

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL



Proceedings of the
Annual General Meeting

4th June 2024 at 11.30am

Kindly Hosted by The Allerton Project, Loddington, Leicestershire.



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 4th June 2024 commencing at 11.30am
at The Allerton Project, Loddington, Leicestershire.

1	<p>Meeting chaired by Philip Gready, Chair. Minutes taken by Emily Stillwell, Charity Secretary.</p> <p>26 members with apologies received from 34 members.</p> <p>The Chairman confirmed that notice had been given to Members via email that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of members would take place at 11.30am on Tuesday 4th June 2024 commencing at 11.30am at The Allerton Project, Loddington, Leicestershire for the purposes of transacting the business as per the notice of the meeting.</p>
2	<p>To receive the Board of Trustees Report and Summary Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2023.</p> <p>PJG welcomed AG to present the attached finance presentation (Appendix i).</p> <p>The Board of Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2023 (Appendix ii) was formally adopted.</p> <p>Proposer: JG Secunder: TWH</p> <p>JG thanked the Board for ensuring that the Annual Report and Financial Statement were distributed to the Membership in good time.</p>
3	<p>To take note of the appointment by the Board of Trustees of a President, Honorary Vice-Presidents and Honorary Trustees to hold office for the year 1 January 2023 to 1st September 2024.</p> <p>President Vacant</p> <p>Honorary Vice Presidents Mr P T A Bell ARICS ABIIBA Mr G Burgess Mr J Caldecott Nicholson Mr H R G Cotterell Mr E H Clutterbuck Lord Curry of Kirkharle</p>

Mr A J Edwards
Mrs J P T Eady
Mr C R Ferens MBE, FRICS, DL
Mr J C T Forsyth FRAgS
Mr E C H Friend
Mr R Geldard
Rev. Dr. Gordon Gatward OBE, BD, PhD, FRAgS, FIAgrM
Mr J E Godfrey OBE, BSc
Sir Stuart Hampson
Mr J McR Harris FRICS
Mr S Hickling
Mr A D C Hinde MRAC
Dr Matthew Home
Mr T H Hutton FCA
The Lord Iliffe
Mr J H Kent FRAgS
Mr B W Kerr
Mr R Macklin
Mr J P Merricks, MBE, DL
Mr C B Montgomery
Mr J J North BSc MS DipAgric FIBiol
Mr C G Payne
Mr Antony Pemberton
Councillor C M Rayner
Mr P Richards
Mr A J W Ryman
Mr H Salwey CBE TD DL
Mr R Skelton FRAgS
Mr D Speller
Mr M S Spencer, MO, FRAgS
Mr J W Stanley FRAgS
Mrs P A Stanley
Mr P J F Stovold
Mr T Strawson
Mr C W Thomas
Professor C Thomas BSc PhD
Mr G N Trehane FRAgS
Mr D H Tupper
Mr G Vickers
Mr G R Wall MRICS, FAAV, MIAgM, MRAC
Mr T Wheatley-Hubbard
The Hon Mrs Wheeler-Bennett DStJ, DL
Mrs S White
Mr C H Williamson

Honorary Trustees

The Rt Rev'd A J Russell
HRH The Countess of Wessex

PJG updated that an invitation has been sent to a potential candidate for President, however, we are unable to make an announcement at this time.

PJG shared with great sadness the passing of Council Members Lord Clinton & Richard Godber in the last year and reflected on the great contributions that they have made to the Society over the years.

	<p>PJG further recorded the retirement of John Wibberley and summarised the long association and involvement graciously awarded by JW. PJG offered the Society's gratitude for the many contributions JW had made over the years.</p> <p>PJG welcomed and thanked ES in her new capacity as Charity Secretary.</p> <p>PJG shared that he is delighted to confirm that HM The King has agreed to act as our Patron going forward.</p>
4	<p>To take note of the persons who act in the capacity of Trustees:</p> <p>Julie Butler Robert Drewett Michael Fiddes Philip Gready, Chairman Alastair Morrison Jo Price Nick Tapp, Vice Chairman Paul Westaway</p>
5	<p>To take note of the appointment by the Trustees of Members of the Advisory Council.</p> <p>The Advisory Council is being reviewed as an element of a broader governance review. The previous Council was disbanded in August 2023. A new Advisory Council will be established in due course.</p>
6	<p>To authorise the Trustees to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.</p> <p>The meeting confirmed they are happy to authorise.</p> <p>Proposer: JG Secunder: MJAF</p>
7	<p>Chairman's Briefing</p> <p>Overview:</p> <p>PJG reflected upon the pressures faced by the agricultural sector in the pursuit of growing the Nation's food alongside the restoration of nature. PJG discussed the Society's desire to be at the forefront of such debates and encouraged the membership to participate.</p> <p>Strategy:</p> <p>PJG reported that the Society's strategy continues to progress under the leadership of DG and stated that three strategic objectives have been set:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To establish the Society as a force for positive change within the agricultural sector, focusing on the application of science to meet the future challenges that the sector faces. 2. To create the infrastructure that facilitates a sustainable future for the Society.

3. To be the leading independent agricultural organisation supporting farmers with the science of farming and its benefit to the wider society

Awards:

PJG informed that the Society continues to celebrate leadership in agriculture and the RASE Awards 2023 was held in the wonderful surroundings of the Crown Estate in Windsor with the winners showcasing the best of the English agricultural sector:

- Bledisloe Gold Medal, supported by Evelyn Partners, was awarded to the Courteenhall Estate in Northamptonshire and presented to Dr Johnny Wake.
- Excellence in Practical Farming, supported by Trinity Natural Capital Pro Council, was awarded to Rob Havard, in recognition of how he has used his farming knowledge and his experience as a trained ecologist to farm sustainably, both financially sense and environmentally.
- National Agricultural Award, supported by Savills, was awarded to Dr. Alastair Leake in recognition of his leadership of The Allerton Project, which has pioneered and popularised farming with nature.
- Science and Technology Award, supported by Trinity AgTech, was awarded to Professor Rob Edwards in recognition of how he has championed the interaction between the farming industry and academia.
- Brothers Paul and John Cherry were the first-time winners of the Farm of the Future Award, supported by Virgin Money, in recognition of how the Groundswell event has promoted regenerative agriculture and instilled confidence in many farmers to start their journey towards more sustainable farming systems.

PJG reflected on the importance of celebrating the leaders in the industry and announced that the 2024 Award Ceremony will be graciously hosted by the Courteenhall Estate, winner of the 2023 Bledisloe Award in September.

Pig & Poultry Fair 2024

PJG shared that the British Pig and Poultry Fair enjoyed a hugely successful transition to the NEC last month whereby over 300 exhibitors and 8,000 visitors attended this year's event.

PJG stated that the hosting of shows continues to be of critical importance to the Society both in terms of knowledge exchange and income generation and declared a vote of thanks to Alice Bell and the Event Team for their efforts in organising such an important event. PJG further thanked the generous support of the Exhibitors.

Innovation for Agriculture:

PJG discussed the importance of having a sustainable business model to allow the Society to fulfil its charitable objectives.

PJG updated that the Society has worked alongside its sister charity, Innovation for Agriculture, for many years and in June 2023 RASE became the sole financial member of IfA. PJG stated that this change represents an important clarification of the membership relationships within IfA. PJG highlighted that IfA acts as a delivery-arm for the Society, in the fulfilment of the charitable aims of the Society whilst at the same time IfA holds a portfolio of clients and projects outside of RASE.

Farm of the Future Report:

	<p>PJG updated that the Farm of the Future report continues to make an impact and reported that additional funding by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation has enabled us to continue to disseminate the learnings and help to enable the transition to a low-carbon farming future. PJG shared that a series of action groups, demonstration events and farm study tours will continue throughout 2024.</p> <p>Pension:</p> <p>PJG shared that the Pension Fund is fully funded and thanked NT and the Pension Fund Trustees for their tremendous efforts in achieving this result.</p> <p>Property:</p> <p>PJG shared that the Property Committee continue to work on proposals to drive further value from the site in the long-term goal to create development opportunities. PJG thanked MJAF and the Property Committee for their valued contributions.</p> <p>Thank you:</p> <p>PJG thanked both the RASE and IfA teams for their outstanding work in delivering the various workstreams and praised the seamless running of both organisations.</p> <p>PJG thanked the fellow trustees for their hard work and continued support and especially acknowledged Alastair Morrison, who stepped down as Trustee in 2023 after many years of service and formally thanked him for all his contributions and dedication.</p> <p>PJG thanked and welcomed Paul Westaway and Robert Drewett to the Board as Trustees and welcomed Emily Stillwell in her new capacity as Company Secretary and thanked her for her considerable efforts over the years in administrating the work of the Board.</p> <p>Additionally, PJG thanked the members of the RASE Membership Council, led by its Chair, Ed Barnston for their sterling work in driving forward the membership.</p> <p>Finally, PJG expressed our profound thanks and appreciation to HM The King who has confirmed that he will become Patron of the Royal Agricultural Society of England.</p>
8	<p>CEO'S Briefing</p> <p>DG reflected that it has been a very busy year and provided an update on the Society's strategy.</p> <p>DG updated that the FOTF Report will soon be updated to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and reported a successful FOTF event recently held at Plumpton which was very well attended. DG shared that an associated and dedicated website will soon be launched to drive the agenda forward.</p> <p>DG described the Membership as a fundamental focus of the Society's strategy and thanked the Membership Council, led by Ed Barnston for their contributions to date.</p> <p>DG discussed the growing community of members and membership services which will continue to be developed as the membership widens.</p>

	<p>DG updated on the overhaul of the Awards and formally thanked TWH for his historical outstanding commitment to the Awards, especially throughout a time when the Society was in difficulty. DG informed that sponsorship has provided a welcome means to develop the awards.</p> <p>DG discussed the revival of the Burke Trophies which will be held at the Royal Norfolk Show and Three Counties in 2024 and reunited to be presented collectively in 2025.</p> <p>DG shared that we continue to develop the Student Awards which are currently presented to 23 Universities and conversations are taking place around the development of associated opportunities.</p> <p>DG reported a hugely successful Pig & Poultry Fair and announced that options are being assessed for what type of event could replace Grassland & Muck in the years when Pig & Poultry does not run.</p> <p>DG summarised that we have always been a Member Organisation and thanked those present for their continued support and engagement.</p>
<p>1.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p><u>Cereals Event:</u></p> <p>JW suggested that there may be an opportunity for the Society to align itself with a cereals event. After brief discussion DG thanked JW and confirmed this will be on the Agenda.</p> <p><u>RASE/IfA Relationship:</u></p> <p>TWH sought clarification as to the RASE & IfA relationship.</p> <p>DG clarified that RASE has become the sole financial Member of IfA and that whilst RASE approves the appointment of Director's, IfA remains to have an autonomous Board who controls the running of the Charity.</p> <p>In addition to RASE, DG clarified that IfA has another layer of non-financial membership of currently 17 regional Agricultural Societies. DG explained that we are rebuilding our relationship with the regional agricultural societies and updated that the Royal Norfolk and Hertfordshire are both now members. DG clarified that the regional consortium of members has proven to be of huge value in our ability to bid for various projects.</p> <p>DG further explained that there is value in keeping the two organisations separate as this widens IfA's ability to apply for funding.</p> <p><u>RASE Membership – Fellows:</u></p> <p>MF introduced herself and, on behalf of the English Panel, requested clarification relating to the Society's Fellow level of membership stating that it has caused confusion for CARAS award holders.</p> <p>DG clarified that RASE is a membership organisation and that, in keeping with numerous other Royal Societies, the peer-reviewed Fellow level of RASE membership identifies and reinforces the contribution that individuals have made/are making to the agricultural sector. These RASE Fellows can support the Society in the</p>

achievement of its aims as well as providing a means for further progression within the Society to Advisory Council and Trustee.

In contrast, CARAS is not a member organisation. Moreover, the CARAS awardees, as identified by the RASE appointed English Panel, are made on behalf of RASE and these awards have different criteria. As such, there are several people who hold both Fellow status within the society and a CARAS award.

DG reflected on the 'estrangement' that has been a feature of the RASE – English Panel relationship of recent years and stated the Society's intent to rebuild the relationship such that the English Panel returns to being an effective working group of the Society. DG updated that there will shortly be a meeting between the English Panel and RASE management/trustees to address any issues and to clarify matters. Also, an invitation will be extended to all Award holders to become a Fellow of the Society. DG added that any monies paid to CARAS would be deducted from RASE membership fees to avoid disadvantaging award holders vs other RASE Fellows.

JW reiterated that there was never a 'falling-out' between RASE & CARAS; merely a financial separation to protect the English Panel's assets. JW raised the importance of peer reviews and cautioned against a lack of rigour in the vetting of applications. DG stated that, for the avoidance of doubt, there is no suggestion whatsoever that the Fellowship of RASE lacks rigour. DG welcomed EB, Chair of the RASE Membership Council who added that each application for Membership is peer reviewed and independently measured against a benchmark, ensuring that the process is entirely honest, measurable and independent.

JF suggested that if you are awarded a Fellow from CARAS you should automatically become a Member of the Society. DG responded that this should happen in theory, however, this is not what has happened in recent years.

PJG thanked JW, EB and JF and stated that the subject of the RASE -English Panel relationship is firmly on the agenda to resolve.

Allerton Project

PJG thanked AL for graciously hosting the AGM and declared the meeting closed.