

THE WELSH PONY AND COB SOCIETY

CYMDEITHAS Y MERLOD A'R COBIAU CYMREIG

Minutes of the General Meeting of members of The Welsh Pony and Cob Society held at 13.30 pm on Wednesday 18th of September 2019, at The Clwyd Morgannwg Hall, The Royal Welsh Showground, Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3SY

Prior to the meeting proper:

Sarah Case the Auditor explained the Voting Process and the colour coded pieces of paper for proxy voters.

For the nine separate votes the auditors would be using ballot boxes. Every non proxy voter should have cream strips of paper.

Proxys also to vote with the green paper strips

Red pieces of paper would only to be used on 'any other vote' which are not resolutions on the day.

She asked whether anybody was present who had sent in a proxy vote.

The President asked for David Brake to retrieve his red form

KJ Griffiths, DG Jones, EW Jones and AJ Roberts were all asked to present themselves at reception

The General Meeting

The Meeting was chaired by the President Brian Foster accompanied by the President-elect Mr. Roger Davies 'Hafdre'. The meeting was attended by 271 members.

1. Opening Remarks from the President

The President welcomed members present and commented on the acoustics in the room hoping that the sound would be better than at the previous meetings.

He reiterated that if somebody had voted by proxy and been given voting forms on the day, they should return them to the auditors so that the meeting could be started.

He declared the meeting open and that it was being recorded. He asked if anybody had objections to this.

There were no objections from the floor.

The President asked if anybody intended to record the meeting?

Mrs. Tracy Hook confirmed that she was intending to do so.

The President requested that all mobile phones be switched off or put to silent and asked the members present to sign the Visitors book.

He introduced Sarah Case and Callum Ryan from the Auditors Baldwins, Bethan Walsh and Harriet Morgan from Geldards.

He then introduced the President- elect Roger Davies (Hafdre) and invited the Trustees present to introduce themselves,

Trustees Deborah Jones, Barry Hall, Liz Hampson and John Welsh introduced themselves.

2 To receive Apologies

The President took apologies as read.

He announced that the meeting had been called on requisition by members to deal with specific business raised in that requisition. He reminded members present that any other unrelated questions should be put in writing to the Trustees who would deal with them in due course. He repeated that no other questions would be accepted.

3. 'To receive verbal or written representation from the trustees referred to in items 4 to 12 on the Agenda'.

He then read out the resolution to remove Miss D Chambers from Office with immediate effect, as a Trustee then proceeded to explain that a vote would take place. He reminded that Voting For was for the resolution, and that Voting Against was against the resolution. He asked if everybody was clear on that?

Mrs. Jo Filmer, from the floor wished to speak to the meeting. She stated that many members had travelled a long way to the meeting and noted that she and others did not read every single post on social media and had no wish to do so to be honest.

She noted that with the Trustees present, and in regard to the vote 'for' and 'against' many would like to know what they are voting for? and what they are voting against? She noted that everybody was passionate about the Society and wished the very best for the Society. She said 'Everybody wanted Trustees who they could put their faith in, and who would do their best for the Society with integrity and honesty. A lot of the trustees had been voted on to Society posts. She noted that those who do not live in Wales and don't know them personally have no idea what they are voting for or against, and whilst the pieces of paper give some idea, it doesn't actually give those present any idea whether the Trustees do have integrity or not?

'If they can have a balanced view then the members can vote accordingly.' That was all she asked for - the future of the Society to which she devoted a lot of her time. "I want to have a society I'm proud of, not one full of back biting nastiness and personal accusations".

Bethan Walsh, from the Society Solicitors Geldards then answered, by stating that the resolutions have been brought by certain members under the Companies Act. Under that act there is no requirement for those individuals to have to give reasons as to why they have brought them.

The Companies Act does allow the Trustees the opportunity to put forward written and / or verbal representation as to why they shouldn't be removed.

As she understands written representations have been sent to the membership - she hadn't seen them, as she was not advising the Trustees in a personal capacity. 'It is up to the Trustees if they want to speak today', She understood that the Trustees were happy for the representations to be taken as read. They are perfectly entitled to do that. As far as Trusteeship in general goes - Charity Trustees have a number of duties that they must perform under the Charity and Companies act. That is how she can answer Jo Filmer's question.

From the floor Sonja Mindt asked if the Chairman and the President were impartial in their view?

The President stated that he had no action in this matter, and the President elect nodded affirmatively.

She asked again if he was impartial?

The President confirmed this.

She then asked for confirmation that they would keep their views impartial

That was confirmed by the President.

Sonja Mindt then asked why in that case had they compromised their position? In her belief as certain statements had been made in the press by the Chairman and the President which proves that they are not impartial or at least compromises their position

The President noted that he had been asked whether or not he had a voting preference - would he prefer a show of hands or a ballot and he had chosen a ballot.

Sonja Mindt produced a written statement, an email from the actual reporter Andrew Forgrave who had names and statements. Who he had got the information from?

The President denied this and stated that he had not spoken to any person or press or any communication. He was merely doing his duty chairing this meeting and felt he was getting annoyed that this was delaying the meeting.

SM then stated that she would give the President a copy and suggested he take it up with the reporter as he was actually named.
The President again repeated that he had not spoken to any reporters. He then moved the meeting to vote.

He asked Gemma Bassett - Burr and the WPCS staff to collect the votes on the **resolution Agenda Item 4** to remove Trustee Miss D.Chambers from Office with immediate effect.

The staff collected votes for the first ballot in boxes from the members present and placed them with the Auditors in the reception area.

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda Item 5** to remove Trustee R.J Davies from Office with immediate effect.
Members voted

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda Item 6** to remove Trustee W.G Davies from Office with immediate effect.
Members voted

The President noted that the Votes would all be counted, and the results announced.

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda Item 7** to remove Trustee J.E Evans from Office with immediate effect.
Members voted

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda item 8** to remove Trustee G.D.J Jones from Office with immediate effect
Members voted

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda item 9** to remove Trustee G.W Jones from Office with immediate effect
Members voted

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda item 10** to remove Trustee D.D Morgan from Office with immediate effect.

Members voted

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda item 11** to remove Trustee D.O Roberts from Office with immediate effect.

Members voted

The President then requested that members vote on the **resolution Agenda Item 12** to remove Trustee C.Thomas from Office with immediate effect

Members voted

The President noted that the counts for the earlier ballots was going on as the final resolution votes were being collected.

He announced that they had a result and requested that everybody return to their seats.

He handed over to Sarah Case; the Auditor to announce the result. She noted that they were going to use the Society staff but had used Geldards as some of the members felt there was a conflict of interest. She then gave the result for each vote on each resolution in turn.

The results of the resolutions to remove the following trustees was as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST
Miss D. Chambers	557	614
Mr. R. J Davies	524	661
Mr. W.G Davies	482	705
Mr. J.E Evans	513	625
Mr. G.D.J Jones	535	651
Mr. G.W Jones	508	680
Mr. D.D Morgan	484	698
Mr. D.O Roberts	506	672
Mr. C Thomas	552	636

The President then asked for a show of support for the Trustees. He thanked the floor and moved on to Item 13 and stressed that he would not accept any other questions.

13. Any other business

Mr. Jesse Penfold of the Gristhills stud stated that the Society should not wash their dirty laundry in public - it was bad publicity and had cost the society a lot of money.

The President responded with "Well-spoken Sir"

Pat Lewis from the Tyssul Stud spoke of the new regulations that the Welsh Government were about to exercise. She urged every member to look at their website at a section called 'Animal Exhibits - Wales' regulations 2020. The Paper is in its consultation period. In section 3 it states categorically that only a pet owner can show at a local show once or twice a year. She noted that their questionnaire ran until the 21st of November 2019. She noted that the Kennel Club was concerned that any type of Showing would be banned.

The President thanked Mrs. Lewis but said that the topic though interesting was not pertinent to this meeting.

14. Closing remarks by the President

The President closed the meeting

ENDS

