**ALRESFORD AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**5 March 2025**

**Apologies:** David King, Martyn Spice, Hugh Bethell, Michael Campbell, Derek Faulkner, Carol McNeil, Gordon McNeil, Brother John Leathes, John Holliday, Carolyn & Pekka Johnson, Nick Rowsell, James & Jan Lunn, Margaret Brooks, Elizabeth & Michael Craig-Cooper, Paul Tickner, Ian Duthie, Tom Floyd, Chris Lillywhite, Emma Malory, Adrian Dixon (President Elect), Charmian Jones, Tim Butler, Gussie Raimes, Val Watley, Wynne Tufnell, Mr & Mrs Wakeham. Min & Sam Burge.

 There being the necessary quorum, the meeting proceeded.

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman, Charlie Corbett welcomed everyone and thanked them all for coming.

1. **Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 6 March 2024 were agreed.

PROPOSED BY: Mary Rook

SECONDED BY: Nigel Webb

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Phillip Sharpe, Treasurer, reported on the accounts for 2024.

* Attendance & Funds down 28% (Major factor due to the weather)
* Agricultural Education donation received of £6,600
* Expenses continue to rise, and is something to keep an eye on in future
* £40,000 donations to Charities
* £540,000 reserve

The Treasurer thanked Martin & Company, for their independent examiner’s report of the Society’s statutory accounts and submission to Company’s House on behalf of the Society.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer on behalf of the Society for his hard work behind the scenes and the accounts for the year to 31st October 2024 were approved unanimously.

PROPOSED BY: Jeffrey Allison

SECONDED BY: Ben Robinson

1. **Chairman’s Report**

The 2024 Chairman’s report was crafted by Henry Mallory, who gracefully stepped down as Chair in November 2024. This decision allowed for the organisation of the 2025 show to begin under fresh leadership, rather than waiting for the AGM when arrangements would be already underway.

Henry extended his heartfelt gratitude to the society, Val Watley and the other Secretaries, all the dedicated sub-committees, the visionary show sponsors, his fellow trustees, and the countless volunteers whose unwavering support has made the show a resounding success during his tenure as chairman. He also acknowledged Catherine Loudon and her family for their extraordinary generosity, which has been pivotal in enabling the society to host such a remarkable show.

The Chairman welcomed Mark Cheyney as the new vice chair and show manager. He emphasised the crucial roles of the sub-committees, which will shortly present a brief overview of the current arrangements for each one.

**5. Committee Report**

**5.1 Horse & Pony**

Although the weather was not on our side overall everything went well. There were many LIHS qualifiers, of which one went on to win the final of Horse of The Year Show.

**5.2 Livestock**

Ben Robinson reported 2024 was a successful Show for livestock. Poultry was back after a few years due to Bird Flu, and we also had Pigs.

Katie Miles (Livestock Secretary) did a Stirling job in her first year. He expressed his thanks to the Stewards and the Young Farmers for their help before, during and after the Show. The livestock area layout for 2025 will undergo significant changes, providing ample space for the animals and enhanced public access.

**5.3 Catering**

Angie Trenchard reported; That all of the catering concession trade stands have been invited to apply, and we’re thrilled to report that several applications have already been received. The Members Club: Extra rattan seating will be provided for comfort and to add to the charm, the entrance will feature an eye-catching walk-through archway. We are actively exploring exciting strategies to draw in more families and younger members, ensuring our community grows and thrives. Last year alone, approximately 253 delicious members lunches were served.

**5.4 Sponsorship**

Chairman reported that last year £46K of sponsorship money was raised towards the show mainly from local businesses, of which we are extremely grateful

**5.5 Showground**

Chairman reported that last year was very challenging due to the weather. Contingency plans are being put in place for this year. The plan is to shift the showground down by 3 meters to allow for easier access should it be required due to the weather, and as explained previously, the livestock area will be moved.

 **5.6 Social Media & Marketing**

Becca introduced Jo Hemsley as a new committee member who has a lot of new ideas and experience in marketing. We are currently working on a brand-new website, which includes branding and logo.

**5.7 Discover Food & Farming**

Ed Pettit-Mills reported that 2024 Show was another good year. This year the focus will be on Food Security; we have a lot of new ideas for the display and welcome any thoughts.

1. **Election of Officers**

The Chairman asked Henry Mallory as the outgoing Chair to say a few words. Henry thanked the retiring President, Mrs Jo Hemsley, for her quiet and confident support throughout the set up and take down. The retiring President warmly welcomed John Jervoise as the new President.

The following were elected unanimously to serve as Officers of the Society for the forthcoming year:

1. President **Mr John Jervoise**

PROPOSED BY: Jeffrey Allison

SECONDED BY: Henry Mallory

John stated that it was a real honour, and he would do all that he can to support the show and was very much looking forward to being part of it.

 The chairman announced that the President-elect’s family have farmed in

 Michel Dever for generations.

1. President-elect **Mr Adrian Dixon**

PROPOSED BY: Charlie Corbett

SECONDED BY: Ed Pettit-Mills

(c) Honorary Veterinary Surgeons:

 **Sarum Farm Veterinary Group (Livestock)**

 **Cedar Veterinary Group (Other)**

 **Stable Close Equine Practise (Equine)**

PROPOSED BY: Jan White

SECONDED BY: Ben Robinson

1. Honorary Solicitor **Rory Fordyce (Taylor Fordyce)**

PROPOSED BY: Jeffrey Allison

SECONDED BY: Jo Hemsley

1. Honorary Auditors **Martin & Company**

PROPOSED BY: Philip Sharpe

SECONDED BY: Charlie Corbett

**7. Election of Trustees**

 The following were elected unanimously to serve as the Society’s Trustees:

**Mr C Corbett (Re-Elect), Mrs J Hemsley, Mrs L Levine**

PROPOSED BY: John Jervoise

 SECONDED BY: Nigel Webb

**8. Elections to committees**

The following were elected unanimously to serve on the Society’s

committees for the forthcoming year:

1. Horse & Pony:

**Mrs A Raimes (Trustee), Mrs S Axel-Berg, Mrs E Mallory,**

**Mrs V Cobden (Secretary)**

(b) Livestock:

**Mr B Robinson (Trustee), Mr M Bailey, Mrs J Barker, Mr C Cheyney,**

**Mr M Cheyney (Trustee), Mr J Garrett, Miss H Jackson,**

 **Mrs K Miles (Secretary)**

(c) Catering:

**Mrs H Jones (Trustees), Mrs N Cartwright, Mrs A Trenchard**

(d) Sponsorship:

**Mr S Cross (Chair), Mrs A Trenchard, Mrs L Levine, Mrs Val Watley (Secretary)**

(e) Showground:

**Mr C Lillywhite, Mr J Allison (Trustee), Mr M Cheyney (Trustee),**

**Mr C Corbett (Trustee), Mr R Goodall, Mr D King, Mr P Mills, Mr E Pettit-Mills (Trustee), Mrs A Raimes (Trustee), Mr B Robinson (Trustee),**

**Mrs Laura Preistley-Cooper (Secretary), Mr Frazer Budd, Henry Mallory**

(f) Social Media & Marketing

**Miss B Corbett (Trustee), Ms N Webster, Mrs J Hemsley (Trustee)**

(g) Pre-Show:

**All committee members plus President, President-elect,**

**Mrs K Roadnight (Poultry), Mr W Tufnell,**

**Mr N Webb, Mrs I Williams (WI), Mrs A Winfield (Horticultural Society),**

PROPOSED EN BLOC BY: Henry Mallory

SECONDED EN BLOC BY: Mary Rook

(h) Nominations for Hon Vice President: **Mr Henry Mallory,**

 **Mr Tim Walters,**

 **Mrs Jo Hemsley**

PROPOSED BY: John White

 SECONDED BY: Nigel Webb

**9. Show Dates 2025**

The date of the Society’s Show was agreed as **6 September 2025 at Tichborne Park** (by kind permission of the Tichborne Estate and the Grange Farm Partnership).

The closing date for all entries was agreed as:

Livestock: **Wednesday, 31 July 2025**

Horse and Pony: **Wednesday, 28 August 2025**

**10. Any Other Business**

The chairman, asked the show secretary if there was any other business of which prior notice had been given of at least one week before the Annual General Meeting – The Secretary confirmed that there had not been any other business

**11. Presentation of Donation Cheques to the nominated Charities**

1. FCN – Accepted by Mark Thomas
2. Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance – Accepted by David Wakeham
3. Alton Basics Bank – Accepted by Sian Mills
4. Winchester Food Bank – Accepted by Leslie Little

Photographs of the presentations will be posted on our website and social media

**Conclusion of Business**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.07pm.