

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
of the Newbury & District Agricultural Society  
held on 8 February 2017  
at the Royal British Legion Hall, Newbury**

*In the Chairman of the Board's absence, Mr Chris D'Olley, (Vice-Chairman), extended a warm welcome to all members present.*

<b>1</b>	<p><b><i>To receive apologies for absence</i></b></p> <p><i>Simon Carter, Susan Carter, Anne &amp; Mike Harwood, Michael Skinner, Lucy Booth, Donald and Philip Brown, Christopher Lay, Nigel Wernham, Martin Iredale, Daisy Balsdon, George Masters, Sarah Smalley, Peter Warren-Tibbetts, Amy Kimber, Ian Nutt, Margo Holdroyd and Binky Wells.</i></p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b><i>To Approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 10 February 2016</i></b></p> <p><i>Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM was proposed by Mr A Scrope and seconded by Mr S Pallett. The motion was approved and the Minutes, therefore, were signed as a true record by the Chairman.</i></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b><i>To Receive the Statement of Accounts for the Year ended 31 October 2016 and the Trustees' Report</i></b></p> <p><i>Mr Rann of James Cowper Kreston, drew members' attention to the format of the Trustees' Report which now includes a section on Risk Management. Although Trustees have previously been required to report that they are aware of the risks facing the organisation, the Charity Commission now requires that the major risks and the measures taken to manage them, are clearly stated. Also required is how the Trustees see the future of the Society which is documented under the heading 'The Future' in the Trustees' Report and is detailed in the Five Year Plan. In all other respects the Trustees Report remains in the same format.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Rann noted that income from Donations and Legacies had increased on the previous year. The income from Charitable Activities was down mainly due to a decrease in gate income of £40K which as Mr Rann said is very weather dependant. On a brighter note Mr Rann reported that Lettings income had significantly increased. Trade Stand income was slightly ahead of the previous year. It was noted that the investment income was negligible. Mr Rann reported that the total income showed an increase for the year - £1.4M for 2016 against £1.3M in 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Rann thought that expenditure had followed similar patterns in 2016 to the previous year and had marginally increased from 2015. It was noted that staff costs had increased due to more staff being employed in the office but with a corresponding decrease in contractor costs. Mr Rann reported a trading loss of £43K, once the extraordinary donations for the building were discounted.</i></p> <p><i>Reviewing the Balance Sheet Mr Rann reported that Tangible Assets had increased significantly due to the Society Building. Debtors were down from the previous year. The increase in Creditors was largely due to the bank loan for the Building. Mr Rann mentioned that Restricted Funding carried forward would be £465K, largely made up</i></p>

	<p><i>charitable donations, whilst Total Unrestricted Funding amounts to £1.2M. Restricted depreciation of the Building will be implemented on funding of £417K.</i></p> <p><i>Mr S Pallett enquired about the re-valuing of the Showground. Mr Rann said that the Trustees had opted for a fixed valuation to be shown in the Accounts which they are allowed to do and this figure does not fluctuate each year. The Trustees, however, are confident that the actual value of the freehold land is greater than the figure shown in the Financial Statements.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Balsdon queried the timing of sending out the Accounts and any related papers for the AGM. Dr Bowyer said that the Accounts were available on the website in the first week in January once they had been approved and signed.</i></p> <p><i>As there were no other questions Mr D’Olley thanked Mr Rann and his team for all their hard work in preparing the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 October 2016.</i></p>
4	<p><b><i>Election of two members to the Board of Management of the Society</i></b></p> <p><i>Mr D’Olley said that Mr Simon Carter was standing down after completing two three year terms as an elected member, including five as Chairman of the Board. He was not now eligible to stand for re-election for one year. Mr D’Olley said that he was taking the opportunity on behalf of the membership to thank Mr Carter for his years of dedication to Society matters. He had also given huge amounts of his time to the planning and completion of the project of the Society Building in conjunction with Ian Freeland and Bill Bird. In Mr Carter’s absence the members present at the meeting gave a rousing round of applause. Mr D’Olley said that Mr Nigel Wernham had completed a three year term and was eligible for re-election but did not wish to put himself forward. There were, therefore two vacant seats on the Board of Management.</i></p> <p><i>Three candidates had put their names forward for consideration. Mr Adrian Scrope, Mr Bill Bird and Mr Jon Drew. A ballot was held before the start of the meeting and Mr D’Olley was able to announce that following this vote, Mr Adrian Scrope and Mr Jon Drew were duly elected to the Board of Management.</i></p> <p><i>Mr D’Olley said that Mr Ian Freeland had been a co-opted member of the Board whilst chairing the Building Committee, and he now stands down from the Board. Mr Keith Chopping stays, as attending, in his role as immediate Past Chairman. Also in attendance at the Meetings are Dr Daren Bowyer - CEO and Mr David Lloyd – Hon. Treasurer. To date, the post of Treasurer has not been filled by a Trustee. This is now being considered and the Board will adopt best practice in this regard.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs Balsdon wished to pay tribute to the whole of the Carter family who had been continuously involved with the Society for a great number of years and again wished to thank Mr Simon Carter in particular for the huge amount of work he had undertaken on the Society’s behalf.</i></p>
5	<p><b><i>Vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman of Shows Council</i></b></p> <p><i>Mrs Marcham listed all the events which had been organised during Mr Chopping’s</i></p>

	<p><i>year as Chairman, starting with the Stable Tour and ending with the Ploughing Match. Rogation Sunday followed by tea in the Parish Room had gone particularly well. The weather was very nearly right for the Show but did improve as the weekend progressed - the Show being an unqualified success. The Ploughing Match was again a success. Mrs Marcham hoped that Keith and Pennee had enjoyed their year as much as those attending the events had. Mrs Marcham said that it was an extremely successful year and on behalf of the Society wished to thank Mr &amp; Mrs Chopping for all their efforts.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Chopping, in reply, thanked all those who had contributed to the arrangements which had made it a tremendous year. Mr Chopping said he had been very surprised to be invited to be Show's Chairman but had been very happy to accept. The superb work of the various Committees and the army of volunteers was mentioned by Mr Chopping who said that without their hard work the Show would not be possible. Mr Chopping, on behalf of himself and his wife, Pennee, said that they had much enjoyed their year and passed on heart-felt thanks to all who had made it possible.</i></p>	
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b><i>To elect the President</i></b></p> <p><i>Mrs Marcham said it was her very great pleasure to propose Mrs Kirsten Loyd for the office of President for the forthcoming year. Mrs Loyd has lived in and around Woolley Park for most of her life and has supported the Show for a great number of years, attending many events. Mrs Marcham said that Mrs Loyd is a Governor of the prestigious Mary Hare School in Newbury and is a member of the Old Berks Hunt. Mr J Balsdon seconded the proposal and a show of hands confirmed the popular choice for the 2017 role of President of the Society.</i></p> <p><i>In reply, Mrs Loyd, said she was sure that Mrs Marcham would be an extremely effective Chairman. Mrs Loyd said that Mr Chopping and Mr Astor had made excellent role models and she was looking forward very much to the coming year. Mrs Loyd said that her chosen charity for the year will be the Mary Hare School.</i></p>	
<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b><i>Vote of thanks to the retiring President</i></b></p> <p><i>Mr Chopping said that Mr Astor had been an extremely enthusiastic President and had taken on the role with gusto. Regarding the events during the year Mr Chopping thought that the walk through the bluebell woods was magical and particularly memorable. Mr Chopping extended thanks to Donald Brown and Ian Wilson for helping with tractor and trailer transportation for the Folly Farm visit. The summer party organised by Mr Astor and his wife, Diana at Bannister House was a truly lovely evening. The Show and the Ploughing Match were very much highlights of the year which again both Mr Chopping and Mr Astor enjoyed, particularly chatting to exhibitors.</i></p> <p><i>All in all Mr Chopping felt that Mr Astor had really thrown himself wholeheartedly into all the events and Mr Chopping thought he could not have had a more effective and enthusiastic President. Mr Chopping wished to record a sincere vote of thanks to Mr Astor and presented him with a framed collage of photographs depicting some of the more memorable events during 2016.</i></p>	

	<p><i>In reply Mr Astor said he would take away some treasured memories of his year as President. He paid particular tribute to the officers of the Society and the 'unsung heroes' who make up the army of volunteers and are a tremendous resource for the Society. Mr Astor wished Mrs Loyd and Mrs Marcham a very successful and enjoyable year.</i></p>
8	<p><b>To elect the President-Elect</b>  <i>Mr Ian Wilson said it was his great pleasure to introduce and propose Mr Peter Carlisle for the post of President-Elect. Mr Carlisle is a local farmer whose family have farmed in the area for a great number of years. Mr Carlisle's hobbies include cricket and biking. Mr Wilson said that he felt that Mr Carlisle excels in whatever he takes on and he had no hesitation in proposing him as President Elect for the coming year. Mrs A Brown seconded the proposal.</i></p> <p><i>In reply Mr Carlisle said that it had come as a complete surprise to be asked to become President-Elect. He thanked Mr Wilson and said he was looking forward very much to the next two years and would particularly enjoy 2018.</i></p>
9	<p><b>To elect the Honorary Officers for 2016</b></p> <p><b>Hon. Treasurer:</b> Mr David Lloyd: <i>Proposed : Mr K Chopping  Seconded : Mrs J Marcham</i></p> <p><b>Hon. Veterinary Surgeons:</b> <i>Larkmead Veterinary Group and O'Gorman Slater &amp; Main  Proposed: Mrs R Balsdon – Seconded: Mrs K Loyd</i></p> <p><b>**Hon. Chaplain:</b> <i>Revd. Anthony Peabody: Proposed: Mr I Brown  Seconded: Mr K Chopping</i></p> <p><i>**Mr I Brown said that the Revd. John Townend, who had been the Society's Chaplain for many years, was shortly to retire and move away from the area to Cornwall. Mr Brown said that on behalf of the Society he wished John and his wife Elaine all the very best for their future and no doubt Dr Bowyer will write to the Revd. Townend to express the Society's gratitude for his many years of service.</i></p> <p><i>Mr Chopping said that he thought that the appointment of the Revd. Peabody would be an excellent choice as he is extremely well thought of in the Sulhamstead area. A show of hands also confirmed this popular appointment.</i></p> <p><i>The Revd. Peabody accepting the Honorary post said he would be hoping and praying for excellent weather for Rogation Sunday and the Show.</i></p>
10	<p><b>To approve the appointment of Messrs James Cowper Kreston as Auditors</b>  <i>Mr Chris D'Olley proposed the appointment of Messrs James Cowper Kreston as the Society's Auditors for the coming year, a show of hands from the floor confirmed the proposal.</i></p> <p><i>The formal business of the Society was then concluded. Following the conclusion of the meeting there followed two presentations regarding the Society's Five Year Plan (by Dr. Bowyer) and the Society's Education Programmes (by Mrs Jan Murray).</i></p>

*After the two presentations on the Five Year Plan and the Education Programmes the meeting was opened for any questions from members.*

*Mr Balsdon said that he did not think that communication was as good as it should be since the change of structure of Shows Council. Mr D'Olley responded that the new system relied on people reporting via their committees. Dr. Bowyer pointed out that, in fact, only one meeting of Shows Council, in its smaller format, had been held; the subsequent meeting had been the wash up to which all heads of section had been invited.*

*Mrs Brown offered thanks to Mr Mike Farmer for his long and valued service on the Membership Committee and from which he is now stepping down. Grateful thanks were extended also to Mr Peter Alder for all his work as head of the Coaching section.*

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