

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY ("Company")

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held at The Royal Agricultural University, Stroud Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire held on 16th February 2022 at 3:00pm

PRESENT:		
Chair	Dame Fiona Reynolds	
Members	Kim Frost	
	Neil Scott	Online
	Bob Branson	Online
	Catherine MacKenzie	Online
	Phillip Hudson	Online (joined at 4:00pm)
	Professor Peter McCaffery	
	Earl Bathurst	
	Teresa Wickham	
	Simon Pott	
	Sir Henry Elwes	
	Alison Bernays	
	Anthony Colburn	
	Professor Christopher Gaskell	
	Jeremy Lewis	
	Sarah Mackay	Online
	David Morris	
Apologies	Stephen Burman	
	Robert Lawton	
	Professor David Leaver	
	Philip Moody	
	Karen Morgan	
	Joshua Stratton	
	Sue Steer	
In Attendance	Graham Pollard	
	Simon Costa	

	Professor Mark Horton	
	Professor Neil Ravenscroft	
	Lorraine Thomas	
	Deborah Robinson	
	Loren Booker	
	Rachel Putley	

1. PRELIMINARIES AND WELCOME

A quorum being present, the Chair declared the meeting open.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for attending the first face to face meeting for two years. The Chair welcomed those who had joined online.

The Chair and Teresa Wickham gave a tribute to Brian Hilton, Shareholder, who had died in December 2021 and acknowledged his significant contribution to the RAU.

2. MINUTES OF 2021 MEETINGS

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 31 March 2021 and the minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 28 July 2021.

3. RAU OUTLOOK

As it was her first Annual General Meeting as Chair, the Chair shared with the Shareholders her prior experience and links to the land-based sector. She expressed her honour in her appointment as Chair of Governing Council at the RAU.

The Chair confirmed the new Deputy Chair of Governing Council as Kim Frost, and welcomed Professor Peter McCaffery, who had been appointed as Vice-Chancellor for a term of office expiring in August 2024.

The Chair gave an overview of the key issues that must be addressed by the RAU and then introduced the Vice Chancellor who presented his thoughts to Shareholders on the RAU 2025 Strategy Review.

The Chair asked for Shareholders' thoughts and ideas on the RAU 2025 Strategy Review and opened the topic for discussion by Shareholders. Issues raised included the need to promote the RAU more actively, the challenges of achieving growth in student numbers, and the Shareholders' willingness to help the RAU.

3. GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The Chair confirmed the appointment to Governing Council of six new Independent Governors, who would bring a wide range of knowledge and experience to the RAU. Their first Governing Council Meeting would be on 23 February 2022, following their appointment by Governing Council in January 2022.

IT WAS NOTED that Hugh Baker, Wilfred Emmanuel-Jones, Joy Lo Dico, Jason Makepeace, David Morgan and Sue Pritchard had been appointed as members of the Governing Council and directors of the Company.

The Chair noted the Student Governor had recently resigned and that position was currently vacant. The Governing Council hoped to be in a position to fill the vacancy in the near future.

The Chair expressed her thanks and gratitude to those Governors who had recently stepped down, including Alison Bernays, Jonathan Kydd, Julie Robinson and Zac Missen.

4. REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

The Governors' report and the accounts of the Company for the financial year ended 31 July 2021, and the auditors' report on them, were laid before the meeting and, with the consent of the meeting, taken as read.

The University Treasurer and the Finance Director gave a presentation on the financial results for 2020-21, the outlook for the current financial year and draft 5 year plan, and responded to questions from the Shareholders. The Shareholders were pleased to see a more confident financial outlook, though challenges remained.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was a discussion about a number of other issues, including current research opportunities, the Diversity Commission, the Geoffrey Craighill Trust and plans for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the RAU.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked all for coming and invited everyone to stay tea, cakes and informal discussion.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm.

.....CHAIR