

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Farriers Registration Council held by Video-Conference call
Wednesday 21 April 2021, commencing at 09.55am



Present

Mr D A Hall BSc (Hons) DipWCF (Hons)
(Chair)

Mr B Benson

Mr Y Breisner

Mr A B Charlwood

Mr T B Daniels DipHE DipWCF

Mr I Davidson

Mr D T Gardner AWCF

Mr R P May AWCF

Mr S Moore FWCF

Mr M Peaty BVSc CertEP CertES MRCVS

Mr M Potter

Dr M Smith

Mr T Smith FWCF Grad Dip ELR (Deputy Chair)

Dr J Sutton

Mr M Weston

Appointed By

Elected Member

British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association

British Horseracing Authority

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

Elected Member

Scottish Enterprise

Elected Member

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Lantra

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Elected Member

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

British Equestrian Federation

Apologies

Operations Superintendent K Colman RSPCA

Staff

Brigadier D J Greenwood (Registrar)

Mrs N Finck (Deputy Registrar)

Mrs V Jones (Assistant Registrar)

Public

One member of the public observed the live video stream.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Operations Superintendent K Colman.

Declarations of Interest

2. Council Members declared possible conflicts of interest as follows:

Mr D Hall – paid contractor of Jockey Club
Mr M Peaty – appointed by the RCVS, Veterinary Surgeon, BEVA
Mr S Moore – appointed by the BFBA and member of the WCF Examination Board
Mr R May – appointed by the WCF and member of the BFBA
Dr M Smith – appointed by the RCVS and Independent Veterinary Consultant
Mr T Smith – member of the BFBA and WCF Freeman
Mr A Charlwood – appointed by the WCF
Mr M Potter – appointed by and CEO of Lantra
Mr B Benson – appointed by the BFBA and WCF Freeman
Mr M Weston – employed by BHS, appointed by BEF
Dr J Sutton - appointed by the WCF, Chair of WCF Examinations Board
Mr T Daniels – member of the BFBA
Mr D Gardner – member of the BFBA
Mr I Davidson – appointed by Scottish Enterprise

3. Notification of any items to be raised under “Any Other Business”

There were no items of Any Other Business to be considered. One item submitted ahead of the meeting had been considered by the Finance Committee (FC) and would be reported on as part of the FC update.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21 October 2020 were noted for reference purposes only. The minutes had previously been approved by Council members by e-mail circulation out of committee.

5. Matters arising which are not Agenda Items

There were no matters arising.

6. Covid-19 Update

Council members noted the update provided in relation to Covid 19 and farriery; the Government timetable communicated on 5 April 2021 for the gradual relaxation of restrictions remained ‘conditions-based’. The key conditions are: the number of new infections recorded; the number and trend of Covid-related hospital admissions; the vaccination rollout and take-up rate, and the risks associated with emergence of new strains.

The Registrar confirmed that that while the Council had achieved a great deal in

response to the pandemic it would be both responsible and prudent to identify lessons worthy of capture, and which may enable a swift and decisive response to future crises; it was noted that successive crises are not usually identical and the Council would need to keep an open mind in planning future responses. The Council reiterated its gratitude to the Chair and Registrar for their swift responses and interaction with Government at each stage of the pandemic. It was accepted that the majority of Registered Farriers had adhered to the guidance issued. However, it was noted that any future pandemic may directly threaten the welfare of equines and in this respect farriers and other equine professionals would require a greater knowledge and understanding of bio-security. It was noted that Defra would be the lead Government department in response to any animal welfare threat through illness, and that they held draft protocols for such an event. While there was no specific threat at this stage it was noted that African Horse Sickness, Flu, Herpes and Strangles might become significant concerns in the future.

7. To Receive and Consider the following Reports, Council Committee Minutes and Associated Papers:

7.1 Minutes of the Registration Committee (RC) Meeting of 3 March 2021

Mr Breisner, Chair of the RC, reported on the minutes of the RC Meeting held on 3 March 2021. The Council noted that internal enforcement action had reduced the number of previously Registered Farriers remaining off the Register to 21, this was the lowest number for many years. The RC had considered the publication of a list of those who had failed to pay but subsequent legal advice had expressed concerns about such an approach and Data Protection implications. Members agreed that the option to split payment of the Retention Fee into two payments over the year had been well received by Registered Farriers.

The RC also considered the updated Registration Guides (See Agenda Item 8.4), the discussion paper in the future of CPD (See Agenda Item 8.5) and the matter of Dealing with Difficult Horses, Horse Handling, Restraint and Discipline (See Agenda Item 8.8).

[The Chair concluded the open session of the Council Meeting and thanked the member of the public who had observed. The live stream was disconnected at 10.15am.]

The meeting resumed in Closed session at 10.20am]

8. THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 8.10 & 9.1 WERE CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MATTERS OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY

8.1 Report of the Approvals Committee (AC)

8.2 Revised Policy and Procedures for Approvals

8.3 Completion of the Transition Period on UK exit from the EU: Revised Procedures and modifications to FRA

8.4 Updated Registration Guides

8.5 The Future of Farriery CPD – Policy Development

8.6 Publication Policy for Statutory Functions

8.7 Minutes of the Finance Committee (FC) Meeting of 24 March 2021

8.8 Use of Force in Controlling Equines

8.9 Culture in Farriery

8.10 Reserves Policy

Any Other Business:

9.1 Examples of Investigating Committee (IC) Disposals

Conclusion

The Chair took the opportunity to congratulate the Deputy Chair, Mr T Smith on passing the FWCF Examination.

The meeting concluded at 1.40pm

Annex A: FRC Policy and Guides APPROVED during this meeting

- Policy and Procedures for Approvals
- Guide to Entering Farriery Training as an Apprentice in GB
- Guide to Registration for Farriers Qualifying in GB and the Army
- The Register of Farriers and Registration Policy and Procedures
- Publication Policy for Statutory functions delivered by the independently-operated Investigating and Disciplinary Committees
- Reserves Policy