

## **Pony Action Group Meeting**

**Friday 20 April 2018**

**10:30 above Princetown Information Centre**

### **Present**

Ann Came (AC)	Dartmoor Hill Pony Association (DHPA)
Kerry Smith (KS)	Natural England (NE)
Elizabeth Newbould Young (ENY)	Dartmoor Pony Society
Sue Martin (SM)	Dartmoor Pony Society (DPS)
Helen Radmore (HR)	Independent
Sue Hutchings (SH)	Independent
Judy Fawcett (JW)	Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust (DPHT)
Dru Butterfield (DB)	Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust (DPHT)
Rob Steemson (RS)	Dartmoor National Park Authority (DNPA)

Minutes taken by RS

### **1 Apologies**

John Waldon (JW), Tom Stratton (TS), Claire Stanton (CS), Viv Brown (VB), Karla McKechnie (KM), John Shears (JS), Marion Saunders (MS), Mary Alford (MA)

### **2 Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising**

The action plan was amended as requested and the revised copy plus all meeting minutes are on the refreshed DNPA website as agreed in PAG Terms of Reference. Under item 12 – the FAQ work had not been done and it was noted that Kerry Smith now represents NE on the group. The small working group will meet soon and prepare a draft FAQ for the next meeting. Action: RS to set up

### **3 Dartmoor Commoners Council report**

Report circulated with agenda– In regard of the pony database there was concern about why pony keepers were not giving the information required and the accuracy of the figures presented. Action: RS to ask questions of DaCC

### **4 Dartmoor Pony Society report**

Report circulated with agenda– no resulting questions.

### **5 Natural England report**

No report circulated. KS confirmed that she is the NE representative on this group. NE has made it known to Commoners that they would consider requests to increase pony numbers on the commons under HLS. Only one such request has been received and negotiations are underway.

### **6 Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust report**

Report circulated with agenda - no resulting questions.

### **7 Moorland Pony Scheme report**

Report circulated with agenda – no resulting questions.

### **8 Dartmoor Hill Pony Association**

No report with agenda however RS had before meeting received a report which he read out and he would be circulate to members later. There was concern from members that the report should (as the Terms of Reference require) have been

received in time so as to go out with others. Action RS to remind JS as their new Chair of this agreed process.

9 **Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society**

Report circulated with agenda – no resulting questions only compliments about the report and work undertaken.

10 **Dartmoor National Park Authority**

Report was circulated with agenda. RS gave an update on some recent issues, a) the Police as part of their Rural Crime Initiative are planning to have a specific Dartmoor partnership group, b) The Friends of Dartmoor Hill Pony, under the Dartmoor Commons Act Byelaws are presently contacting Common land owners to get permission to undertake the contraception scheme darting on individual commons. DNPA had been asked regarding Holne Moor, Haytor down and Plaster down. RS is tasked with getting feedback from DaCC and Chairs of the three specific Commoners Associations involved before a decision was made.

RS is also tasked with asking what PAG members thought. The members present replied that they did not have enough details/information or specific awareness about the scheme to give a definitive answer. One question asked - is the pony keeper present when the darting takes place? Action: RS to find out if we can send out the information and report back.

11 **Equine ID & Semi Feral Equines on Dartmoor**

DaCC have provided update within their report.

12 **Future of PAG?**

NE is keen for PAG to continue having meetings and reporting back information in respect of delivering against the Partnership Action Plan. It is important that individual pony organisations work cohesively within PAG as this will potentially help to positively shape up wider DEFRA policies post Brexit. All present felt it was essential that the PAG continued and it was agreed that there should be a meeting in June with all organisations involved being represented.

13 **Date and venue of next meeting**

10.30 on 22 June at Princetown