



Annual General Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 15 April 2025, 14.00 hours

Norfolk Events Centre, Norfolk Showground

	<p>Present: Christopher Dean, Robert More, J & H Haydon, Kristopher Harper-Allison, Helen Reeve, Hileena Chole, Andrew Spinks, Ian Lonsdale, John Carrick, Felicity Daniels, Simon Daniels, Emily Norton, Luke Lockhart, Jonathan Clarke, Mike Gamble, Louis Baugh, Fran Baugh, David Moar, Mike Stamford, Clare Crawshay, Marion Jones, Rob Richardson, Sarah Ellero, Jonathan Barber, Jack Royall, Roger Long, Suzannah Long, Peter Webb, Peter Mortimer, Matthew Hutton, Douglas Young, William Haire, Janice Broughton, Adam Barker, Kerry Gibb, Nicholas Hunt, Michael Pollitt, Michael Curtis, Pauline Curtis, Grant Pilcher, David Feakes, Peter Mortimer, Chris Self, James Chapman, Bob King, Melinda Raker, Suzie Scott, Sam Chapman-Allen, John Adams, Ken Leggett, Peter Walker, Bill Doig, Jim and Jennifer Cawte, Roly Beazley, Alison and Poul Hovesen, Lady Dannatt, Lord Dannatt, Gail Sprake, Clarke Willis, David Hastings, Henry Edwards, Christopher Graf-Grote, Michael Gurney, Richard Hirst, John Grange, Peter Rout, David Watson, Clare Whelan, Laurie Hill, Chris Nix, Katy Nelstrop, Rob Alston, Nick Saffell, James Alston, Carole Clayson, Bruce Ridgeway, Andrew Barnes, John Reader, Kyle White, Harry Barnett, Tim Papworth, Edward Connolly, Richard Rampton. RNAA: Mark Nicholas, Holly Whitaker, Mike Parker, Jonathan Betts, Sam Berney, Jacob Stirling, Maria Skitmore, Frances Roberson, Richard Greenacre, Tracey Spelman, Fleur Hamilton-Briscoe, Hannah Braiden, Andrew Davies, Helen Bibby – Minutes</p>
1	<p>Welcome and apologies for absence: Robert Alston welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and offered everyone an opportunity to visit the new Food Hall after the Council Meeting later in the day.</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from: Apologies had been received from 92 people. Mark Nicholas confirmed the meeting was quorate</p>
2	<p>Minutes of meeting held on 18 April 2024 and any matters arising: The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024 were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record. There were no matters arising.</p>
3	<p>To receive the Report of the Council and Board of Trustees and the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024: The Chairman gave his report, 2024 had been a successful year for the Association. The Chairman thanked the trustees that had stood down during the year and welcomed new trustees/staff members. The RNAA continues to host events to promote and support Norfolk food, farming and agriculture and delivered another successful Show. The Chairman reported that the Norfolk Food Hall project was almost complete and should open in late May 2025. Thanks were given to everyone that supports the Association and the Chairman looked forward to seeing everyone again at the 2025 RNS.</p> <p>The Finance Director gave an overview of the previously circulated accounts, confirming that the VAT clawback is yet to be finalised but is likely to be a six-figure sum. The RNAA is in a good financial situation in a challenging economic climate.</p>

	Robert Alston proposed the adoption of the accounts and this was seconded by Grant Pilcher. Carried unanimously.
4	To offer a vote of thanks to the retiring President The Lady Dannatt MBE: Michael Pollitt gave a vote of thanks to The Lady Dannatt. Lord and Lady Dannatt were presented with gifts. Lady Dannatt gave a short speech which thanked Mark Nicholas and his team, and she wished the new President well.
5	To receive the recommendation of Council that Mr Poul Hovesen, be elected as President for 2025 - 2026: Robert Alston proposed that Mr Poul Hovesen, be elected President for 2025 – 2026. Gail Sprake seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously. Mr Hovesen and his wife are looking forward to the next year and said The Lady Dannatt would be a hard act to follow.
6	To receive the recommendation of Council that the Rt Revd Graham Usher be elected Deputy President for 2025 - 2026: Robert Alston proposed that the Rt Revd Graham Usher be elected Deputy President for 2025 – 2026. Kristopher Harper-Allison seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously.
7	<p>To receive a Report on the election of Members to fill vacancies on the Council arising from automatic retirement: Mark Nicholas reported that the following people will retire from the Council having served a term of three years although they can apply for re-election in 12 months' time: Duncan Anderson Brown, Tony Bambridge, Fran Baugh, Janice Broughton, Guy Gowing, Chris Graf Grote, Poul Hovesen, Charlie MacNicol, Helen Reeve, Kyle White, Clarke Willis. Kerry Gibb was standing down after over 40 years and was thanked for her contribution.</p> <p>Nominations had not exceeded vacancies, so the following were elected to serve on Council until April 2028: Ian Baker, Jonathan Barber, James Chapman, Samuel Chapman-Allen, David Feakes, William Haire, Kristopher Harper Allison, Caroline Jarrold, Frances Lloyd, Jamie Lockhart, Michael Mack, Peter Mortimer, Tim Papworth, Jack Royall, Nick Saffell, Ben B Turner.</p> <p>The following have been co-opted onto the Council for the ensuing year: Councillor Fabian Eagle – Norfolk County Council, Councillor The Lord John Fuller OBE – South Norfolk and Broadland Council, The Reverend Dr Tim Weatherstone – RNAA Chaplain, Mr David Hastings – Norfolk Farm Machinery Club, Miss Alice Saunders – Norfolk Federation of Young Farmers.</p>
8	<p>To receive a report on the confirmation of awards and appointments for 2025: Mark Nicholas reported that the following are declared Honorary Vice Presidents from today's date until a date in the future to be advised individually: Louis Baugh.</p> <p>With immediate effect Robin Baines, Julia Biddle, Jim and Jennifer Cawte, Andrew and Hailey Clarke and Mike Stamford are appointed Royal Norfolk Show Fellows.</p> <p>The Timothy Colman Prize was awarded to Richard Hirst who has made an outstanding contribution to promoting the interests and understanding of food, farming and the countryside in Norfolk.</p>
9	To appoint an Auditor and to authorise the Trustees to set the remuneration thereof: Laurie Hill proposed the re-appointment of M & A as Auditor of the RNAA and to authorise the Board of Trustees to fix the remuneration thereof. Janet Broughton seconded the proposal. Carried unanimously.
10	Any Other Business: Mark Nicholas confirmed that applications for the 2025 Bishop of Norwich Sustainable Environment Young Employee of the Year Award are now open for those under the age of 30 and the closing date for application is 17 May 2025.

11	Presentation by Ms Hileena Chole, Norfolk International Scholar: Hileena Chole, a UEA Masters student, gave an interesting presentation on her research subject of water management and thanked the RNAA for the opportunity to undertake the Scholarship.
12	Date of next meeting: Robert Alston thanked everyone for attending and confirmed the date for the next Annual General Meeting is Thursday 23 April 2026 at the Norfolk Showground. The meeting closed at 15.07.

Signed:
R Alston - Chairman

Dated: 23 April 2026