

ELISABETH CURTIS CENTRE RIDING FOR THE DISABLED

Minutes of the Coaching Committee 6.30pm Monday 7th March 2022 Microsoft Teams

Present: Kyle Palmer (**KP**) (Chairman); Charlotte Dunham (**CD**) (Secretary); Gina Dunn (**GD**) (PWO); Pearl Farr (**PF**) Session Organiser, Trustee; Debbie Saunders (**DS**); Sarah Armstrong (**SA**) Coach in Training, Trustee

1. Apologies for absence: Alex Greene (**AG**)

2. Minutes of last meeting: Read and approved

3. Update and Matters arising since last meeting:

1. Creation of action tracker and updates on actions outstanding. **Action: KP** ongoing.
2. Rio is now on loan to ECC. Thanks to **GD** for managing the process with the owner.
3. Due to the recent storms the pine trees in the Sensory Ride have been dropping branches. It is advised that the Sensory Ride is not used until the tree surgeons have been and assessed the trees. **PF** will advise gardeners to stay away from the pine tree area. **Action: KP, PF**
4. WOW cards ongoing **Action: KP**
5. Training: possible meeting to discuss areas of interest and update on grants that have been applied for from Bedford Borough Council. **Action: KP**
6. **PF** has been helping a volunteer who is unable to access online training. It was suggested the volunteer attended a session and did a 'walk through' of procedures to help with her training. **Action: Possible CD will help**
7. **GD** has attended a training course for 'Good communication is Life Enhancing'. **KP** attended a Countryside Challenge training day. **CD** attended 'Best Practice at your Centre' and 'Autism Awareness' training.
8. There is a new Green Card and Safeguarding leaflet issued from NO. New volunteers will need to sign for the guide to take away and read.
9. Regionals: **KP** will produce an email and participants will be asked to sign up on line. Transport has been booked for 4 ponies. **Action: KP**

4. Management update: KP

1. The ECC continues to have a financial deficit and needs to find further funding to continue to sustain the operation into the next financial year. The ECC has received a National Lottery grant and applied for various grants to support. Actions: **MC** working on long term funding. FRG are planning various events and would like some help with engaging volunteers to help set up at events. The ECC has started a crowdfunding page and produced a video to raise awareness, with thanks to the Saturday participants, parents and volunteers, which was shared in the meeting.
2. Price Increases: a letter has now gone out to all participants
3. £4k is ringfenced for a new pony. The recent offer of some ex-riding school ponies was financially restricting and there was high demand.

5. Pony Welfare Officer Report:

PONY WELFARE REPORT 06/03/2022

The ponies finally returned to one herd 20/02/22. All went well and they quickly settled. They coped well in the storms. Field 1 is currently out of action due to the perimeter fencing being damaged by a fallen tree. Due to the wet weather, the fields are quickly getting very muddy.

01/02/22 Vet attended for routine vaccinations for Lolly, Rupert, Huggy, Sam and Dixie; routine hormone treatment for Bobby; routine dentals for all ponies, and Rio's stage 2 vetting. Muscadeu now has 2 broken teeth, they are not causing any issues, and he continues to have his teeth checked 6 monthly. Huggy has a cavity top right. Vet advised gradually reducing Huggy's inhaler while the weather allows this, with close monitoring for any changes. Discussed Lolly's changing behaviour at times, vet advised keeping a diary of Lolly's seasons and recording and behavioural changes. Many thanks to Lilly for her assistance for the vet visit.

01/02/22 Worm count samples sent to lab, Huggy and Dixie require treatment.

18/02/22 Farrier attended

25/02/22 Huggy and Dixie wormed.

31/03/22 Huggy is due to move to The Horse Trust for a well-earned retirement. Huggy has been an amazing pony, giving such pleasure to so many people, for many years.

01/04/22 Farrier due.

04/04/22 Saddler due.

Thank you to our grooms for all their hard work, and thank you to the volunteers who help exercise the ponies.

Gina Dunn - PWO

6. Session Updates:

Session	Participants	Volunteers that attend	Volunteers on books	Volunteers needed
Monday morning	9	8-15	15	12
Tuesday evening	15	5-15	14-15	12
Wednesday morning	7	7	7	8+
Wednesday afternoon	7	11-12	12	12
Thursday morning	3	5	5	9
Saturday	7	5-8	15	12

7. Coaching Strategy Update: KP

1. Carriage Driving – notices are up at the Centre with a QR code. On 26th March ECC will host a 'Meet and Greet' session with the Waverley Group.
2. Equipment Grant: **KP** is compiling a list of 'wishes' for CC or any other items that are needed to support sessions and competitions. **Action: KP**

8. AOB:

1. **GD** attended a course on Good Communication and recommended it for all.
2. **GD** asked coaches to check that bits are washed after use. **Action: All**

Meeting finished at 20.07pm

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th April 2022 6.30pm via Microsoft Teams