

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Riding Committee 6.30pm Monday 8th February 2021 Microsoft Teams

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

1. Apologies for absence: Victoria Liston (**VL**)

2. Minutes of last meeting: Approved

3. Update and Matters arising since last meeting:

1. Website. **KP** looks after content and has photos of ponies ready to use. **CDu** to send a Coaches update with some input from **GD**. **Action: CDu/GD**

4. Management update: KP

1. New fees have been decided. Riding Fees: After discussion, it was decided that fees for riding or non-riding sessions would be the same, £10 per session, an increase of £2 from pre-Covid fees. All rides would be 30 minutes duration as this will allow for the additional cleaning and sanitizing of tack etc between rides. **Action: KP** to inform **GD** of changes to session lengths. Fees for School sessions will increase £1 to £8 per pupil. Private lessons will remain at £20. In addition, the quiet corner/1:1 pony sessions £5 will buy a 15-minute session. Fees will need to be reviewed again in January 2022 once we have a better understanding of rider uptake and how many rides/sessions we are able to offer in the future.
2. **KP** has started work on a fundraising tracker so that ideas can be planned and progress tracked.
3. Tree work in the Sensory Ride and at the entrance to the car park will start on 17/2/21
4. Due to recent weather conditions, the fields are extremely waterlogged and gateways are poached. A 'Land Management Plan' is being developed with help from an expert who is giving advice at no cost. **KP** will contact appropriate people for help and advice for the present and also to develop a 5–10-year plan for the future. **KP** also had an extensive meeting with a local Parish Councillor about restoring the brook that runs adjacent to the fields. **Action: KP**
5. A dedicated page for E-learning has now been set up on the ECC website. Thanks to **KP**

5. Pony Welfare Officer Report:

PONY WELFARE REPORT 8/2/2021

Due to the continuous rain and some snow, the fields have been excessively wet, and field 1 became extremely muddy. Considering the weather forecast, the decision was made to stable the ponies overnight on a temporary basis, to give them some respite from the wet, muddy conditions, and to limit damage to the grazing. The ponies started to be stabled overnight 26/1/21 and it is expected that they will continue to do so until mid-February, dependent on the weather. The ponies are currently turned out during the day in field 3. The ponies have adapted well to the change in their routine. Many thanks to Kristina and Anna for managing the change in their work routine to accommodate the changes in the management of the ponies.

The ponies continue to be loose schooled, lunged, or walked in-hand, until we are able to resume AB exercising.

13/01/21 The annual vet health check and weighing of ponies went well. Thanks to our volunteer Katrine for her assistance.

05/02/21 The farrier attended.

09/02/21 The vet is due for routine vaccinations and dentals.

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. 'Meet and Greets' may possibly start at the beginning of the Summer Term, w/b April 12th, depending on Government guidelines. Possible sessions in the Summer Holiday period to help with re-opening.

7. RC Strategy: this was re-introduced by **KP** but warrants further review and discussion at a later date.

8. AOB:

1. **PF** requested hard copies of the COSH sheets for the office filing cabinet. **Action: KP**

Meeting finished at 19.35pm

Date of next meeting:

6.30 Monday 15th March 2021 via Microsoft Teams