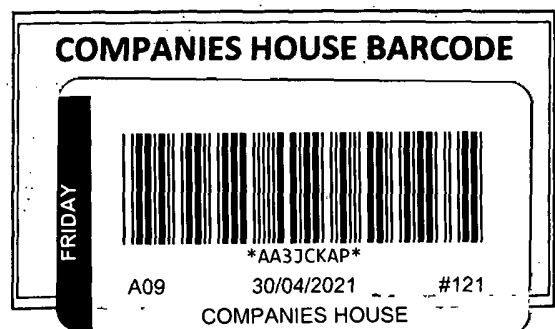


# SEPARATOR SHEET



## **DEVON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION**

A Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No. 1927330

Registered charity No. 292897

**MINUTES** of the 145<sup>th</sup> **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** held in the Westpoint Conference Centre, Westpoint, Exeter, Devon on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 11.05am.

**PRESENT:** HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO (President), Mr Edward Darke (President Elect), Mrs Mary Quicke MBE FRAGS (Chairman of Council), Mr R L Maunder (Association Secretary), Mr M S G Nightingale (Minute Taker) and 120 members as per the Attendance Register.

### **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

Before starting the business of the Annual General Meeting the Chairman of Council Mrs Mary Quicke called upon the Honorary Treasurer to explain the background to a resolution (notice having been given) to change Article 66 of the Memorandum and Articles of Association which would allow greater flexibility in setting the date of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The current articles require that the AGM is held and the accounts of the previous year approved within four months of the end of the financial year. This four month period was entirely workable in the past. However, with the County Show growing and with the complexities of its subsidiary, Westpoint Centre (Devon) Limited, which trades throughout the year, the Board of Management had found it increasingly difficult to work within this tight deadline. It was therefore proposed to change the Articles such that a period of up to five months is allowed from the financial year end to the AGM. The motion having been proposed by Mr Lindsay-Fynn was seconded by Mrs Francis Canning with all in favour.

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The President of the Devon County Agricultural Association, The Countess of Wessex called the meeting to order.

1. **APOLOGIES** were received from 56 members as per the Attendance Register and from Rt Revd Nick McKinnel, Bishop of Plymouth (Deputy President) who was unable to attend due to illness.
2. **MINUTES of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017** (as printed in the circulated Notice of Annual General Meeting). Mr Geoff Bush proposed adoption of the Minutes. This was seconded by Mr Albert Cook and unanimously approved.
3. **To Receive the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activity, Balance Sheet and Auditor's Report for the past year:**  
The Honorary Treasurer was delighted to confirm that the charitable group had achieved a surplus for the year of £78,388. He then explained some detailed features of the accounts noting that income from "Charitable activities" represented the turnover of the County Show which had increased to approximately £1,277,000 as opposed to £1,229,000 in the previous year. "Other trading activities" comprised exhibition and other event income from our trading subsidiary Westpoint Centre (Devon) Ltd and showed a satisfactory increase from £992,000 in 2016 to £1,028,000 in 2017. "Investment" income was rental income from our tenants which had again increased from £68,500 to £80,500.

Turning to the detail of the Show he noted that gate receipts had recovered somewhat to £420,000 as opposed to £395,000 the year before, with advance sales continuing to increase as opposed to "on the day" purchases. Stand fees had fallen slightly to £408,000 as opposed to £412,000. Sponsorship income had continued to increase and other heads of income were in line with the previous years.

As concerns Westpoint the contribution it made to the Association had increased from £492,000 to £549,000, which he regarded as a reasonable outcome in difficult trading circumstances.

The Treasurer noted that a few years ago the DCAA had to approach the bank for an additional facility following the cancelled Show. He was pleased to announce that it had now repaid that advance and all other borrowings (other than the project finance for the solar PV panels on the Hall roof). Our cash position should continue to improve provided new capital expenditure continued to be held to a level below our historic depreciation charge with Westpoint providing some stability to offset the more erratic performance of the Show which depended so heavily on the weather.

Adoption of the report was proposed by Mr Lindsay-Fynn and seconded by Sir Henry Studholme with all in favour.

4. **To Receive the Annual Reports:** The President proposed the adoption of the reports contained on pages 3–33 of the Annual Report section of the 2017 edition of the DCAA magazine. This was seconded by Mrs Heleen Lindsay-Fynn.
5. **To Welcome the President for the ensuing year:** HRH The Countess of Wessex welcomed Mr Edward Darke as President for this year, having been proposed and seconded as President Elect at last year's AGM. The Countess noted that Mr Darke was very well known to all present and recalled his long involvement as a steward with the County Show, as an exhibitor at this and other shows and his long-standing interest in agricultural matters. Mr Darke's fund of knowledge had made him an excellent guide. In response Mr Darke thanked the Countess for her kind words and made special mention of the livestock section which had worked so hard to make the Show what it is today. He also thanked the Countess for being our first royal president to attend the Stockmans Supper which had proved to be a memorable evening.
6. **To Extend a Vote of Thanks to the Retiring President and to the Deputy President:** The Chairman of Council asked Mr John Lee to propose a vote of thanks to the President. Mr Lee thanked the Countess for having travelled to the meeting through such poor weather and noted her great commitment to the Show in being our first royal president not only to attend two annual general meetings and two Show days and the Stockmans Supper but also made a further visit to Agrifest in November. In seconding the proposal Mrs Sarah Hammett endorsed Mr Lee's words and thanked the Countess for her obvious enthusiasm for the Show and also her involvement in the "way forward" group and her continuing interest in agricultural matters through the ASAO. In response the Countess recalled a few key moments from her varied experience at the Show including operating a digger simulator and the impressive display of poppies. Having enjoyed spending part of her youth in Devon she had particularly enjoyed her involvement with the Show and looked back on it with fond memories. The Chairman then invited Sir Ian Amory to propose a vote of thanks to the Rt Revd Nick McKinnel and this was seconded by Mrs Deborah Custance Baker. The Association Secretary read a letter from Bishop Nick in which he said he was truly sorry not to be able to attend, but that it had been a great privilege to stand in for the Countess of Wessex when necessary, and that with his wife Jan had very much enjoyed all the friendship and support from the Association during the year.
7. **To Elect the President Elect for the ensuing year:**  
The President proposed Sir Henry Studholme Bt, DL as President Elect for 2018 and President for 2019 and invited Mr Maurice Retallick to second the proposal. Mr Retallick said that it was a privilege to second knowing how respected Sir Harry was in forestry circles with his own estate showcasing his expertise. Over the years Sir Harry had also been involved in many local development organisations as well as chairing the Forestry Commission. Having been proposed and seconded all were in favour of the nomination. In response Sir Harry recalled memories of early trips to the old Whipton showground with his father who was a past President. Noting that

agriculture was at present in a time of great change he felt it especially important to maintain the link between the public and the wider agricultural community that the Show fostered.

8. **To elect members to serve on the Council of the Association:**

The following members, retiring by rotation, were eligible for re-election:

Mr L Banfield  
Mr P J Broom  
Mr G Cheriton  
Mr P Coates  
Mr R W B Coley  
The Hon Mrs M E J d'Erlanger DL  
Mr H G Dart  
Mr WJ Daw  
Sir Simon Day  
Mr B Drake  
Mr P Dunning MBE  
Mrs J M Flinn  
Mrs V F Gundry  
Mr T L Hammett  
Mr R R B Harvey  
Mr J A T Hodge

Mr M W Huxtable  
Mr P J Kingdon  
Mr T K Larcombe  
Mr C C Morgan  
Mr P Owen-Pawson  
Mr I Parish  
Mr D Perriment  
Mr AH Richards  
Mr D A Scoble  
Mr J P Short  
Mr B T Stamp  
Brigadier R S Tailyour  
Mr G H Tully  
Mr W A Uglow  
Mr M J Weekes  
Mr P Wolfgang

In addition the following member had been co-opted during the year:  
Mrs Claire Heaven-Roberts, Mr Charlie Wreford-Brown and Mr Jerry Alford.

The following members had also been proposed for membership of Council:  
Mr Jon Williams, nominated by Mr John Lee OBE FRAGS.  
Mrs Jill Persey, nominated by Mr Tom Hammett.

The President sought a proposal for the re-election of the members retiring by rotation, those co-opted during the year and the members now put before this meeting. The proposal was made by Mr Mark Weekes and seconded by Mr Jeremy Robinson with all in favour.

9. **To Consider a Resolution that Bishop Fleming be and are hereby appointed auditors of the Company to hold office from the conclusion of this meeting until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company at a remuneration to be fixed by Council:** Mrs Judith Penny proposed the appointment of Bishop Fleming which was seconded by Mr Henry Parkin and unanimously approved.

10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** The President reminded the meeting of the importance of promoting the Show by erecting roadside correx posters and the Countess encouraged anyone who had not returned the required slip to do so. She also advised that application forms for the various DCAA Awards and for membership would be available at the end of the meeting.

The Countess then handed the President's chain of office to Mr Edward Darke.  
There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12.30 pm.

Signed:



Date:

14<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

SECRETARY