

Equestrian Association Of Shetland



Shetland Equestrian Facilities Working Group

Minutes of the meeting of Tuesday 23rd June held in the Radio Room, Islesburgh House at 7.00 p.m.

Present

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

Abigail Robertson - Dunrossness Riding Club
Dorothy Sales - Filsket Riding Club
Helen Thomson - Pony Breeders of Shetland Association
Sonja Flaws - Pony Breeders of Shetland Association
Susan Goodlad - SPRDG
Marion Slater - South Whiteness Riding Club

Apologies

Elaine Laurenson - Clickimin Open Riding Club (Secretary SEFWG)
Karlín Moar - Clickimin Open Riding Club
Vikki Robertson - SPRDG
Bob Kerr - Shetland Islands Council

Report from John Bulter on his application to the Land Registry, Scotland on behalf of our group

Graham had invited John to the meeting to share his findings regarding ownership of the Girlsta Hatchery Building and suggested that this be the first item on the agenda, allowing John to leave thereafter.

John made the point that all the documents he referred to are publicly available. In summary, the documents John has accessed confirm that the building is registered to Millbrook Fisheries. They also own several parcels of land indicated on the deed plans. Millbrook Fisheries Ltd., continues as a business entity but is insolvent, having 2 funders whom must be involved when/if the company disposes of any assets. Almost half of the hatchery building is on land not owned by Millbrook Fisheries. Part of this land appears to be owned by the Turkin Estate. All the land between the hatchery and the sea appears to have been reclaimed and may fall within the responsibility of the Crown Estate.

It can be seen that the situation is extremely complex. John feels that the 3 main parties with interest would need to communicate, perhaps through a solicitor.

John reported that he had not yet requested a survey or valuation but was willing to do so. He does not feel the hatchery building is up to current standards but could be made so.

The group agreed that we wish a valuation, both of the building on site and the building alone. We also wish a report (via John) on what would be required to bring it up to equestrian standard. John will talk to Michael Thompson regarding the valuations. Graham proposed that we use the feasibility money for the above valuations and for an engineering report on the requirements to bring the building up to completion certificate standard.

Marion felt she wished to share an important proposal at this point. This was an offer from Robert Hunter to sell a site of up to 32 acres, which could accommodate a building plus outside facilities. This was met with extremely positive response as the Girlsta site is so complex legally. We agreed to return to this point.

We thanked John for his time in finding out the above information and reporting to us. He then left the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes

Before adoption, the minute of 26th May needs to be amended to exclude Susan Goodlad from being present. Vaia apologised for this mistake.

Matters arising from minutes

Graham has sent another letter to the bank (yesterday) but is not too optimistic regarding a response.

Changes to representation from DRC and SPRDG

Abigail is no longer a DRC member hence the DRC will need to put forward a new member. Susan had spoken to the DRC committee. It was proposed that Abigail remained a part of the group, representing the EAS but it was pointed out that she would require an official proposal. The DRC currently have 2 chairs to fill.

Dorothy informed the group that she is no longer working for Disability Shetland but would still report back to them on any proceedings. She is still a FiIsket member.

User Requirement Specification

On 10th June, Graham had e-mailed a copy of a draft User Requirement Specification to everyone for consideration/comment.

Report on Visit to Orkney Equestrian Centre

Graham shared photos and details of the Orkney facility which he had recently visited. Outside there is a sand arena of 30 X 40 metres (including tie up areas) which can presumably be used for warm up on fine days. It was very dusty however. Graham had numerous photos of the main arena. He was informed that more roof windows would be desirable. The Accommodation Block has a café with a view to the arena. It also has an upstairs used by other groups (it appeared to be used as a shooting range). There was a viewing promenade at the front of the block.

Dorothy had knowledge of the other Orkney arena, and shared the fact that they go over the surface twice a day with sprinklers (to cut down the dust) and graders. She had also visited the RDA facility in Inverurie. She will feed information gained into the specification.

It was agreed that everyone should consider the Draft Specification and pool our thoughts at the next meeting. Everyone is welcome to send their ideas to Graham in the interim.

AOCB

Dorothy reported that there was a warehouse for sale at the Black Gate (belonging to Brian Nicolson at WHD Plant hire). The warehouse is 30 metres X 20 metres and 6 metres to the eaves. It has a concrete floor. The price is £250,000 or £1500 per month hire. These dimensions may not be entirely suitable but the company would be able to build a shed to our specifications.

Sonja reported that the draft specification had gone to Paddy Casey as a guide for pricing. She awaits his reply.

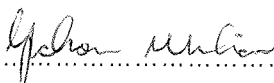
We returned to discuss Robert Hunter's offer of a site and everyone felt that this might be the most useful way forward. The point was made that we need to be careful that all groups were informed and had a say. It was agreed that Marion should request a price for purchase of 10 acres.

There have apparently been rumours of discord among some of the equestrian community and it was felt that it might be useful to get a letter of support from all groups, confirming that we are representative.

Potential funding sources were discussed and Susan volunteered to 'look into' European Funding. Abigail said she'd spoken to Ann Robertson who had access to a 'funder- finder' computer. She said she would be willing to help, would attend a meeting if helpful and could help us work through Charitable Status. It was agreed that this sounded very useful.

Date of next meeting

Set for 19:00 hrs, Tuesday 15th Sept, venue to be confirmed.

..... Chairman