

# Equestrian Association Of Shetland



## Shetland Equestrian Facilities Working Group

Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 21st April held in the Radio Room, Islesburgh House at 7.00 p.m.

### Present

Graham Wishart - Shetland Riding Club (Chairman SEFWG)  
Elaine Laurenson - Clickimin Open Riding Club (Secretary SEFWG)  
Vaila Stevenson - South Whiteness Riding Club (Minute Secretary SEFWG)

Marianne Hughson - Shetland Riding Club  
Abigail Robertson - Dunrossness Riding Club  
Susie Nicolson - Equestrian Association of Shetland  
Helen Thomson - Pony Breeders of Shetland Association  
Susan Goodlad - Shetland Pony Riding & Driving Group  
Vikki Robertson – SPRDG  
Sonja Flaws - Pony Breeders of Shetland Association

### Apologies

Bob Kerr – Shetland Islands Council

### Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of 23rd February were proposed by Helen and seconded by Abigail.

### Matters arising from minutes

There was a query regarding the completion certificate for the hatchery and whether there was any update (re page 2 of previous minute). Stephen was to speak to Building standards. Graham will contact Stephen to see if he has had any response.

Graham had e-mailed Johanna David stating the fact that we remain interested in purchase. She has offered to keep us up to date.

Graham had sent a letter requesting a meeting with the bank in question. There has been no answer.

Elaine had offered to pursue an online search of the Land Registry in Edinburgh on the Groups' behalf. She reported that she was no further because she required more detail. Her request needed to include a plan or a map/ OS map references. This should cost no more than £10.00, although this may be per each land title. Marianne offered to assist her. We agreed to go ahead with the request and set a ceiling of £50.00.

It had been suggested previously that we should contact the Amenity Trust to get a detailed picture of their title. Graham volunteered to speak to Alan Blain with this regard.

### Proposed Sale of Girlsta Hatchery

After our last meeting Graham spoke to Frank. The current position seems to be that progress on the sale has ceased but, according to Frank, the sale is likely to eventually be completed. Marianne wondered about revisiting the possibility of obtaining a lease for the building. Even 6 months would give us more security. Equally we don't want to keep chasing Frank. Susan may be able to speak to him informally.

Frank had shared the fact that the Girlsta community had been interested in the hatchery for leisure use about 5 years ago and he thought European funding was available for industrial buildings being converted to leisure use. Susan offered to try to find out more regarding this issue. Frank also suggested that the SEFWG would benefit from having a partner, enabling them to look at joint funding. Obviously the Amenity Trust would be a possibility (re. minute of 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 08). Marianne noted that the Shetland Triathlon Club were keen to share the building. Helen noted that the Dog Club were also interested.

Frank had also proposed a shed at Eshanness, belonging to him, as a possible solution for us, stating that no reasonable offer would be refused. Graham had taken the time to visit the Eshanness shed and shared photographs he'd taken on site. Its dimensions are approximately 3.2 metres high at eaves and approximately 13m x 45m outside. The height is obviously limiting as we require 14ft (approx. 4.2m) at least for jumping. The shed also has block-built wings which would be difficult to remove and the sheets are not in particularly good condition, having rusted along many edges. It was thought it would cost a few thousand pounds to take the shed away. A contractor had previously studied the building and it's removal and considered it to be uneconomic to do so.

Group members questioned the position regarding purchase of a second-hand shed. Marianne referred to shed she knew of which was purchased second-hand (by way of a Scottish Farmer advert). There had been no problem with Public Liability etc., which was required for its use as a business premises. There was some discussion around the idea of a second-hand option. We then came down to location and finding a suitable site. Some of the previous proposals were revisited e.g., Cunningburgh (although felt not central enough). The ground at the Staney Hill, currently used for grazing, was another possibility. Abigail thought the EAS had enquired about this in the past and offered to ask Lisa. Seafield was mentioned but thought to be an unlikely proposal. There is now a possibility of building a new Eric Gray Centre in the Seafield area and Abigail could tell us that this meant the allotments were now on hold until decisions were made.

### **User Requirement Specification**

Graham had obtained a copy of the previous document, drawn up by the EAS, from Abigail. The document had been at a fairly advanced stage, ready to appoint a civil engineer. It was felt that it would form a good starting point but that we need to consider our current requirements. There was considerable discussion around this issue. It was felt that we should ideally have a specification for both an indoor and outdoor facility.

Susie felt that 64m x 25m was a minimum if we were to house an international dressage arena sized area and have space to work around it. She mentioned a BHS consultant who might be a useful contact. She will find out his name. Susie also sketched for the group the layout of an indoor arena she had visited in Ireland. The full area of this building was 100m x 50m with an arena of 90m x 50m and a 10m length for facilities such as judges area, café etc. There was also an outdoor collecting ring of 40m x 20m.

It was suggested that the dimensions of Oatridge may be available online.

Sonja wondered if Paddy Casey would provide us with the specifications of the Orkney Facility. She agreed to request a copy and an approximate price.

It was agreed that Graham would e-mail the EAS specification document to everyone for consideration prior to the next meeting,

### **AOCB**

#### **Representation of Clubs on EAS Committee**

Abigail informed the Group that the EAS was due to have their AGM on Monday and that the issue of representation was on the agenda. She felt that the EAS would be better to be arranged as the steering group is i.e., consisting of representatives from all the equestrian groups and wondered about the possibility of this group effectively becoming the EAS. Current EAS members would then form a separate group for the riding club activities, such as shows and Le Trec. It might be possible to set up sub-groups responsible for issues like grazing (already a sub-group), equipment etc.

In response, the Group raised numerous questions with the general feeling that our success to date was because we were solely focused on one issue i.e., that of securing an equestrian facility. It was also pointed out that to become the EAS we would need to be re-elected under their constitution and this may upset the stability we have established to date.

Abigail felt that she had a feel for people's views to take to the EAS meeting and would discuss the issues with EAS members.

#### **Date of next meeting**

Set for 19:00 hrs, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, venue to be agreed.

