

What is Required of Council Members?

You will find details on Election to the Council under Section 8.6 of the Articles of Association. <http://www.fellponysociety.org.uk/forms/2015-FPS-Memorandum-Articles-amended-28-Mar.pdf>

Qualities required:

- Be dedicated to the Fell pony breed and the Society that looks after it.
- Try to get things right, for the ponies. [We all want to get it right but we accept that we can't always be right!]
- Be active in promoting the ponies in as many ways as possible.
- Be prepared to do things. Everyone brings individual skills, so Council members don't need to be "all things to all ponies" but do whatever they can to help the Society's activities to support the breed.
- Speak up when there's something important to say.
- Honour the traditions of the Fell pony breed, but without being stuffy about it; apply them in a modern context.
- Attend FPS meetings: there are 6 Council meetings per year, held in Cumbria, three of them on a Tuesday afternoon and three of them via Zoom online conference on a Tuesday evening. The AGM is in April, in Cumbria.
- Accept that matters discussed in Council must be kept confidential.
- Listen to Society members' comments and feed them back to Council.
- Look for ways to turn problems into positive suggestions for action.
- Read the Charity Commission's "The Essential Trustee"—https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/443838/CC3.pdf
- Read Government guidance on "Running a Limited Company"— i.e. being a director as well as a Charity trustee—<https://www.gov.uk/running-a-limited-company>
- Have a flexible attitude inside a thick skin and above all, a sense of humour.

Council members are elected by nomination: ask for a form from the FPS Office before Christmas and make sure it arrives at the Office by 1st January. Candidates should prepare a short account of their reasons for standing for Council, which is printed with their photograph in the Spring issue of the FPS Magazine. Proposer and seconder should check that their candidate is eligible as a charity Trustee and company Director, using the above links.

Ballot papers for Council elections are sent out with the Spring Magazine to Society Members eligible to vote. Completed ballot papers have to be returned to the independent scrutineer appointed by the Council not less than 10 days before the date of the AGM.

The scrutineer checks that each vote is valid, counts the votes and reports to the Secretary, and the result of the ballot is announced at the Annual General Meeting. It was agreed some years ago that vote numbers would not be made public, but candidates may have sight of the the scrutineer's report and results at the end of the meeting if they so wish.