

Equestrian Association Of Shetland



Shetland Equestrian Facilities Working Group

Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 26th May 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)

Abigail Robertson - Dunrossness Riding Club
Helen Thomson - Pony Breeders of Shetland Association
Marianne Hughson - Shetland Riding Club
Marion Slater - South Whiteness Riding Club

Apologies

Karlin Moar - Clickimin Open Riding Club
Susie Nicolson - Equestrian Association of Shetland
Sonja Flaws - Pony Breeders of Shetland Association
Bob Kerr - Shetland Islands Council
Susan Goodlad - Shetland Pony Riding & Driving Group
Vikki Robertson - SPRDG

Adoption of Minutes

The Minutes of 21st March were proposed by Helen and seconded by Abigail.

Matters arising from minutes

Stephen has had no response from Building Standards regarding the completion certificate for the hatchery. He had advised Graham that he will try again and pass the answer to Graham.

A property search was lodged with the Land Registry on 19th May 2009. There has been no reply to date.

Graham had contacted Alan Blain of the Amenity Trust. He was extremely positive and they discussed at length, the idea of a Shetland Heritage Centre. Alan Blain was of the opinion that a joint arrangement between the Amenity Trust and our group, taking in the kiln, mill etc. was a good idea. Unfortunately the Amenity Trust is committed financially at present, to projects such as Belmont House, Sumburgh Lighthouse and a Garden Centre in Walls. Alan Blain felt that, if we were to convert the mill ourselves for tourism, there would be money available. The group are not necessarily looking to take on a project of this magnitude. There was further concern that the running costs of the facility might be problematic.

There has been no further communication with Frank Johnson or the bank. We agreed to write another letter to the bank.

Marianne has spoken to Johanna David. As far as she is aware, the sale of the hatchery building has fallen through. Marianne felt that Johanna would like to help us but she is tied to Frank until the end of his lease, involving the water rights. We believe the lease has approximately 9 years to run. Johanna did offer to give us details of her solicitors, who would obviously be knowledgeable regarding the issues involved. Johanna is due to be in Shetland this week or next week. It was proposed that the group, or representatives from the group, ask to meet with Johanna to demonstrate how serious we are regarding purchase and hear any suggestions she may have.

Abigail reported that the EAS had had their AGM and at present there is to be no imminent change to the make-up of the EAS.

User Requirement Specification

Marianne had spoken to a local builder who informed her that the cost to purchase an equivalent shed to that at Girlsta would be considerably more than figures muted for value of the current shed. We discussed the possibility of moving the Girlsta shed, hence avoiding all the land issues. Marianne offered to find out whether this would be viable cost-wise.

There was discussion around our required specification. It was suggested, as previously, that we check the internet or contact Oatridge for a plan. Graham provided group members with information sheets on 'Riding Arena Design and Construction'. It was agreed that Graham would e-mail members, attaching copies of a draft specification he'd put together, expanded from the previous EAS specification. This will enable members to consider the given ideas and share their views/ suggestions for changes or additions at our next meeting.

Representation of Clubs on Shetland Equestrian Facilities Working Group

Steven has informed the group that he is no longer able to be a member. It was pointed out that he was present as a stand in for Karlin Moar. In the case of Whiteness Riding Club, Marion Slater is now a co-opted member of the Whiteness Riding Club committee, enabling her to retain her position within the steering group.

The above changes have prompted the group to consider our rules for accepting club nominations when there is a vacancy or vacancies to be filled on the 'Group. It was agreed that we should have a simple voting system. The vote would be cast on paper slips, be counted by the Chairman at the meeting immediately after the vote was cast and acceptance would be by simple majority. The voting slips would have the nominees name or names and a 'yes' and 'no' tick box on the slip at each name. This would give voters complete anonymity. No proxy voting would be available. The vote would be counted by the Chairman at the meeting immediately after the vote was cast and acceptance would be by simple majority. If a club nominee was not accepted, the relevant club would be informed and would be entitled to put forward another nominee or nominees.

The issue of making Minutes available to all clubs represented was discussed. Abigail offered to make our minutes available on the EAS website, by way of a 'Steering Group' page. This idea was welcomed by the group. Prior to this and as had already been decided some time ago, Graham will share our previous Minutes with the Shetland Riding Club at their next Committee meeting.

Future Fundraising

Various ideas were discussed, including the idea of each club organising a particular fundraising event, on behalf of the SEFWG. It was suggested that advance warning to individual groups of our intention to fundraise from April 2010 onwards might be useful if we did adopt this idea. It was noted that not all clubs had members with their own horses wishing to use an indoor facility, so perhaps clubs could organise an event but aim wider than their own membership in terms of support. It was also suggested that we should identify proposed sources of funding, grants etc. It was agreed that it would be useful to collate a list of potential sources. Bob Kerr and Michael Duncan were flagged up as useful contacts with this regard. Abigail volunteered to collate a list. The possibility of European Funding and consulting our MEP was also considered.

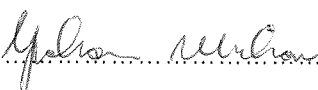
The 'Quality of Life' money, and deadline of Sept 09, remains an issue. We agreed to get the Girlsta Shed valued. Elaine is to request a survey and valuation from Michael Thompson. This is also to include the cost to purchase the building outwith the site. Marianne is to ask Robertson and Read for a quote to dismantle and re-locate the shed.

AOCB

Elaine informed the meeting that Alan Ockendon's interest in the hatchery had been transferred or sold to Paul Featherstone (Kergord Hatchery).

Date of next meeting

Set for 19:00 hrs, Tuesday 23rdth June, venue to be agreed.

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 Chairman