

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Riding Committee 6.30pm Monday 4th January 2021 Microsoft Teams

Present: Kyle Palmer (**KP**) (Chairman), Charlotte Dunham (**CDu**) (Secretary), Gina Dunn (**GD**) (PWO) Victoria Liston (**VL**) Pearl Farr (**PF**)

1. Apologies for absence: None

2. Minutes of last meeting: Approved

3. Update and Matters arising since last meeting:

1. AB exercising has been curtailed as Bedford was placed in Tier 4 on December 19th. A very big thank you to **GD** and all her team of riders for their commitments. The ponies will continue to be loose schooled and lunged. (See **5. PW Report**).

4. Management update: VL

1. The ECC has had a fairly good couple of months with regard to finances/donations, which have paid for the Fire Alarm fitting amongst other items.
2. Up to three months extension has been given for the Riding Licence inspection due to Bedford Borough Council workload.
3. The floral tribute to Eileen Nash from ECC was beautifully presented. Thank you to all who donated.
4. Recent freelance groom engaged by ECC unfortunately broke her arm, so duties had to be covered by **MC**.
5. RDA HealthCheck. NO has now said that all ponies need to have an annual vetting, equivalent to a 'Stage1' vetting. This is usually £60 -£75 per pony. The ECC vets 'Swanspool' have said they will do it for free. By way of thanks **MC** would like to have a photo of the vets and ponies to share at an appropriate time **Action: GD**
6. Thanks go to **VL** for all her hard work with paperwork duties.
7. **GD** asked if the session fees had been resolved **Action: MC**
8. **CDu** asked if session fees/times could go on the website **Action: MC**
9. **GD** asked if we could try and keep volunteers/riders engaged
10. **CDu** has volunteered to do a monthly 'Round Up' for the Facebook/website **Action: CDu/KP/GD**
11. It was suggested that ECC should try and get younger volunteers involved in some of the digital fundraising **Action: KP**
12. 'Animal Show' work in progress **Action: VL**
13. 'Sponsor a Pony' work in progress **Action: KP**

5. Pony Welfare Officer Report:

PONY WELFARE REPORT 04/01/2021

The ponies are currently in field 1, and are currently being fed hay morning and evening. The fields are very muddy due to all the rain we have had. Apart from Rupert, the ponies have managed without rugs so far. Rupert has the protection of a lightweight waterproof rug.

The ponies had been working well during AB exercise, showing improvement thanks to the massage they have received. **MC** suspended AB exercising when we went into tier 4, therefore, the ponies are currently being loose schooled or lunged, until we are able to resume AB exercising.

21/12/20 Routine vaccines for Muscadeu, Conker, Ellie and Bobby. There have been some issues with Bobby and the mares, the vet advised the same hormone treatment that Rupert had. Bobby had the first injection. The vet examined Huggy's penis, advised that current tumours are not a cause for concern, but there was some infection inside the penis causing some discomfort. Huggy is on a course of antibiotics.

The farrier attended 23rd December.

12/01/21 Ponies are due to be weighed on the weighing scales.

13/01/21 Annual vet health check.

Gina Dunn - PWO

Many thanks to **GD** for all her extra work on-site, such as exercising the ponies and being in attendance when the vet and farrier are at the centre.

6. Re-opening: will be in line with Government and RDA NO guidelines and subject to change. There is no re-opening for the foreseeable future as there is a national lockdown but this will be reviewed in late February.

7. AOB:

1. A request for a 'Coaches News' for the ECC Newsletter **Action: CDu**
2. Calendar needs re-doing **Action: KP**
3. **KP** requested any ideas for fundraising for ECC
4. **KP** encouraged all to attend the e-learning courses on RDA website **Action: All**

Meeting finished at 19.39pm

Date of next meeting:

6.30 Monday 8th February 2021 via Microsoft Teams