

# **WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LIMITED**

**Archway Cottage, 2 Church Street, Marton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9RL**

**Tel: 01926 632560 Company Reg. 5999330**

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Saturday 18 June 2022 at 11.00am at Catfield Hall, Catfield, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR29 5DB by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Tim Harris**

**Present:** Lawrence Alderson (President), Alistair Black (Chair), Jane Hampson (Secretary), Dorit Albertson, John Barker, Mo Barker, Simon Barker, Ella Black, John Bowen, Jessica Bryne-Daniel, John Carrick, Darrel Clegg, Michael George, Tim Harris, Geli Harris, Mark Johnstone, Kate Ockleton, Henry Rusch, Julie Rusch, Tim Rutter, Rose Rutter, Trevor Sanders, Ann Sanders, Neil Storer, Frank Sutton, Lisa Walker, Robert Walker, Cameron Willats.

### **1. Welcome by the President**

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. He noted that the Society had been unable to hold a physical AGM since 2019 due to the pandemic.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Eric Bautsch, Helen and Mark Clark, Michael Denning, James Gill, Andrew and Shirley Hill, Kate Hookway, John Lean, Jan McCourt, Guy Myddelton, John and Ali Sulby, David Bradley.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 10 August 2019**

Adoption of the minutes was proposed by John Barker and seconded by Henry Rusch. All members present at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.

### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **5. Annual Report for 2021**

The annual report for 2021 was taken as read. No queries were raised on the report. Adoption of the annual report was proposed by Henry Rusch and seconded by Frank Sutton. All members present at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.

### **6. Financial Report for 2021**

It was announced that the Treasurer for the Society was regrettably unable to attend the meeting. No questions were raised on the financial report. Adoption of the financial report

was proposed by Henry Rusch and seconded by Frank Sutton. All members present at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.

## **7. Appointment of Accountants for 2021**

Members were informed that Argents had helped the Society establish itself as a limited company in 2006 and had acted as our accountants ever since. Argents were proposed as our accountants for 2021 by Jessica Bryne-Daniel and the proposal was seconded by Tim Harris. All members present at the meeting were in favour of the proposal.

## **8. Approval of an amendment to our Articles of Association**

It is proposed that Article No. 23 is amended as follows:

23. There shall be a Council of the Company. The Council shall consist of (delete) the (insert) not more than 3 Presidents and Vice-Presidents together with not less than six and not more than twelve elected Members of the Council elected as set out in the provisions of Article 24 and 25 below, and up to three further individuals co-opted by the Council for a period of one year.

### **Special Resolution**

That the existing Articles of Association be amended to include the following additional rule:-

**22(a) At any point in time the current President plus any Vice-Presidents who can be members of the Council is limited to three persons in total.**

The President said that when a President retired, they would automatically become a member of the WPCS Council. The proposed amendment would prevent the Council being dominated by ex-Presidents. All members present at the meeting were in favour of the additional rule. The proposal was carried unanimously.

## **9. Election of Directors to the Board**

Four members of Council are due to retire: John Barker, Henry Rusch, Guy Myddelton and John Lean. John Lean and Henry Rusch have agreed to stand for re-election to the Board. Guy Myddelton and John Barker are retiring from the Board. Jessica Byrne-Daniel has been nominated to the Board by Henry Rusch. With no further nominations being received by the closing date John Lean, Henry Rusch and Jessica Bryne-Daniel are elected to the Board.

### **Open Forum**

Tim Harris was introduced to the meeting and thanked for hosting the 2022 AGM. He had been due to host the AGM in 2020 and 2021 but these meetings had been cancelled due to the pandemic. The Catfield herd of White Park cattle is large and has played an important part in the development of the breed.

Tim Harris welcomed everyone to Catfield Hall which is 3 miles from the coast of north Norfolk. Catfield Estate comprises 500 acres, 400 acres of grazing land and 100 acres of marshland and woodland. The estate also contains a rare fen which is considered to be the finest in Europe. Tim and his wife Geli moved to Catfield Hall 30 years ago. They now have a large herd of over 100 White Park cattle, as well as Norfolk Horn sheep, Eriskay ponies and rare breed hens. The Catfield White Park herd had been established with 10 heifers from the Chartley herd. Chair Alistair Black was thanked for his help and advice with this process. The Catfield herd is now closed and operates as 5 separate breeding groups from 5 different bull lines. Tim is also interested in experimenting with breeding from animals with the black recessive gene. Tim said a visit to the bull field will take place and there was also the possibility of a visit to Catfield fen.

John Carrick reminded members that volume 1 of the Society magazine was still current and said that copies to take away were available at the meeting.

Cameron Willats said that he was having difficulty in finding a slaughterhouse which would accept animals with horns wider than two feet from tip to tip. He had experienced an issue when the wide horns of a White Park resulted in the animal being unable to use the chute and the vet present would not allow the animal to be slaughtered in the yard. Henry Rusch confirmed that the 2015 regulations relating to the slaughter of animals stated that animals had to be stunned and restrained prior to slaughter, with some exceptions such as fractious animals. This could not take place in the yard. Cameron said that he was unwilling to de-horn his White Cattle prior to slaughter due to the welfare issues. The President said that de-budding male calves at birth was an option but not a decision that many members would want to take. John Barker said that in New Zealand it was against regulations to transport horned cattle and therefore vets spent much of their time de-horning cattle. John said that this was not a practice he would want to see take place in the UK.

The President said that the Rare Breeds Survival Trust had confirmed that they had not been asked to comment on a 2021 review of the regulations. Twenty years ago, there had been a strong movement with some political support to bring in mobile slaughterhouses, but this idea had had limited uptake. The President suggested that there needed to be cohesive action between several relevant breed societies and the RBST to bring the idea of mobile slaughterhouses back into the discussion and comment on the current review of regulations. Cameron said he would want to see heritage cattle being included with the exceptions in the slaughter regulations. The President said that Council would discuss the issue of slaughterhouses and wide-horned animals at their next meeting, with the intention of discussing a proposal with other societies.

Henry Rusch noted that the Catfield herd had 5 blood lines and asked whether this would cause a problem with in-breeding. The President replied that at the latest Catfield bull inspection DNA results had shown an in-breeding result of between 17-18% which was entirely acceptable.

All members were thanked for attending the AGM and Tim Harris was thanked for hosting the meeting.