

WHITE PARK CATTLE SOCIETY LIMITED
11 Church Street, Marton, Rugby, Warwickshire CV23 9RL
Tel: 01926 632560 Company Reg. 5999330

Minutes of the Annual General meeting held on Saturday 10 August 2019 at 11.00am at The Hendre, Raglan, Monmouthshire NP25 5HJ by kind permission of Frank Sutton and family

Present: Lawrence Alderson (President), Alistair Black (Chairman), John Lean (Vice-Chairman), James Gill (Treasurer), Dorit Albertson, Polly Alderson, John Barker, Mo Barker, Steve Barker, Mary Barker, Eric Bautsch, Tim Burr, Gill Burr, Ella Black, Jessica Bryne-Daniel, John Carrick, Darrel Cleg, Amy Cope, Richard Cadman, Adrian Crocker, Michael Cecil Denning, Vickie Fisher, Stella Gill, David Graveston, Sue Graveston, Richmond Harding, Mimi Harley, Shirley Hill, Andrew Hill, Amanda Lean, Miranda Lee, Jan McCourt, Anthony Milner, Jane Milner, Paul Milner, Guy Myddelton, Terry Pope, Justine Rowlands, Allan Rowlands, Henry Rusch, Julie Rusch, Trevor Sanders, Ann Sanders, John Smith, Keith Stuart, Frank Sutton, Anna Sutton, Ben Sutton, Peter Unsworth, Angela Unsworth, Cameron Willats, Rita Williams, Jean Wright, David Yiend, Carol Yiend.

1. Welcome by the President

The President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Frank Sutton and his family for welcoming the Society to his home. Special mention was made of the journey made by members Allan and Justine Rowlands who had travelled from New Zealand to join the AGM. Vickie Fisher, a local vet, was welcomed to the meeting in order to deliver a presentation on bio-security.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Helen and Mark Clark, Debbie Dann, Malcolm Sibson, Miranda Purves, Richard Storer, Neil Storer, David Bradley, Janet Todhunter, James Woodward and Mrs Johnson.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 30 June 2018

Adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2019 was proposed by John Carrick and seconded by Henry Rusch. All were in favour of their adoption.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Annual Report for 2018

The President reported that DNA testing of hair samples was due to move from micro-satellites to SNPs in order to present a faster and more accurate result. Our breed profile was currently established on microsatellites and the Society was therefore preparing for the move to SNPs.

Council was currently working on a beef certificate scheme to allow members who produced beef to market their animals as pedigree White Park.

The current Government drive to reduce red meat consumption by 70% was felt to be a dangerous move by the President who said that it was intensive meat systems only which were damaging to the environment. Cattle such as White Park, which were raised on non-intensive systems, had no global warming effect as the carbon emissions were cancelled out by the production system. The President felt that this point needed to be promoted.

More farmers were moving towards high health systems and the President felt that as numbers increased this would result in easier movement of stock.

Due to the UK's imminent withdrawal from the EU Defra was taking ownership of some of the current EU regulations. Defra had recently requested that breed societies produce a breed improvement programme. The President and Council were working on a document that incorporated the heritage and diversity of the White Park breed and its adaption to non-intensive systems whilst paying homage to commercial production.

The DNA sampling of a bull for registration included a hair sample from its dam but in some instances, this was not available (i.e. if the dam had died). In order to maintain the integrity of our DNA process members are now required to take a hair sample at an early stage from the dam of any entire bull calf and forward it to the Society office. Members were encouraged to take full advantage of a bull inspector's knowledge during any inspection.

Members were reminded that all prefixes and animal names should be one word of no more than 12 letters.

The publication "A Breed of Distinction" had been updated and retitled "Breeding for Best". It was available for sale for £20 at the AGM or through Amazon.

The President thanked Jane Hampson for her valuable support as Secretary, and also thanked all members of Council who gave their time on a voluntary basis and made special mention of the Chairman, Alistair Black, who gave a huge amount of time to the Society, plus Vice-Chairman John Lean and Treasurer James Gill.

John Carrick was thanked for his help in pulling together our first Society magazine and Tony Milner was thanked for his contribution towards its production.

The adoption of the Directors' Report for 2018 was proposed by Henry Rusch and seconded by Guy Myddelton. All were in favour of its adoption.

6. Financial Report for 2018

The Treasurer reported that the Society Current Account held £3,850; our Savings Account held £500, and the Base Rate Interest account held £30,320. The Society made a surplus of just over £2,000 in 2018 which was attributed to a generous donation from Anthony Milner; late registrations from one member and the generosity of our 2018 AGM host.

He reminded the meeting that our only income was from memberships and registrations and most years the Society just about broke even. The bull inspection charge did not cover the cost of the inspection and therefore it was the female registrations which were of paramount importance to the Society.

The Secretary was thanked for her work in undertaking diligent book-keeping.

The adoption of the Financial Report for 2018 was proposed by John Barker and seconded by Tony Milner. All were in favour of its adoption.

7. Appointment of Accountants for 2019

Argents of Norwich had undertaken our accounts for several years and continue to be most helpful and are always available to answer any questions related to our business. Argents were proposed by James Gill and seconded by Amy Cope. All were in favour.

8. Election of Directors to the Board

Four members of Council retired by rotation: John Barker, Henry Rusch, John Lean and Guy Myddelton. John Barker, Henry Rusch, John Lean and Guy Myddelton agreed to stand again for re-election. No further nominations were received by the closing date. Therefore, John Barker, Henry Rusch, John Lean and Guy Myddelton were duly elected.

There was one space on the Board of Directors and Amy Cope encouraged any members who would like to consider joining the Board to speak to a Council member during the AGM about the work involved.

Open Forum

Jan McCourt asked whether the traits for improving White Park beef and how to identify a best beef animal could be published. He wanted to see the Society support members to produce a premium end-product. The Chairman said that some members did sell beef on a speciality basis to discerning clients, but the Society did not have the volume of stock to increase its supply on a regular basis. Evaluation of beef was difficult as there was no real consistency in supply. Jan McCourt felt that the bull inspection process could be expanded from information gained from collective experiences. The President said that finishing a steer at 3 years on grass with hard feed in the middle of its life produced the best carcass.

Jessica Byrne Daniel noted that there had been an increase in female Birth Notifications which was having a negative impact on Society income. She wondered whether there should be a nominal charge for Birth Notifications. However, it was noted that many of the birth notified females were registered when they were older, which attracted a higher fee.

David Graveston asked for Red Points to be added to the list of colours available on Pedeweb. **Action: Secretary**

Amy Cope said that Council was considering producing some mugs branded with the Society logo. Four different styles of mugs were put on display and members were asked to select their favourite. All were dishwasher-proof, but the price varied for each mug.

Following the AGM there was a presentation by a local vet, Vickie Fisher, on the importance of bio-security.