



President The Most Hon. The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL
Registered No. 248119
Established 1884
PO Box 251, Exeter, EX2 8WX
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The Conservation Committee

Minutes for the meeting held on 3rd February 2026 at 7.30pm

Attendance – Guy Kiddy, Janice Woods, Tracey Bretherton, Irving Carter, Ali Chew, Chris Hudson, Ryan Perry, Brian Kelly

1. Apologies
None, Ryan Perry joined the meeting at 8.00pm
2. Minutes of the last meeting on 23/09/2025
These were accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting
3. Matters arising
Item 7, Guy Kiddy confirmed he had made the presentation to John Millard at the Gransden Show and Chris Impey had presented Greenmeadow Community Farm with their 25-year award
4. Survey
Completed more or less as planned. Janice Wood has been doing some work on the survey figures and found that pigs not part of the productive national herd are included which can lull us into a false sense of security. Janice has suggested that sows that are 5 years and over and not had a birth litter birth notified for a year are removed from the figures. It was agreed that the committee will ask for a meeting with grassroots to discuss this and other matters (see below)
5. Breed Reps Meeting
This is to be arranged as soon as possible but if possible after the meeting with Grassroots. One breed rep has also bought the lack of monthly reports since the new system was initiated. This will also be discussed with Grassroots when we meet with them
6. Sponsorship
The committee is still actively seeking sponsorship. The Gransden Show have agreed a donation which should come in shortly.
7. Junior Pig Club
Tracey Bretherton gave verbal report about pigs with various members.

Large Whites - Two Primrose gilts are with a farm park near Doncaster. One has been served by a Champion Turk boar, the other still to be served. The Queen sows are at The Elms School but not sure of their future as Oliver Lightfoot is leaving the school. Brymore



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School have a Royal Catalina, a Maple and an East Lass sow all served with a Danny boar. Two Beryl Sows are at Askham Bryan College which Ron Fieldhouse is going to artificially inseminate. The Fanny sow with Skyla Hudson has been a disappointment having killed her first litter and having a second litter of 5 boars. The Blackberry sow has been difficult to get into pig but is now in pig all be it with a crossbred litter.

Middle Whites – Mudchute and Nightingales Open Farms have Woodlands Lady's, Yootha and Dorothy females and Revival and Sovereign boars. Two woodlands Lady have gone to Cannon Hall Farm. The Salvation Army have Rajah boar along with Carnation, silk and Alma Rose females.

From some of the old sows saved from The Huntsham Herd Silk, Dorothy and Ladys Maid weaners are going to Ireland. Hopefully a Rajah, Revival and Sovereign will go to Deerpark for the Gene Bank.

8. Mangalitza (see emails from L Hodgson)

The committee had received 2 emails from Lisa Hodgson, the Mangalitza breed rep.
Clarification of Herdbook Reinstatement Criteria and Genetic Basis

Dear Conservation committee,

I am writing to request clarification regarding the recent decision to reinstate a Mangalitza pig into the herdbook in a case where the dam exhibited black spotting.

As set out in the peer-reviewed literature on porcine coat-colour genetics, the dominant-white phenotype in pigs is caused by structural mutations at the KIT locus, specifically gene duplication and a splice mutation, which result in loss or reduction of melanocytes and therefore white or white-patched phenotypes rather than black pigmentation (Johansson et al., 1996; Marklund et al., 1998; Wu et al., 2019).

In contrast, black pigmentation and black-spot phenotypes in pigs are associated with variation at the MC1R (Extension) locus and related pigmentation genes, which control eumelanin expression and distribution, and are genetically distinct from KIT-mediated white phenotypes (Kijas et al., 1998).

Given that black spotting reflects the presence and function of melanocytes rather than their loss, I would be grateful if you could outline the evidentiary basis upon which reinstatement was granted in this instance. Specifically, I would welcome clarification as to whether the decision relied upon documented pedigree verification, molecular genetic testing, or a formal reinterpretation of the breed standard.

My interest is solely in ensuring consistency, transparency, and scientific robustness in herdbook governance, which is essential for the long-term conservation, credibility, and genetic integrity of the Mangalitza breed.



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I would appreciate your guidance on the criteria applied in this case and how similar cases are intended to be assessed going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Hodgson

References

Johansson, M. et al. (1996). The dominant white phenotype in the pig is caused by mutations in the KIT gene.

Marklund, S. et al. (1998). Molecular basis for the dominant white phenotype in the domestic pig.

Wu, Z. et al. (2019). Whole-genome resequencing identifies structural variants at the KIT locus associated with pigmentation in pigs. *Frontiers in Genetics*.

Kijas, J.M.H. et al. (1998). MC1R mutations and coat colour variation in pigs. *Genetics*.

This sow had already been discussed during the April 2025 meeting and a vote had been taken to leave it in the herdbook. Therefore the decision for this meeting was whether or not to allow the litter to be birth notified.

There followed a discussion about this particular sow and some videos of the sow and litter were also shown. As a committee we have to follow national rules on herdbook registrations and having looked at all of the available information the committee decided the sow can remain in the herdbook and the litter be birth notified. Should any offspring from this sow be registered pictures or videos would also be required or an inspection if it was deemed necessary.

The second item brought to this meeting was DNA testing. The email below sets out Lisa Hodgson's view and is the result of an email sent to her by Guy Kiddy following a Facebook post stating that it was going to be mandatory for Mangalitza to be DNA tested which is not BPA policy.

Good Morning Guy,

I respond with disappointment and am disheartened by your email.

May I clarify to the BPA Conservation Committee that the decision was not taken by myself in the role of rep but was voted on by the members of the Mangalitza Conservation Society. The decision was made because, with reference to the identification of the possible contamination of the herdbook with cross bred pigs, it was felt that DNA testing it is the only



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way to ensure the breeding stock recorded in the herdbook is 100% pure. There are a variety of reasons why this is essential and we wish to share the reasons identified by the Mangalitza Conservation Society with the BPA Conservation Society.

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The Mangalitza breed society are involved in an International Conservation Scheme, It is part of a world wide group protecting bloodlines which have been lost in the rest of the world. As ASF and Foot and Mouth has ravaged through Europe, many lines have been lost. We are also protecting the new ones for Austria. Eventually we hope to send these lines back to Europe when it is safe to do so, but we must ensure they are pure and be able to prove this. The UK herdbook must be able to guarantee the pedigree of breeding lines in order for these lines to be considered for export.

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The Society is currently working with DR Ruth Morgan at the Large Animal Research & Imaging Facility (LARIF) and will be for the foreseeable future, assisting with finding cures for Diabetes type 2, non –alcoholic fatty liver disease and heart disease. The pigs MUST be 100% pure or it could produce false results .

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The BPA Pedigree meat scheme is extremely important to the Mangalitza society and the qualities of pedigree Mangalitza meat must never be lost due to cross breeding . The use of DNA testing will ensure the provenance of meat sold as pedigree by ensuring the dam and sire even of meat stock are pedigree.

The Society is concerned that being a imported breed that the BPA does consider the breed as an equal to traditional breeds whilst still taking the same fees but not giving the same benefits of BPA membership. I refer you back to the committee vote reasons:

“Some members felt that Mangalitza should not be our priority compared to our traditional breeds ”.

The use of DNA testing is possible within the UK. The original imports of Mangalitza pigs DNA are recorded so there is a starting point which other breeds do not have. This makes the Mangalitza herd book unique in that effect.

The Mangalitza Conservation Society wish to make a formal proposal to the BPA Conservation Society to allow DNA testing to be used as a tool to ensure pedigree for allowance of any UK Mangalitza pig into the herdbook.

It is the policy of this committee that all breeds are treated the same as well as keeping costs down for our breeders and it was therefore decided that an exception cannot be made for one breed. If some members want to DNA test their pigs that is fine, but it cannot be used as an entry criteria for the herdbook. If it was to be used as a criteria for the herdbook the protocol for registering pigs on Grassroots would need to be changed accordingly.

9. Huntsham Herd

The committee were pleased to note that this herd has now been bought as a going concern and that the new owners intend to join the BPA. The herd was included in the recent survey



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10. Any other business

Sarah bought up the breed rep reports (see item 5)

11. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 7th April 2026 at 7.30pm