

HAVERFORDWEST RACECOURSE (PUBLIC PARKS) TRUST  
*REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 509842*

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club  
on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 at 7.00 pm

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Present

Stuart Williams (Chairman), Mike Wort (Secretary), Micky Phillips (Treasurer), Roy Thomas (Vice Chairman), Trish Croxon (Assistant Secretary), Sue Benbow, Helen Lewis, Martin Lewis, Peter Lewis, David Loosmore, Trevor Morgans, Jill Owens, Mark Sibbald, Alison Thomas, Ian Thomas, Jonathan Twigg, Rosalyn Wort, Laurence Worth.

Apologies for Absence

Bill Carne, Linda Thomas, Nigel Whittow

The Secretary had been advised that Bill Carne is leaving the Committee for personal reasons. The Chairman thanked Bill Carne for all his efforts and support over the years and went on to welcome everyone to the meeting, in particular Mr Ian Thomas, the new PRC representative and Mrs Jill Owens, the new Mayor.

Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 had been made available. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed that they be accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

There were none

Chairman's Report

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions over the past year. It had been a good year for the Trust with an active group of members who will continue to move things forward. He noted that next year it will be 40 years since the inception of the Trust.

Secretary's Report

*Fundraising*

Following the withdrawal of the £5000 grant from the HTC, a 3 year Service Level Agreement application has been submitted to them for a similar amount. We await the outcome but in the meantime a donation of £5000 was received from the Sir John Perrot Trust for which we are very grateful. Last month a Fundraising Sale raised £900 and a Quiz is scheduled for Friday 13th October. The Secretary set up an account with People's Fundraising to make it easier for any funds to go direct to the Trust and Kevin Wheeler's night run brought in £300. Amazon Smile had raised a small amount but this has subsequently been discontinued.

### *Volunteers*

Frank Langthorne donated a bench in memory of Barbara Morgan which has been sited near the bus shelter. This was followed by the planting of an apple tree nearby as part of the National Trust Cymru's Blossom Tree Project. This area is being developed by volunteers who have planted hedge saplings, two more apple trees, various perennials and some bee-friendly seeds. The area has been named Barbara's Garden by Rosalyn Wort who leads the volunteers with enthusiasm.

There was a fire built in the conifer copse last year so plans are afoot to open up more paths through this area and hopefully deter any future antisocial activity.

Students from Portfield School have helped to fell ash trees, cleared some path edges and cleaned the bus shelter. They were filmed by the BBC for Countryfile and PCC.

Local Beavers/Cub/Scouts groups planted some 30 saplings but we are yet to see them flourish.

### *Works and Maintenance*

A new tractor was purchased with the help of a grant from the Local Places for Nature Partnership using Welsh Government funding administered by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and we were able to sell the old tractor for £7000. A Memorandum of Agreement regarding the use of the tractor has been formed with HTC, PRC, Bridge Meadow Trust and PCC.

New signs were purchased and erected at all entrances which show a summary of the Rules. Drainage work was completed for the pitches in the South west corner.

A planning application is underway for an extension to the shed for storing the new tractor and related equipment.

Numerous works have been awarded to Nathan Thomas of Onestop including fence repairs, safety enhancements to paths, drainage to reduce flooding risk, removal of benches that obstruct paths and repairs to paths. Work is currently ongoing.

Three new replacement metal benches have been purchased from Tom Davies and other donated benches await installation.

### *Groundsman*

Mr David James continues to do an excellent job mowing the grass with attention to the wildflower areas and the collar of natural growth around the conifer copse.

The wildflower areas were prepared and seeded with help from Peter Howe of PCC, funded by Local Places for Nature which is supported by the Welsh Assembly. Their development will be reviewed at the end of this year.

### *Sports*

Permission has been granted to Marcus Bunce to play Kubb on the field. He has extended an invitation for anyone to watch or join in if they so wish.

Parkruns continue to be very popular on Saturday mornings.

### *Camping*

We have had a small number of campers sleeping in tents overnight, including homeless people. As this is against our policy, we will provide information in writing to this effect and include leaflets for sources of help to the homeless.

The Secretary's Report was unanimously accepted.

### Treasurer's Report

Copies of the annual accounts were made available by Micky Phillips.

The Trust had a good year financially, with the balance at the bank increasing by about £12,000. However this had been mainly due to exceptional incomes, including the sale of the tractor, a grant from the Perrots Trust and the balance from the Friends account. The bulk of the expenditure is on grass cutting but there were also significant costs from removing storm damaged trees and the new signage.

There was a total of £34,000 spent on dealing with Ash dieback and the drainage in the south west corner which was wholly funded by Section 106 money.

Realistically, without the one-off income, expenditure would have exceeded income by almost £5,000 over the year so the Trust needs to pursue additional sources of income in order for the Racecourse to continue to be maintained to a high standard.

Micky Phillips thanks the previous Treasurer, Peter Lewis for the handover and Trish Croxon for carrying out the annual audit.

The Chairman commented that we should not be complacent as there may be significant funds needed in the near future to cover the cost of new grass cutting machinery and/or dealing with ash dieback. He stressed the importance of finalising a SLA to maintain the Trust.

The Treasurer's Report and the accounts were unanimously accepted.

### Matter for consideration by the Committee

There were none.

### Election of Committee

Clarification was given of the membership of the committee which consists of 20 members, to include 2 from the Cricket Club and 4 from PRC/HTC with the option of co-opting 6 more. Jonathan Twigg offered to stand down as PRC representative but it was decided to wait to see if there was someone else who was interested in this role.

Current committee members are:

Stuart Williams, Mike Wort, Micky Phillips, Roy Thomas, Rosalyn Wort, Trish Croxon, Sue Benbow, Peter Lewis, Linda Thomas, Mark Sibbald, Trevor Morgans, Laurence Worth, David Loosmore (CC), Alison Thomas (CC), Cllr Alan Buckfield (PRC), Nigel Whittow (PRC), Ian Thomas (PRC), Jonathan Twigg (PRC).

### Election of Officers

It was unanimously agreed to re-elect officers en bloc.

Chairman: Stuart Williams

Secretary: Mike Wort

Treasurer: Micky Phillips

Trish Croxon had been co-opted during the year to act as Assistant Secretary and Auditor. It was agreed to re-elect her to both these posts.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.45pm.