

Cumann Lucht Capaillini Chonamara

CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS' SOCIETY

Minutes of the 96th Annual General Meeting of the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society at Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Co Galway on Saturday 7th December 2019 at 12 noon.

Council Members Present: Ms. Ann Marie Conroy (Company Secretary), Mr. Dave Sheedy (Human Resource Officer), Mrs Fiona Grimes (Finance Officer), Mr. Sean Carey, Mr. Ray Halpin, Mr. Joe Gaughan, Mr. Pat Geoghegan, Ms. Barbara Hoffman, Mr. Philip Morgan, Mr. Michael Naughton, Mr. Andrew O'Donoghue, Mrs. Phyllis Jones.

Society Members Present: Mr. Kevin Bolger, Mr. Roger Brady, Mr. John F.Brady, Mr. Clemerson Francisco Brage, Mr. John Thomas Brien, Mr. John Burke, Mr. Michael J. Burke, Mr. Kevin Casey, Mr. Martin Clancy, Ms. Eileen Colgan, Mrs. Ulla Dorothea Connolly, Mr. Kevin Connolly, Mr. Martin Coyne, Mr. Conor Coyne, Ms. Caroline Crosby, Mrs. Joan Dahill, Ms. Priscilla Diamond, Mrs. Patricia Dunphy, Mr. Kieran Egan, Mr. Noel Farrell, Mrs. Esther Feeney, Mr. Felim Finnegan, Mr. Hubert Flaherty, Mrs. Mary Flaherty, Mr. Patrick Flanagan, Mr. Paraic Folan, Mr. Enda Gavaghan, Ms. Kathy Geoghegan, Ms. Aine Geoghegan, Mr. Padraic Gibbons, Mr. Damien Gill, Mr. John Harte, Ms. Calre Heneghan, Mrs. Julia Hession, Mr. Padraig Hopkins, Ms. Martha Kelly, Mr. Sean King, Mr. Michael Laffey, Mr. Aidan Larkin, Ms. Denise Leavy, Mr. Peadar Lydon, Mr. Patrick Lynch, Mr. Tomás MacLochlainn, Mr. Eddie Madden, Fr. Christy McCormack, Mr. Kieran McGrath, Mr Lyndon McGrath, Ms. Laura McWeeney, Mr. paddy Moffatt, Mr. Fergus Moloney, Mr. John Mulligan, Ms. Gemma Mulligan, Mr. Gabriel Murphy, Ms. Leisa Murphy, Mr. Kevin Murray, Ms. Denise Norton, Mr. Daragh Kevin Ó Tuairisg, Mrs. Clare Oakes, Mrs. Nancy O'Connell, Mr. John Joe O'Neill, Mr. Luke O'Shaughnessy, Ms. Susanne Quinn, Mr. Frank Quinn, Ms. Ann Reade, Mrs. Jane Somerville, Mr. Finbar Ward.

Apologies: Mr. Anthony Casserly, Ms. Nicola Crosby, Mr. Michael Moran, Mr. Jim Mullaney, Mr. Andrew Mulligan, Mrs. Nicola Musgrave, Mr. Hugh Musgrave. Mr. Eamon Spain, Mrs. Cathriona O Toole, Mr. Pat O'Toole, Mr. Micheal Higgins, Ms. Clare Mullins-Carr, Ms. Lucy Kelly.

Also in Attendance: Ms. Carol O'Connor (Secretary), Mr. Declan Mannion (Auditor), Mr. Michael Burns and Ms. Emer Mc Namara (Office staff)

Order of Business: Ms. Conroy opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Notice of Annual General Meeting: At the request of the Chair the Secretary read the notice of the meeting, confirmed agenda of the meeting to the membership present. Ms. O'Connor read the notice of the meeting.

Matters Arising from Minutes: There were no matters arising from the minutes

Adoption of Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2018: Mr. Roger Brady proposed and Mr. Damien Gill seconded the adoption of the minutes for the 2018 Annual General meeting.

Consideration of Society's Accounts for year ended 31st December 2018 and Auditors report thereon

Mr. Declan Mannion presented the accounts for the Connemara Pony Breeders' Society for the year end 31st December 2018. Mr. Mannion summarized the role of the members as members of a company limited by guarantee.

Mr. Mannion stated that the overall performance of the company showed a small deficit in 2018 of €4,689 compared to a deficit in the previous year of €25, 144. Mr. Mannion stated income increased in 2018 to €631,912 compared to an income of €582,771 the previous year. An increase was seen across many activities including membership and show income, government grants increased from €146,972 in 2017 to €154,844 in 2018.

Expenditure increased in 2018 to €636,601 compared to €607,915 the previous year, with increases seen across payroll, printing and stationery, and show expenses. Mr. Mannion referred to the depreciation cost and informed the membership that if you own a building you have to depreciate it. Mr. Mannion stated the council examined and wrote off some old debt. Mr. Mannion referred to the auditor's report and stated in their opinion the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2018 and of its deficit for the year then ended. Mr. Mannion thanked Ms. O'Connor in her help to compiling the accounts and welcomed questions from the members.

Ms. Denise Norton asked for clarification on what was included in consultancy fees. Mrs. Grimes stated the main items making up consultancy fees included HWSO study seminar, Bane & Mullarkey report and the previous auditor. Mr. Fergus Maloney asked for the content of general expenses. Mr. Mannion stated that to avoid a lot of line items in the accounts there are many items consolidated under general expenses. Mrs. Grimes confirmed general expenses was made up of 92-line items. Mr. John Joe O'Neill questioned the costs involved in DNA kits and the grants received from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. Ms. O'Connor stated the DAFM grants will be addressed later in the meeting and gave the costs involved in the production of a lifetime document. Mr. O'Neill asked for the reasoning behind the increased cost for registering a foal and an older pony. Ms. O'Connor explained the introduction of those new costs and the work involved with registering older ponies. Mr. O'Neill asked why there was not a full breakdown of show expenses and Ms. O'Connor stated is not normal procedure to have that breakdown circulated but it was available.

Mr. O'Neill asked Ms. Conroy who was responsible for the photocopiers. Ms. Conroy informed the meeting that there would be a full report later in the meeting.

Appointment of Auditors: Ms. O Connor read out three quotes received for three auditors for the preparation and audit of statutory accounts for the year ended 31st December 2019.

Quote 1: Monaghan & Company accountants & registered auditors.

Units 5 & 6, 1st Floor offices, Bluebell Woods, Oranmore, Co Galway

€3,900 (excluding VAT)

Quote 2: Kevin Barry chartered accountants
Clifden, Co Galway
€4,127 (excluding VAT)

Quote 3: Mannion Lochrin & Company Limited
Market street, Clifden, Co Galway
€2,750 (excluding VAT)

Mrs. Esther Feeney proposed and Mr. Michael Burke seconded Mannion Lochrin & Company Limited as the auditor for the year ending 31st December 2019.

Result of Election to fill vacancies on the CPBS council

Ms. O'Connor read the results of the council elections

Connacht

Mr. Kevin Bolger – Seat C9 – 3 year term
Mr. Daragh Kevin Ó Tuairisg – Seat C10 – 3 year term
Ms. Priscilla Diamond – Seat C11 – 3 year term
Mr. Patrick Flanagan – Seat C12 – 3 year term
Mr. Martin Coyne – Seat C5 – 1 year term (casual vacancy)

Munster

Mrs. Ulla Dorothea Connolly – Seat M3 – 3 year term

Leinster

Mrs. Clare Oakes – Seat L3 – 3 year term

There was no candidate from Ulster

Chairperson's address incorporating council report

Ms. Conroy addressed the meeting and stated there was a turbulent start to the year with a vote of no confidence in the executive at the 2018 AGM, which in turn was rejected by the council with the exception of the Mr. Andrew O'Donoghue who voluntarily resigned in his position of company secretary. Ms. Conroy stated there has been changes made over the past six months, with a new auditor, solicitor and a completely new executive committee. Ms. Conroy stated the council are working as part of a team with one common ground; the future development of the Connemara pony. Ms. Conroy informed the meeting of the work carried out on Hoof Wall Separation Disease (HWSD) and asked the members to help them eradicate this disease. Ms. Conroy thanked the subcommittees for their great work and those that helped make the 2019 show festival a great success. Ms. Conroy informed the meeting that

there was a suggestion box at the end of the room and invited members to make suggestions. Ms. Conroy stated the council wanted to work with the breeders. Ms. Conroy extended a vote of sympathy to the families of all members who passed away since the last AGM. Ms. Conroy welcomed the new directors onto council and thanked the hard-working staff and the breeders for their work in breeding Connemara ponies.

Secretary' report

Ms. O'Connor informed the members of additional DAFM funding secured at the end of 2018 to that reported at the 2018 AGM, bringing the total funding from the €146,000 to €152,000. Ms. O'Connor gave a breakdown of the DAFM funding for 2019 and informed the meeting of the total DAFM received each year. Ms. O'Connor acknowledged and congratulated the performance ponies and winners during the year at both national and international level. Ms. O'Connor informed the membership of the permanent and temporary staff working in the office.

Mr. Sheedy on behalf of council acknowledged the work and thanked the staff for their hard work during the year. Mr. Sheedy wished staff member, Aine Ui Fhoghlua a speedy recovery who is recovering from an illness.

Sub-committee reports

Marketing & Education committee

Mrs. Grimes addressed the meeting as chair of the marketing and education committee. Mrs. Grimes informed the meeting of the events and activities carried out by the committee over the last twelve months to improve the marketing of the Connemara pony.

International committee

Mrs. Phyllis Jones presented the International report as chair of the International committee and thanked her committee members for their help throughout the year. Mrs. Jones informed the meeting of the work carried out by the International committee throughout the year. Mrs. Jones stated the Michael O'Malley award was presented to Ms. Tuula Pyoria (Finland) for her work and contributions to the Connemara pony. Mrs. Jones stated the International committee and daughter societies are looking into an International database. Mrs. Jones summarized the newly introduced CPBS Merit scheme.

Show Report

Mr. Pat Geoghegan as chair of the show committee informed the meeting that exhibitors and spectators numbers increased for the 2019 show. Mr. Geoghegan summarized changes made to the show and informed the meeting of the changes proposed for the 2020 show.

Mr. Conor Coyne asked if there are any plans in place to bring back Connemara classes to the RDS. Mr. Geoghegan stated that the idea was discussed at council and there are council members currently in talks with the RDS.

Mr. Geoghegan addressed a number of questions from the meeting regarding the schedule for the 2020 show. Ms. Denise Norton recommended a junior course walk to encourage the younger generation. Mrs. Grimes addressed queries on judges' expenses for the Connemara pony show.

Ms. O'Connor reported on the 2018 Christmas show and informed the meeting of the upcoming Christmas show.

Company Secretary (Audit and Investigation)

2019 Election

Ms. Conroy addressed the decision to void the first ballot after it was established there was five duplicate ballots issued in the Connacht electorate. Ms. Conroy informed the meeting that they also established that there was two duplicate ballot issued in the 2017 Connacht election. Ms. Conroy stated the matter was handed over to the CPBS solicitor who secured two affidavits that duplicate votes were not cast in 2017.

GLAS

Ms. Conroy informed the meeting that the CPBS council agreed to allow retrospective payments for 2015, 2016 and 2017 for members who missed their membership payments. Ms. Conroy stated the council are taking the steps to have their constitution amended however they have been informed by the charities regulator that the current CPBS constitution is not drawn up in line with the charities regulators requirements. Ms. Conroy stated the council are now looking to re-draft the constitution and making a submission to the revenue commissioners to approve the changes and from there call an EGM to ask the members to approve the changes. Ms. Conroy stated the process will take some time.

Mr. O'Neill asked the council to look at having the AGM in Spring time.

Ms. Diamond commended the work the council have completed over the past twelve months and for their handling of the election process. Ms. Diamond requested reasoning for Mr. Mullaney resignation. Ms. Conroy stated the reasoning that Mr. Mullaney gave to the executive on his resignation was that he had lost the support of the executive and he could no longer continue as president.

Audit and Investigation

Ms. Conroy informed the meeting that the CPBS formed an audit and investigation committee to act on the motion passed at the 2018 AGM requesting an investigation into the CPBS accounts for years 2011-2017. Ms. Conroy stated the committee started with the 2018 accounts and have completed investigations on the 2016, 2017 and 2018 accounts. Ms. Conroy

stated that it was the opinion of the committee following detailed examination of financial records, office records and minutes of council meetings that there was no fraudulent activity in these years.

Mr. Philip Morgan reported on the lease of the photocopiers in 2012 and 2013 and the costs incurred. Mrs. Grimes updated the meeting on new financial procedures introduced regarding the approval of invoices. The meeting discussed the photocopiers and agreed to put closure on the issue.

Inspection

Mr. Halpin as chair of the inspection committee reported on the Spring and Autumn inspections and the introduction of the linear profiling system. The meeting discussed the inspections.

Any other Business

There was no other business and Ms. Conroy thanked the meeting.