

The Conservation Committee

Minutes for meeting held on 4th February 2025

1. Apologies - Ryan Perry
2. Present. Guy Kiddy, Janice Wood, Irving Carter, Ali Chew, Tracey Bretherton, Chris Hudson
By invitation. Brian Kelly, Jane Matthews, Rex Walters
3. Minutes of the last meeting on 07/11/2024
Signed as true and correct
4. Matters arising
JW asked that attendees be listed on future minutes which has been actioned
5. Genetics Update Rex Walters gave a presentation on the status of the native pig conservation programmes highlighting that most of the breeds were managing inbreeding but highlighting the perilous situation of the British Landrace. He pointed out that there was still much that could be done with improved recording of performance data and suggested that a confidential register of genetic defects should be a priority. Finally, he recommended that tissue banking should be considered to complement the genebank of frozen semen as tissue samples could be used in future for genomic analysis once it becomes cost effective.
6. Survey, the results had been circulated to members and were discussed at length. Everybody commented how difficult it had been to complete this year. Considering the current economic situation, it was felt pig numbers had held up well with a modest improvement within the modern breeds especially the Welsh. The biggest problem is with breeds who have a lot of lines such as the British Saddlebacks, numbers of pigs within individual lines can fluctuate very quickly leading to the loss of that line.

Moving on into the future the Grassroots system is evolving meaning after next years survey there should be less work producing the finished results
7. Surveyors meeting. It was decided that after the disappointing number of surveyors attending last years meeting that one would not be held this year. All breed reps were asked to submit a conservation plan for their breed.
8. Junior Pig Club. TB gave a brief report about the planned activities for the current year. 3 Large White pigs have gone to Brymore College. 2 Pigs at Bredon have now farrowed. 2 Dorothy weaners have moved from Mudchute to Nightingales.
The JPC will be attending Countrytastic at Harrogate and are having a summer camp at Boston from 2nd August until 4th August

9. Any Other Business

With no further business the meeting was closed at 8.45pm

10. Date of next meeting Tuesday 1st April 2025 at 7.30pm