



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Agricultural Association (SAA)**

### **Meeting held on Tuesday 15 February 2022 at 11.30 am at Trinity Park**

**Present:** 60 Members attended.

**Officers in Attendance** - Phillip Ainsworth, Ian Liddell, Helen Fomenko, Chloe Annison, Graham Thurston, Margie Morris (minutes), Jake Pike (AV Support)

**Others in Attendance** – Jo Fox (Larking Gowen), Sarah Chambers (East Anglian Daily Times)

The SAA President, David Barker (DB) welcomed all to the Association's 191<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Before starting formal business the meeting remembered Vice Presidents and Members of the Association who had died since the 2021 AGM. The Chaplain, Canon Brynn Bayman, said a few words and read out the names as follows:

Captain D W Perkins, Mr Gerald Steadman, Mr Glen Ogilvie, Mr Keith Bullock, Mrs Sue Wall, Mrs Pam Nunn, The Reverend Graham Vellacott, Mr Chris Keeble, Mrs Elizabeth Stone, Mr Graham Glasse, Mr Robin Graham, Mrs Prilly Taylor, Mr B Ainsley, Mr John Gladwin, Mr A M Paris, Mr Patrick Haywood-Smith and Mr Nicholas Redman.

A minute's silence was then observed.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

41 apologies were received.

**2. To adopt the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Chairman noted the minutes of the 2021 AGM had been approved by the Trustee Board. In turn all members present approved them.

**3. To adopt the Minutes of the 2021 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)**

The Chairman noted the minutes of the 2021 EGM had been approved by the Trustee Board. In turn all members present approved them.

**4. Ordinary Resolution 1 - To Receive and Adopt the Trustees' Report and Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021.**

The Chairman Bill Baker (BB) gave an overview of the year commenting that whilst Covid had significantly impacted on the Association the following had been achieved: the Event centre was used a vaccination centre by the GP confederation, seeing 66,000 vaccines administered, a credit to the staff here and the NHS. A plaque to commemorate this achievement is on display at the event centre main entrance. Pop-up camping on the site was a huge success, much in demand and very positive feedback. The investment in the two new toilet blocks had progressed well, within budget and to time aiming to be fully functional by the SFCF.

Education events, such as the SFCF and Tractors into Schools did not happen. The Outreach project with 5 farms and over 600 pupils attending went well. Education projects are core work back this year. New fencing had been installed creating an additional c6 acres within the main showground. A Platinum Jubilee Avenue of 70 Trees had been planted, one tree for every decade of the Queens reign. TPEL 2021 Christmas parties had 4,000 bookings, but at short notice 1,000 cancellations due to covid concerns; for those who did attend feedback was excellent. Ipswich Croquet club, with formal planning all past, is ready to build aiming to commence playing in 2023.

### **Trustees' Report for the year:**

#### **Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2021 – Simon Tucker (Treasurer):**

The Treasurer started by noting that financial statements for the year ending 30 September 2021 received a clean audit opinion from the auditors Larking Gowen for both the SAA and TPEL and were approved by the Association's audit committee and by the full Trustee Board in December.

#### **Key figures from the consolidated audited accounts**

Statement of financial activity	2021	2020	Change
Total Income	£914,738	£1,815,349	£900,611
Total expenditure	£1,390,394	£1,980,681	£590,287
Operating gains (loss)	£475,656	£165,332	£310,324
Investment gains	£592,165	£245,045	£347,120
Revaluation of investment property	£50,000	£675,764	£625,764
Net Income for Year	£166,509	£755,477	£588,968

Balance Sheet	2021	2020	Change
Balance sheet total	£12,838,211	£12,671,702	£166,509
Investments	£5,436,712	£6,140,195	£703,483
Investment property	£850,000	£800,000	£50,000
Short term investments	£1,091,025	£2.00	£1,091,023
Cash at bank	£325,802	£414,307	£88,505
Bank loans	£788,355	£707,776	£80,291

#### **Trinity Park Events Ltd (TPEL)**

	2021	2020	Change
Turnover	£391,408	£584,334	£192,926
Total expenditure	£347,873	£718,152	£370,279
(LOSS) / PROFIT FOR YEAR	£43,535	£133,818	£177,353
Balance Sheet Total	£173,028	£270,507	£443,535

#### **Key Points**

- Clean audit reports for both the SAA and TPEL and change of auditor to Larking Gowen
- £1.3m of investments realised to fund new toilet blocks and other strategic capital expenditure
- Government furlough CJRS support received of £266,756 (2020: £222,886). Support ended 30 September 2021
- Events Centre used as a vaccination centre from January 2021 to June 2021

#### **2022 Highlights**

- The Covid Omicron variant caused challenges in December, but the Christmas party season went ahead but with cancellations of 1,000 covers. The Jan-Mar quarter was also quiet for TPEL.
- Overdraft facility of £750,000 maintained, SAA remained cash positive until January 2022. Cash flow is showing a year end negative position of c£200,000.

- Work on new toilet blocks on track and on budget to finish end of March 2022.

The Treasurer proposed adoption of the accounts which was seconded by Mr James Black.

Post a vote by those present and the unanimously supportive proxy votes the Chairman declared the motion carried.

#### **5. Ordinary Resolution 2 - To elect Mr Stephen Fletcher as President-Elect of the Suffolk Agricultural Association, for the 2022 Suffolk Show.**

DB commented that at the last AGM we had voted on Mr Andrew Fane to become President Elect for 2022. DB then read a personal statement from him. 'With great regret I have been obliged to pull out of the Presidency of the SAA owing to my wife Clare's ongoing serious illness. I am though delighted that Stephen will be stepping into the position and wish him well. With Clare I hope we will be able to attend some of the Show in 2022 and in any event, I look forward to continuing sponsorship of the Grand Ring. My best wishes to you all'.

Peter Over (Vice Chairman) introduced Stephen Fletcher then proposed him as President Elect for the 2022 Show.

The President seconded the proposal.

Post a vote by those present and the unanimously supportive proxy votes the Chairman declared the motion carried.

#### **6. Ordinary Resolution 3 - To re-elect the following retiring members of Council who have been nominated for re-election:**

Edward Binder, Nicola Currie, Geoffrey Mayhew, Alexander Scott-Barrett, Edward Wild and to approve the election of the following who have been nominated as new members of Council: Robin Barclay, Beth Duchesne, Jonathan Duggan, William Faulds.

Mrs Lucy Davenport (née McVeigh) has decided to step away from Council due to other commitments.

Not on the agenda, as omitted in error, was the need for members to vote on the re-election of Eric Morton as a Trustee. Eric had served two three-year terms and has put himself forward for a seventh year. The Trustee Board was delighted that Eric wished to continue as a Trustee and so asked that members vote for his re-election.

Although the proxy forms required this Ordinary Resolution to be voted on in parts, as there was such a strong majority of proxy votes in favour of the election of each individual it was proposed that, as in previous years, the meeting should vote on all the candidates as one resolution.

Post a vote by those present and the unanimously supportive proxy votes the Chairman declared the motion carried.

#### **7. Appointment of Honorary Life Vice President Awards**

The Chairman reported his delight that awards of Honorary Life Vice President status had been made to Sir Michael Bunbury and Stephen Miles. Sadly, Sir Michael was unable to attend the meeting.

The Chairman presented Stephen with his certificate.

**8. Ordinary Resolution 5 - To appoint Larking Gowen as auditors for of the Association for 2022 until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting and to authorise the Trustee Board to fix their remuneration.**

The Chairman invited the Association's Audit Committee Chair, Karen Sharpe (KS), to make the proposal and in so doing explained that the experience with changing the auditors had been a very good one and thanked Jo Fox (Larking Gowen) and her Team for their professional and well organised change over.

The Treasurer seconded the proposal.

Post a vote by those present and the unanimously supportive proxy votes the Chairman declared the motion carried.

**9. Special Resolution 1 - To adopt amendments to the existing SAA Rules**

The Chairman asked Karen Sharpe, who led the process, to say a few words about the amendments and to propose the changes.

KS clarified that notice for the AGM is reduced from 21 to 14 days, HLVP's have the right to vote at Council meetings, an Education Committee is created, that the Audit/Risk Committee can be combined or work separately and that specific points for TPEL are adopted.

The Treasurer seconded the proposal.

Post a vote by those present and the unanimously supportive proxy votes the Chairman declared the motion carried.

**10. To receive a report on arrangements for the 2022 Suffolk Show from Bruce Kerr, Honorary Show Director.**

Bruce summarised the plans for 2022 as follows:

- 105 days to – the pandemic had caused numerous challenges, but all the needed planning continued.
- The 2022 Show to be held on Tuesday 31 May & Wednesday 1 June. Starting a day earlier reflected the national celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee commencing from Thursday 2 June.
- Tickets had been on sale earlier than ever before, starting June 2021 with various offers to entice sales.
- Changes to the Ringside Club and new caterers.
- New stabling.
- Free Car parking.
- As part of the 2022 Show, amongst other jubilee activities, The Lord Lieutenant to hold a 'Pageant' for the Queen's Jubilee on the second day. A significant event for the show as seen as the launch event in Suffolk for the many other activities to follow. The Suffolk, the platinum Years an area to cover 70 different features of Suffolk over the last 70 years.
- United States forces involvement in the pageant and military zone area.
- The Jubilee torch to finish its journey at the Show.

BK thanked all the show staff, stewards, his three deputies and Board members for their continued hard work and wished John Taylor, his successor, all the best for the 2023 show.

## **11. Special award to SAA Staff**

The Covid pandemic presented many challenges both personally and professionally. In mid-March 2020, when all told to stay at home and the country effectively closed, the challenge for the Chief Executive and Trustees of the Association was to quickly work out how best to sustain the organisation not knowing for how long the national lockdown would last. Whilst the site was immediately closed, and all activities ceased, there remained a need to look after the estate and as well the numerous administrative business functions of the organisation requiring ongoing attention.

The Trustees recognised the impact for all staff caused by Covid but particularly for two the challenge was not only to stay at home and look after their families but to also continue to support the organisation full time. In recognition of their effort during particularly the first year of the pandemic Trustees formally thanked Graham Thurston and Ian Liddell. To this end the Associations Chairman, on behalf of the Trustees, was delighted to present them each with a special award.

## **12. Any other business**

- SAA/Fram Farmers Farming Conference: Thursday 3rd March, free for members of either organisation.
- SAA Clay Shoot Day Friday 1 April.
- SAA Presidents' charity evening in aid of the East Anglian Ambulance Service on Friday 22 April.
- Sponsors required for SFCF.
- Roadside boards available for 2022 Show.
- Tory Lugsden on behalf of SYF thanked the SAA for their continued support, pointing out that membership had increased from 58 to 175.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.