

MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE

Date	Friday 4th September 2026
Time	10.00am
Venue	Online via Zoom
Members present	43
Apologies	32

The Chair, Simon Britton FASAg welcomed members and confirmed that notice was duly given that the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Members of the Society of Agriculture, registered charity in England and Wales no. 1212403, would take place via Zoom starting at 10am on 4th September 2026

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from the following 32 members:

John Alvis OBE FSAg	John Haggarty MSAG
Ian Bailey MSAG	Jill Hewitt FPSAG
Sarah Bolt MSAG	Simon Hickling FSAg
Alexander Carson-Taylor FPSAG CEnv	Anthony Hyde FSAg
George Cook FASAg	Professor Wynne Jones FSAg
Thomas Craddock MSAG	Mark Kingston PSAG
Peter Danks FSAg	David Meredith FASAg
James Dunn FASAg	James Miles-Hobbs FASAg CEnv
Elizabeth Elgie MSAG	Neil Owen FASAg
Justin Ellis PSAG	Mark Robins FPSAG
Ruth Farrell FASAg	Alan Spedding FSAg
Henrietta Farrugia SSAG	Rt Hon. Lord John Taylor FSAg
Susie Felix MSAG	Martin Waite ASAG
Richard Fuller MSAG	Simon Ward FASAg
Nick Green FPSAG CEnv	Rob Wilkinson FSAg
Emma-May Gwilt MSAG	

2. First Annual General Meeting

The meeting noted that this was the first Annual General Meeting of the Society of Agriculture since its formal registration as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 5th March 2025.

3. Annual Return and Trustees' Annual Report (Appendix A)

It was noted that the Annual Return and Trustees' Annual Report had been made available on the Society's website. The Annual Return and Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2025 were received. No questions were raised.

4. Independent Examiner

It was resolved to appoint James Cowper Kreston as Independent Examiner. This was agreed unanimously.

5. Rules of the Society of Agriculture

It was noted that the Rules had been made available on the Society's website. It was resolved to adopt the Rules of the Society of Agriculture. This was agreed unanimously.

6. Election of President

The Rt Hon. Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE was elected President. Proposed by Mark Suthern FPSAg and seconded by Richard Price FPSAg CEnv. All were in favour.

7. Election of Chair of Council

Simon Britton FASAg was elected Chair of Council. Proposed by Andrew Brown JP FPSAg CEnv and seconded by Mark Suthern FPSAg. All were in favour.

8. Election of Vice-Chair of Council

Mark Suthern FPSAg was elected Vice-Chair of Council. Proposed by Richard Price FPSAg CEnv and seconded by Tim Brigstocke MBE FPSAg CEnv. All were in favour.

9. Election of Treasurer

Tom Brunt FPSAg was elected Treasurer. Proposed by Kate Russell ASAg CEnv and seconded by Andrew Dyke.

10. Election of members of Council

On the proposal of the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, the following nominees were elected en bloc:

Tim Brigstocke MBE FPSAg CEnv
Simon Haley FASAg
David Meredith FASAg
Kate Russell ASAg CEnv

Andrew Brown JP FPSAg CEnv
Wendy Jenkins FASAg
Richard Price FPSAg CEnv
Ian Smith FSAg

John Giles FSAg was not included in the election because he had not confirmed his willingness to stand, possibly due to being away on holiday. Victoria Bywater confirmed that, subject to his agreement, he may instead be appointed to Council by co-option at the next Council meeting.

11. Any Other Business

Richard Price FPSAg CEnv thanked Simon Britton FASAg for his work. Simon Britton thanked Victoria Bywater FSAg for ensuring a smooth transition and for her ongoing work.

The meeting closed at 10.08am.

Appendix A1 - Annual Return 2025

 CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES	Charity Name Society of Agriculture		No (if any) 1212403	CC16a
	Receipts and payments accounts			
For the period from	Period start date 05.03.2025	To	Period end date 31.12.2025	

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
	4,930	-	-	4,930	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	4,930	-	-	4,930	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,930	-	-	4,930	-
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	4,930	-	-	4,930	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	4,930	-	-	4,930	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Donations - deferred	4,930	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,930	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	
		Tom Brunt	14.07.26	
		Simon Britton	14.07.26	



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date				Period end date			
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	05	03	2025		31	12	2025

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Postcode

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Richard Anthony Price	Trustee	05.03.25 – 31.12.25	Society of Agriculture
2	David Meredith	Trustee	05.03.25 - 31.12.25	Society of Agriculture
3	Wendy Jenkins	Trustee	05.03.25 - 31.12.25	Society of Agriculture
4	Simon Britton	Chair	05.03.25 - 31.12.25	Society of Agriculture
5	Mark Andrew Everett Suthern	Trustee	05.03.25 - 31.12.25	Society of Agriculture
6	Thomas Anthony Louis Brunt	Treasurer	05.03.25 - 31.12.25	Society of Agriculture
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Victoria Bywater

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

Elected by members

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

All current policies and rules are published on the Society's website:

<https://soc-ag.org/about-us/governance/>

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The charitable purposes of the CIO are to advance the education of the public in the subject of Agricultural Management and Operation by such charitable means as the trustees in their discretion think fit, particularly but not exclusively by:

- (a) Maintaining and improving the standards and practice of Agricultural Management and Operation;
- (b) Promoting all aspects of Agricultural Management and Operation, especially in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
- (c) Encouraging the study of Agricultural Management and Operation;

“Agricultural Management and Operation” includes but is not limited to all aspects of the science, production, conservation, amenity, economics and art of managing, marketing, consulting about and otherwise supporting the management and operation of agriculture and related rural businesses, their products and services.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity’s aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

During the accounting period, the Charity was in its planning and establishment phase and had not yet commenced its full programme of activities. The Trustees’ work during the period focused on preparing the Charity for launch on the 1st of January 2026, including developing its membership structure, governance arrangements, planned activities and future programme of member and sector engagement.

The Trustees consider that the Charity’s planned activities will further its charitable purposes and provide public benefit by supporting the advancement of agricultural knowledge, professional standards and education across the agricultural sector.

Following launch, the Charity intends to deliver public benefit through activities including:

- structured levels of membership;
- representation of members at consultations, on national committees and in sector discussions;
- professional development and leadership training;
- organisation of national conferences;
- activities for students and early-career professionals;
- online continuing professional development opportunities;
- networking events; and
- support for local group networks.

These planned activities are intended to strengthen professional standards, promote knowledge exchange, encourage career development and support informed discussion on matters affecting agriculture and land-based industries. The Trustees are satisfied that the planning undertaken during the period was consistent with the Charity’s purposes and was directed towards delivering public benefit following launch.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

During the accounting period, the Charity was in its planning and establishment phase and had not yet commenced its operational activities. Accordingly, there were no charitable activities delivered, and no operational achievements to report for the period.

The Trustees' work during the year focused on preparing the Charity for launch on the 1st of January, including establishing the necessary governance, planning and administrative arrangements to enable the Charity to begin delivering its charitable objectives after the period end.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trustees have adopted a Financial Reserves Policy to support the effective financial management of the Charity once operational. The purpose of the policy is to ensure that the Charity holds appropriate reserves to manage financial risk, meet future commitments and support the delivery of its charitable objectives.

During the accounting period, the Charity was in its planning and establishment phase and had not yet commenced operational activities. As a result, the Charity had not yet built up an operating reserve during the period.

Following launch, the Trustees will keep the level of reserves under regular review, taking into account the Charity's expected income, expenditure, grant-making activity, future commitments and overall financial risk. The Trustees will seek to maintain reserves at a level considered appropriate to support the Charity's ongoing financial stability and the delivery of its charitable purposes.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Section F

Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Simon Britton	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	14.07.26	