

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Riding Committee 6.30pm Tuesday 16th March 2021 Microsoft Teams

Present: Kyle Palmer (**KP**) (Chairman), Charlotte Dunham (**CDu**) (Secretary), Gina Dunn (**GD**) (PWO), Pearl Farr (**PF**)
Veronica Bradley (County Chair), (**VB**), Bella Craven (County Coach) (**BC**)

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

2. Minutes of last meeting: 4.1 Clarification of £20.00 for private lessons asked for by **CDu**. Approved

3. Update and Matters arising since last meeting:

1. Parkland's residents have worked on improving drainage ditches around main field and have made excellent progress.
2. ECC hay stocks are getting low and normal supplier cannot supply. Other suppliers are being looked at. **VB** to send **KP** phone number for possible supplier. **Action: VB/KP**

4. Management update: KP

1. ECC/BBC Licence expires at the end of March and VL is investigating whether it can be extended.
2. The Fire Alarm is now fully working and ponies are used to the sounds when it is tested. The 'Evacuation field' for ponies is now across the road in the fields opposite the ECC.
3. Fundraising: The Summer Fair is planned to go ahead in August/September 2021
4. First Aid courses are being organised for September/October **Action: PF**
5. National Volunteering Council provide grants for charities for training. ECC is to apply for a grant **Action: KP/VL**
6. Land Management: A Land Agent for a local farmer has given advice to ECC regarding managing land in the future. Aerating and tree planting have been recommended. **KP** will meet an arboriculturist and an agricultural contractor on 20/3/21 for advice. **Action: KP**

5. Pony Welfare Officer Report:

PONY WELFARE REPORT 16/03/2021

The ponies are generally well. Following a short period of stabling the ponies overnight due to weather/grazing issues, they returned to living out 14/02/21. The weather has continued to prove challenging, with so much rain. We have had to manage the ponies and grazing accordingly, with the ponies still very much reliant on hay.

The ponies continue to be worked from the ground and enjoy their work. Equine training (ET), formerly known as AB riding, is planned to restart 24/03/21. The focus will be on preparing the ponies for the reopening of the Centre.

Following worm counts, Bobby, Sam and Ellie were wormed 20/02/21.

Lolly, Ellie, Huggy and Rupert received equine sports massage last month, Alice is due again 20/03/21.

19/03/21 The farrier is due.

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.

KP presented the Recovery Plan slides. Most of the mandatory paperwork is in place. Dates on the slides need to be put back a week and a walk through for coaches/trustees on 17/3/21 has been planned.

Riders/volunteers will be emailed again to ascertain availability.

For the volunteer training, MC has agreed that only 15 people will be allowed in the indoor school at one time so several sessions will need to be organised.

Hats can be sanitised at ECC.

Ponies will need to be re-assessed for their weight carrying limit.

The E-learning available on the website is welcomed.

Coaches will need to do Risk Assessments for their sessions.

7. RC Strategy: presented by **KP** and discussed. It was agreed that it encapsulates the ECC long term strategy. **KP** will update the document to include additions and suggestions made by the RC.

8. AOB:

1. **CDu** Asked if the Waiting List should remain open in view of current circumstances. It was suggested that although RDA NO guidance is that no new riders should be given places, some of the current riders might not be able to return, therefore there might be spaces on sessions once they get going and the list should remain open, even if only to offer a 'Quiet Corner' session. Replies to new riders should explain that there will be a significant delay to the possibility of starting. **Action: CDu**
2. **CDu** raised the issue of recruiting and retaining both coaches and trustees. It was agreed that positions would be advertised **TBC**

Meeting finished at 20.22pm

Date of next meeting:

6.30 Tuesday 13th April 2021 via Microsoft Teams