Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the British Pig Association was held on Tuesday30th September 2025 at The Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EL

The meeting was held as a Hybrid attendance meeting with a mix of in person and virtual using a Zoom meeting link.

Those present were: Lord Salisbury (President), Brian Kelly (Chair) Chris Coe, Anthony Davison, Stewart Houston, Guy Kiddy, Jane Mathews, Rex Walters, Gary Wright (Trustees) together with 12 members of the Association

Lord Salisbury as President and Chair of the Meeting declared the meeting quorate and open at 11am.

The Chair presented the **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 1st November 2024.**

A Member raised an observation that the papers circulated prior to the meeting had initially included the Minutes for the 2023 AGM. The meeting was advised that this administrative error had been identified on the Monday after their initial posting on the previous Friday but within the 14 day period required. The Chair and Membership received an apology for this error but it was confirmed that this had not affected the voting.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

A Member asked if he could receive a paper copy of the AGM documents as technology wasn't always easy for older members. Another Member said paper copies were essential for her due to her declining eyesight.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was presented. He thanked the membership for its support in particular over the last few years as we have undertaken the change and cost control agenda to ensure the future viability of the organisation. He highlighted the volume of regulatory change and the health risks breeders faced from disease currently identified in mainland Europe and further afield. He thanked the outgoing board members for all their support and praised the work of the charity's volunteers. He praised Tracey Bretherton for her work with the Junior Pig Club and Maria Naylor for her work with the Show Committee. The Chair also thanked the retiring CEO for his loyalty and commitment over 26 years.

The Chairmans report was approved

Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2024

The Treasurer presented the Finance Report. She highlighted that whilst the financial results were 'horrible' with a deficit of £92,177.00 in the financial year to December 2024, this result was in line with expectations. Importantly, the financial erosion that we had seen over the last couple of years had been halted as a consequence of the cost saving initiatives that the Board had taken. Whilst the loss of certain income sources had an immediate adverse impact, cost saving measures do not take effect immediately and so it is in 2025 and 2026 that the positive benefit of these changes will be seen.

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The strong message is that it is now time to look forward not backwards as the Board is now confident the outturn in 2025, will be at worst breakeven but should be a small surplus.

This 2025 financial projection will enable the BPA to look at sponsorship and grants aimed at encouraging younger people (under 18s) at getting involved in conservation projects in 2026 and an announcement of how applications for grants could be made will be made before the end of 2025.

The treasurer also confirmed that the benefit of the rise in membership fees at the beginning of 2025 ensured that the BPA could finance its core activity without the need for additional funding or a need to draw on its investments. She further confirmed that our investments had performed well in 2025 increasing the value of the capital account.

In summary, whilst the Board understands that change is never easy, it is essential if organisations like ours are to survive and prosper, such that we can set a pathway for the ongoing survival of Pedigree Pigs. The financial leakage has been stemmed and we can look forward with renewed optimism, using the financial disciplines we have put in place, to ensure we maintain a positive position in support of our Objectives.

A member pointed out that the lack of increase in membership fees for a long time had more of an adverse impact on members than perhaps it would have done had the increase been more gradual and more frequent. As a supplement to this question, the Member asked if it was the intention to raise subscriptions in 2026.

The Treasurer acknowledged the point made and agreed that in hindsight it would have been sensible to have increased fees gradually but fortunately the Membership had been very supportive and there were very few that had not renewed and those that had not, no longer had pigs. She further confirmed that the 2025 increase had anticipated no additional increase in 2026 but we expected to propose an inflation linked increase in 2027.

The Financial Report was approved.

Appointment of Board Members

The Board Chairman confirmed that two members Rex Walters and Rachel Graham had expressed a wish to step down due to personal/family health reasons, these would be effective following this AGM. Earlier this year Ian Jones had resigned due to personal health and work issues. The Chair expressed his thanks for their Contribution to the BPA and their support during these difficult times. Co-Options have been made to the Board, which are now proposed to be formally appointed.

Appointment of Board Members. - In accordance with Article 25.9 of the British Pig Association, Memorandum and Articles of Association, there being 3 candidates for election for the 3 positions left vacant, Dawn Newman, Peter Siviter and Andrew Palmer. All 3 were deemed duly elected at this AGM, 30th September 2025.

The Treasurer advised that these appointments brought key skills to the Board, Communications, Training and Veterinary skills. These in turn would compliment the current Board skills to enhance the Board effectiveness.

Communication improvements were a key element in the way that the Board would engage with Membership going forward and significant initiatives would be developed in the coming months.

Election of the President

The Marquess of Salisbury KG KCVO PC DL was elected as President.

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Lord Salisbury thanked the members for the honour of being re-elected and was delighted to announce that he hoped to take delivery of 4 Tamworth Pigs in the Spring of 2026, which will run free in his woods, hopefully contained with electric fencing.

Lord Salisbury spoke personally of the importance of the friendship and work that the BPA does in the Conservation of these animals.

Our President emphasised how important the way we farm in the future will be and the initiatives being taken at events like Groundswell, promoting regenerative farming, which play to the type of pigs that we hold dear. He reminded us that we are the guardians of these amazing creatures and that means we have a responsibility to ensure that our organisation can continue this essential work well into the future.

Our President guided us not to rely on Government for our future, so it is critical that the BPA has a good financial basis and the work that the Board has undertaken to rebuild our reserves to enable us to survive is key. Our role is not just about preserving the past but to set a clear path for the future.

In this regard, Lord Salisbury praised the initiatives to encourage younger members to become involved in Conservation and highlighted the success of opening up his farm at Hatfield for young people from deprived areas to visit and see the animals first hand. He also welcomed the proposals to significantly improve Communication as we have acknowledged this is an area that has needed attention for some time.

A Member asked if it was the intention to continue to lobby Government and whether there may be the opportunity to broaden smaller farm visits for people as the regulations for enabling this were particularly prohibitive to small scale breeders.

Lord Salisbury advised that whilst he no longer sat in the Lords, he would continue to work with others to help the Association in any way he could and we should not forget that Marcus Bates, although now retired as CEO, continued to represent the BPA on several key committees with government.

Appointment of External Accountants for the 2024 accounts.

The Treasurer reminded the Meeting, that we had been discussing a change in our External Accountants for some time but now that we had largely completed the cost saving program and that the internal accounting package had been moved to Xero, we were in a position to make the change.

Not only would the change save fees, it would be more efficient as a direct upload from Xero could be made, it is in line with HMRC requirements of use of software and we have the benefit of access to a larger firm of qualified chartered accountants, for VAT, Gift Aid and Corporation Tax Advice,

It was confirmed that the change was Agreed and that Inspired Accountants were appointed for the 2025 accounts.

Any other Business

The President asked if there were any other matters relevant to the Agenda but prior to taking items from the attendees, wished to read out a short letter from John Millard, who had been made an Honorary Life Member. Many know John and his tireless work for the BPA over the years.

After this there had been two questions from attendees submitted in accordance with the timetable for the

meeting.

Firstly from Chris Hudson, who had asked that in response to ‘What does the BPA do for members’ asked repeatedly over a number of years, he had been told that ‘There is a tremendous amount of work that goes on behind the scenes’

The Treasurer, addressed the question and agreed that we have been poor in ensuring Members understand this critical work done on behalf of members. Newly appointed director, Dawn Newman is a Comms specialist and the Board is committed to ensuring a significant change in the way we present information to Members.

The second question was a joint enquiry from Tracey Bretherton and Ron Fieldhouse, asking if the BPA could provide helpful information on issues like Pop Up shops.

Again, the Treasurer addressed the question and agreed this was a very sensible request. Andrew Palmer, who has joined the Board will be leading some of the educational initiatives with Dawn supporting from a Comms perspective, so we will feed this suggestion into them to take forward.

There were two Members from the attendees raising matters:

Sally Lugg advised that she submitted details of advice from her solicitor as she wanted to point out that this advice was critical of our Governance. The details which were sent to the BPA Chair and Treasurer on the Saturday evening prior to the AGM, had not been advised to the AGM Chair ahead of the meeting but regardless, as this was not the first time Mrs Lugg had raised eleventh hour matters, the BPA would be addressing the issues raised with its Solicitor and a formal response issued.

Chris Impey raised two points, firstly that the Board should not forget the Breeders who display their pigs, which was noted and secondly he queried in the accounts the related party who had received a payment from the BPA. The Treasurer reminded him that this was Deer Park, in relation to the Genetic program and genebank, which had always been declared under the Directors Conflict register approved for several years by the Board.

That being the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting Agenda, The President declared the meeting closed.

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