

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

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club  
on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.00 pm

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Present

Roy Thomas (Vice Chairman), Mike Wort (Secretary), Trish Croxon (Assistant Secretary), Sue Benbow, Nick Bennett, Helen Lewis, Martin Lewis, Peter Lewis, John Miller, Marilyn Miller, Mark Sibbald, Bob Simister, Ian Thomas, Linda Thomas, Martin Thomas, Jonathan Twigg, Rosalyn Wort.

Apologies for Absence

Stuart Williams (Chairman), Micky Phillips (Treasurer), David Loosmore, Trevor Morgans, Alison Thomas, Laurence Worth.

In the absence of the current Chairman the meeting was opened by the Vice Chairman who welcomed everyone in attendance.

Minutes

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held in Haverfordwest Cricket Club on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 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 had sent a message which was read out by MW.

SW apologised for not being able to attend due to having undergone a medical procedure that day. He had enjoyed a total of 45 years continuous service on the committee which included Auditor, Assistant Treasurer, Vice Chairman and two spells as Chairman. He noted that a new generation of officials had already made a difference to the business plans and thanked them and all committee members for their support.

SW wished to remain as a committee member and Trustee but due to age and ill health felt that he could no longer continue as Chairman. He hoped that the aims of the Upper Racecourse would continue to be defended whilst working with all interested parties for the good of the town.

Secretary's Report

Various works had been completed by OneStop over the last year including hand rails for safety over ditches, path repairs and a lot of drainage which has been functioning well. This has all been funded by the S106 monies from the Persimmon development, there is still £5472 left to be spent by September 2027 and this may be used for further drainage works. Three new metal benches have been sited on renewed plinths and also some new commemorative benches have been donated and installed.

The start of the cutting season has been delayed due to the extremely wet weather during winter and spring but we hope to be able to start again in the next couple of weeks. We are grateful to our groundsman, David James, for the excellent state of the grounds throughout the last year.

The 'wildflower meadows' which were funded and planted in coordination with PCC, Welsh Assembly and Local Places for Nature have produced disappointing results. The situation will be reviewed at the end of this year to decide the best way forward. The 3 areas in question will be marked out as they are mowed differently from the rest of the grass. The proposed extension for the Cricket Club storage shed will be used to house the additional mowing equipment which is currently stored off site. Full planning permission has been granted and progress is pending 3 competitive tenders and funding for the work. Funding will hopefully come from a combination of sources including HTC, local Charitable Trusts and our own fundraising efforts. There is also the opportunity to apply for grants from the Enhancing Pembrokeshire Fund and Persimmon Community Champion Scheme. It has been proving difficult to get any response from local builders but we cannot apply for funding without 3 written quotes.

The closure of Castle School has resulted in the conclusion of their voluntary donations of £50 each month.

The area by the bus shelter, now informally called 'Barbara's Garden' by the volunteers has been regularly maintained and is a credit to their hard work. They have also been planting and clearing in other areas to generally improve the locality for the benefit of everyone. We have received the first payment of £7500 through the Service Level Agreement from HTC. This will continue for the next 2 years and will take great pressure off our financial situation.

We have had a few horse riders register for permits which will enable them to use the racecourse. They are expected to use the facility in a safe and responsible manner.

MW concluded his report by thanking all involved with the ongoing efforts to maintain and improve the Racecourse while navigating various challenges and opportunities.

The Secretary's Report was unanimously accepted.

### Treasurer's Report

Copies of the annual accounts had been emailed to all committee members by the Treasurer as he was unable to attend the meeting. In his absence, MW read out his report. The Trust has had another successful year with the balance at the bank increasing by nearly £2500. Much of this success is due to HTC and their generous support of £7500 by way of a 3 year Service Level Agreement.

Additional income of £1300 was raised by the fundraising committee through a plant sale and quiz evening and a further £670 was donated, mostly from Castle School.

Expenditure in the year totalled £9820, the bulk of which related to grass cutting and associated costs.

Not included in the accounts was expenditure of £13104 for the 3 new benches and upgrading to the entrances, seating and paths, along with extensive drainage works. These were totally funded by Section 106 money.

So, a good year for the Trust financially and some of the financial pressures will be eased for the next two years whilst the SLA is in place.

MP thanked the HTC for their support, all those who assisted in raising money over the year and the staff in PCC who manage the S106 scheme. He also thanked David James and the volunteers for continuing to make the Racecourse such an attractive place to walk. Finally,

he thanked the officers for their assistance and guidance when required and particularly TC for carrying out the annual audit.

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

It was commented by PL that following discussion with the PRC it may be possible to increase the amount received for mowing the Lower Racecourse whilst the annual rental charge of £1250 is unlikely to change.

#### Matters for consideration by the Committee

TC raised the question of litter bins as a query had been made on Facebook. It was wondered whether the HTC would be able to empty litter bins when they empty the dog poo bins, as they do on the Lower Racecourse. Members of the HTC present advised that this would not be possible without a charge.

#### Election of Committee

MW advised that we are allowed to have 16 members on our committee, in addition to those representatives from HCC and PRC so we are able to accept a further 4 people.

Mr John Miller was proposed by RW and seconded by MS.

Current committee members are:

Stuart Williams, Mike Wort, Micky Phillips, Roy Thomas, Trish Croxon, Sue Benbow, Peter Lewis, John Miller, Trevor Morgans, Mark Sibbald, Linda Thomas, Rosalyn Wort, Laurence Worth, David Loosmore (HCC), Alison Thomas (HCC), Cllr Jill Owens (PRC), Clr Bob Simister (PRC), Ian Thomas (PRC), Martin Thomas (PRC).

#### Election of Officers

MW proposed RT as Chairman and this was seconded by PL. RT was appointed as Chairman. It was unanimously agreed to re-elect the following officers en bloc.

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Secretary:                        | Mike Wort      |
| Treasurer:                        | Micky Phillips |
| Assistant Secretary<br>& Auditor: | Trish Croxon   |

Election of Vice-Chairman was deferred to the subsequent Committee Meeting.

RT thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 7.40pm.