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**Minutes:** AWERB

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**Status:** Chair approved

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**Meeting held:** 29 January 2019 at 2pm

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**Present**

**Attendees:** 11 members, 1 in attendance, 4 apologies

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**1 WELCOME**

The new external lay panel member was welcomed to her first AWERB meeting.

**2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 December were confirmed as an accurate record.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

**3.1 Item 2: NVS Report (December 2018 meeting)**

Discussions had been held with the project licence holder about the pigs that had been bought onto the study. The pigs had been assessed prior to purchase from a family smallholder farm and had been socialised appropriately.

The following plan was now being followed to assess any pigs enrolled on the study.

- Regular continued (most days) handling by trained animal technician and/or large animal vet on specific project; handling and assessment would be increased on a weekly basis prior to starting the study, from habituating the pigs to the staff through to clicker training and equipment acclimatisation.
- Generally assessed through this time prior to starting study for general appropriate behaviour and health
- During the training, assess suitability for the different types of study

**3.2 Item 4: Environmental Enrichment Audit Working Group (December 2018 meeting)**

The technicians had completed the audit for Hawkshead and Bolton's Park Farm.

**3.3 Item 11: Schedule 1 Register (December 2018 meeting)**

Prices for programmes that could be used for new training and schedule 1 registers had been obtained. They would be circulated to AWERB to look at the pros and cons of the systems.

**3.4 Item 9.1: Rehoming (August 2018 meeting)**

Rehoming as many animals as possible was very important to both Units. Two technicians, one at Camden and one at Hawkshead, were working together to formulate a plan to formalise the rehoming process for all animals. Once this had been finalised they would be invited to AWERB to give a presentation.

**3.5 Item 9.2: Attending other AWERB meetings (July 2018 meeting)**

This was on the agenda for the next AWERB Hub meeting.

**4 POSTERS FOR AWERB HUB WORKSHOP**

The size of the poster boards have been obtained: It should be possible to fit an A0 poster on the bottom and an A1 poster on the top panel. Two poster boards have been requested, so that could possibly do 2 big posters and 2 smaller ones. For info sizes of posters (width x height) are:

A0 841 x 1189 mm 33.1 x 46.8 in

A1 594 x 841 mm 23.4 x 33.1 in.

The posters should also be laminated to protect them so they could be re-used.

**4.1 Environmental Audit project poster**

The draft poster was reviewed. The consensus was that it had a lot of interesting information. A query was raised whether photos could be used. The poster would be for training purposes so it was agreed that this should be fine. It would also add a lot of impact to the poster and make people want to have a look at it.

It was agreed that the poster should have a mixture of a scientific approach but also provide an introduction to the rehoming poster too. It would be useful to include examples of how innovative enrichment was working; and also about the audit process to show that monitoring was needed to maintain standards.

**4.2 Sharing of resources**

A brainstorming session had been held to come up with some initial ideas. The aim of the poster was to showcase tissue sharing and the resulting benefits. AWERB felt that the ideas identified were ones that should be developed further for the poster. They in particular liked the section on problems encountered as they felt that would really spark conversation and a constructive discussion.

**4.3 Dog socialisation and rehoming programme**

This poster was still being worked on. A draft would soon be circulated.

**5 REVIEW CONSENT FORMS USED UNDER A PROJECT LICENCE (ITEM 3 FROM DEC 2018 MINUTES)**

The researchers that have studies under this project licence have provided copies of their consent forms. As these were only forwarded to the AWERB secretary the evening before the meeting, it was agreed that these should be reviewed for the next meeting.

**6 AMENDED PROJECT LICENCES GRANTED BY THE HOME OFFICE**

AWERB noted that the Home Office had approved amendments to two project licences (one of which had secondary availability at the RVC).

**7 MID TERM REVIEWS**

Two mid term reviews of project licences had been received. For the first mid term review, AWERB were of the consensus that the changes made to the licence and the overall progress of the project had been well explained. They also felt that it was a very reflective, thoughtful and thorough review. Consideration should be given on how to promote the results from the study as it was important research which it hoped the results would directly underpin legislation and result in changes.

For the second review, several queries had been raised with the project licence holder. Once the responses had been received, they would be reviewed again to make sure that adequate answers had been provided and to follow up with the project licence holder if required.

**8 ASSESSORS LIST**

AWERB reviewed the current version of the Assessors list. Several areas where there were gaps were identified. Some potential names of people to approach to see if they would be willing to be assessors were identified. It was confirmed that assessors did not need to be personal licence holders – they just needed to be a vet with the required specialised skill that was being looked for.

Secretary  
30 January 2019