

## **West Somerset & Exmoor Bridleways Association**

### **Minutes of AGM 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019, Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross.**

**APOLOGIES** received from: Jean Hicks

#### **MINUTES of AGM 2018.**

Approved - proposed by Lisa Clarke

Seconded by Gillian Lamble

#### **MATTER ARISING**

None

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Alison Kent**

Yet another year of political uncertainty which currently has had a few repercussions for equine owners. Brexit has meant that much Parliamentary time has been taken up with this very important issue, but has meant that much domestic legislation has been left virtually on hold. The Agriculture Bill and De Regulation Bill are still waiting to be enacted. Both these Bills or future agricultural policies might possibly help to improve equine access to the countryside.

Your Committee met 5 times. Two mounted rides were organised, but as in previous years were rather poorly attended. The Treasure Hunt organised in September from Brendon Manor again lacked entries but this may well have been because a valid Flu Certificate was required. All those who did come enjoyed a superb ride on some wonderful open moorland. The local Trail Riders Fellowship kindly flagged the route so it was easy to follow and nobody got lost!

Bridleways improvements and complaints, both in and outside the Park, continue to take up some of my time. SCC are continually struggling with a severe lack of finances for their ROWs.

ENPA is in a far better position, with dedicated Ranger and Field Service teams able to quickly respond to any urgent or not so urgent ROW issues. ENPA have in the past 12 months been busy improving the ROWs network through legal path diversions, the sorting out of anomalies or major works to substandard paths. This summer quick growing vegetation has been a constant battle for all path users with the excessive growth of brambles and cleavers!

The BHS has funds at its disposal for appropriate path improvements that would benefit horse riding communities.

The BHS run an on line site where any horse related accidents or, more importantly, “near misses” can be logged. This information is vital so that facts and figures can be demonstrated to Governments showing the needs of horse riders for better off road riding, and improving awareness of ever-increasing traffic on our roads today. Please be aware when riding on narrow lanes of electric cars coming up behind – they are so dangerously silent.

Finally, I would like to thank your Committee for their support and hard work through out the year. Amanda Hamley has made a massive difference in our communications to our members through use of our web site and Face Book page. Peta-Jane Field has worked hard to produce two illustrated, well presented and interesting newsletters for you. So we are endeavouring to keep you far better informed as to what is happening in the equine world, both nationally and locally.

We – the committee would always welcome ideas or constructive comments as to how best we might improve your B /ways Association, which to my knowledge has been about since the 1970's so we must soon be approaching out 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!!!

## **TREASURER'S REPORT - Nic Kemp**

Income and Expenditure for Year ending 30 September 2019.

Total Income = £708.97

Total Expenditure = £1,077.61

Surplus (Deficit) - £158.08

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT - Jaye Jones explained the new membership fees.**

One year membership = £8

Five year membership = £25

New members joining late to enable them to enter autumn rides / events will be given membership until the end of the following year. i.e. join autumn 2019 membership will end December 2020.

## **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

AK asked if anyone was willing to stand for election to the committee

There were no offers, and the 7 existing members of the committee agreed to stand for another year. (Shelagh Dean, Peta- Jane Field, Amanda Hamley, Julia Holtom, Jaye Jones, Alison Kent, Barbara Wigley).

## **Any Other Business**

AK advised the meeting of the recently published "Exmoor National Park Rights of Way and Access Annual Report 2018/2019".

Also reported that the Somerset BHS Group are running a 'Horse Health Check Day' at Chard. AH will put this on the WS&EBA website and FB page.

PJF asked if people could supply photos and or reports etc for the next newsletter.

MB suggested a Quiz Night

AK asked members if they would support a Christmas Cracker Ride which might be organised for 2020 but only if there was sufficient interest.

The meeting was closed.

**Guest speaker, David Gervers, SW Director of Br. Association of Shooting & Conservation (BASC)** gave a very informative and helpful talk about the need for co-operation between horse riders and Game Shoots on Exmoor.

Commented [1]:

