Mr. Joe Gaughan (Seat C6) 2 year term

#### **AOB**

#1 Ms. Jacqueline Lewis asked what happened to the Dr. Jack Murphy report. There was no response.

#2 Mr. Kieran Egan expressed his concern on the lack of conversation about the pony.

#3 Mr. Kevin Murray raised concerns over funding money spent on the spectator stand in the showgrounds.

Mr. Mullaney gave an explanation on breakdown of costs.

#4 Mr. Michael Igoe made reference to the covenant and ownership of the showgrounds in Clifden.

#5 Mr. Igoe stated he wanted to run for council and asked Mr. Dermot Power to take his leave

#6 The meeting disrupted and a request came from the floor for Mr. Power to resign from his position

The President brought the meeting to a close

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr Noel Brett, President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_