

Minutes – BHS Board of Trustees
Thursday, 15 February 2024

Meeting	Board Meeting
Date	Thursday, 15 February 2024
Time	10:00 – 14:00
Venue	Blended/Board Room, BHS HQ, Abbey Park, Stareton, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 2XZ

Minute	Agenda Item & Discussion
--------	--------------------------

1. Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Thursday, 7 December 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 were agreed to be a true reflection by the Trustees.

2. Matters Arising from the Board meeting held on Thursday, 7 December 2023

The matters arising from the meeting held on 21 September 2023 were noted as complete.

An update from the working group to attract new trustees was provided. It was noted that the overall interview and selection processes for trustee elections are good and sound, with no requirement for any changes at this time. Predominantly the focus of the group will be on the job descriptions, how to attract new trustees, and raising the profile of the Board of Trustees, making them more visible.

4. Abridged Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Thursday, 7 December 2023

The abridged minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 were approved for publication on the BHS website.

5. Conflicts of Interest

There were not any new conflicts of interest to declare.

9. Advisory Group Ratification

Review of Terms of Reference – British Riding Clubs Advisory Committee.

A report on a review of the Terms of Reference for the British Riding Clubs (BRC) Advisory Group was distributed in advance of the meeting. The amendments were approved by the Board of Trustees.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Change of Language

The difference between Equity and Equality had been discussed by the EDI Advisory Group. The group had subsequently recommended that the Advisory Group's title, the title of the strategy and BS's specialist trustee title should be amended to read: **Equity**, Diversity, and Inclusion. The Trustees agreed.

10. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive highlighted a few areas of activity from across the Society since the last meeting (7 December 2023 – 15 February 2024):

- A judicial review against Cornwall County Council has concluded in the Society's favour, meaning that £13,000 of legal costs earmarked from the Access Fighting Fund will no longer be required. The Council had been refusing to accept any Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO) due to lacking internal resource to administer them, which is illegal.
- A broad review of educational activity across the Society is underway to consider how products, from Pony Stars through to the Professional Pathway can be packaged for those that want to progress through.
- Professional Pathway candidates can now book assessments online.

Minutes – BHS Board of Trustees

Thursday, 15 February 2024

- 11. Facilities, Environment, Health, and Safety**
The Facilities Team are currently working through annual health and safety processes and continue to support all events across the BHS by reviewing risk assessments. This process has gained a lot of momentum and is working very well.
- 12. Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Safeguarding**
The EDI and Safeguarding report was noted.
- 13. Information Security**
The Information Security report was noted. All colleagues within the Home Team have completed annual GDPR training. The next phase of training to be launched shortly is on phishing.
- 14. Project & Programme Report**
An overview of progress against the current project and programmes was given, a full report on which was distributed in the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting that took place on 1 February 2024.
- 15. Enterprise Risk Management Report (ERMR)**
The COO introduced the ERMR and advised there were no significant changes.
- 16. Report from the Finance Committee Meeting that took place on 23 November 2023**
The Chair of the Finance Committee provided an overview of the Finance Committee meeting that took place on 1 February 2024.
- 17. Management Accounts and Forecast**
The draft year end accounts show a very positive outcome of an unrestricted surplus of some £680,000 comfortably covering the designations made in year of £662,000 showing that the BHS is deploying funds to deliver its charitable objectives on a planned and continuing basis. No unexpected changes arose in the final weeks of the year or in January which would cause the BHS to change the 2024 budget which was agreed by the trustees in December. Forecasting will commence from the end of quarter one to further improve visibility of the expected outcome for the year.
- 19. Any Other Business**

 - a) Accessibility**
Aberdeen Riding Club recently ran a Stage 1 training course open to everyone, not just those who are seeking a career in equestrianism. Four of the five participants that signed up would not have been able to undertake their Stage 1 in previous years, due to learning needs, disabilities, or language barriers. The Chair noted that their ability to participate is testament to the changes that have taken place to make the education pathway more accessible.
 - b) National Equine Forum**
The Specialist Trustee for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion advised that she would be attending the National Equine Forum in March 2024 to Chair the Accessibility session. She would be joined by the Director of Marketing & Communications who would present on Understanding Audiences, and by the Chair of Solihull Riding Club and the Director of Summerfield Stables for a case study and interview on their collaboration.
 - c) BHS Horse Care & Welfare**
One of the Trustees said that the BHS Horse Care & Welfare team had been brilliant in a crisis near to her home recently, when a horse riding friend had discovered 12 traveller ponies on their land. The BHS's advice on what to do when horses are fly grazed was brilliant, and the vet that attended also mentioned how useful the BHS website is for advice for vets in that situation.
 - d) BHS Incident Reporting / Statistics**
 - e) The Specialist Trustee for Welfare referenced the Livestock Worrying Bill – a Private Members' Bill sponsored by Dr Thérèse Coffey MP. Under the bill, the police will be given greater powers to**

Minutes - BHS Board of Trustees

Thursday, 15 February 2024

respond to livestock worrying incidents more effectively - making it easier for them to collect evidence and, in the most serious cases, seize and detain dogs to reduce the risk of further attacks. The BHS Safety Team provided statistics in support of the Bill, which state that since 2010, 3,185 dog related incidents, including 30 horse fatalities have been reported to the BHS. Since 2022, 700 of the 727 reported incidents were related to horses when exercising. The Trustee noted that from those statistics, one amendment to the bill is to include livestock worrying on paths and roads. He said that it was the reputation of the BHS, in putting the data evidenced information forward, which helped the Bill to go through unopposed.