ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Minutes 5th March 2024

The aims and objectives of The Goosnargh & Longridge Agricultural Show Society are the promotion and general advancement of the science of agriculture and horticulture in their widest sense.

Tuesday 5th March 2024

**Present:** John Harrison, Dave Holden, Jon Hesketh, Gill & Dave Dickens, Jean Hill, Sir Peter Openshaw , Anthony Cowell, Vicki Hardacre, Nicola McClenaghan, Cannon Doyle, Colin Gornall, Edward Forshaw, Nick Eccles, Christine Richards, David Howarth, James Cowell, Graham Kelsall, Claire Eccles

**Apologies for Absence:** Jim Rogerson, Miranda Radforth, Sandra & Pippa, John Coar, John McClenaghan, Dan Rowland

Claire Eccles welcomed us all to the 2024 AGM.

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record at the AGM meeting on Tuesday 28th February 2023.

Approved by Nicola McClenaghan and seconded by Colin Gornall.

**Matters Arising:** None

**President Report:**

The Show continues to flourish because of the hard work, vision and enthusiasm of its officers and committee, who give generously of their time and skills, to arrange and manage it. Last year’s Show seemed to me to be a great success. The Show has bounced back from the lockdown years. You have, as it seems to me, managed successfully to change the focus of the Show from a gathering of local farmers to show off their stock and produce to a place in which local people, many of whom do not now have a background in agriculture, can come to enjoy themselves and to see and learn something of life in the modern countryside. Until the monsoon broke in the late afternoon, the weather was kind, attracting large crowds, who spent a good deal of money with local businesses and producers, visiting the many and varied stands, and watching the displays, in the process, learning a good deal of the successes of the agricultural community, and those who serve it, but also some understanding of the pressures and challenges which they now face.

I was delighted and proud to serve as your President, as had my father and grandfather before me. I wish you well for the future, and if there is anything further that I can do for you, I would be delighted to help.

**Trustee Report:**

Cannon Doyle thanked our 2023 President for his kind words, and it was great to see someone from outside view and him notice what we achieve as a team of volunteers.

Thanked the whole committee for all their hard work, and all the volunteers during the run up to show day.

**Chairman's Report**

I would like to begin by thanking everyone sat around this table and those who have sent their apologies for all their support, their hard work, their time and the effort they put in that made last year’s show both possible and a success. It was another great show and I believe we have further established ourselves with the ever-growing population of Longridge. We received a lot of good feedback on the day and from people after which is a testament to all our hard work. I would like to say thank you to Sir Peter for being our President and for your kind words, you will always be welcome here and to any event we hold.

We have done a lot over the last few years to secure the show’s future including improving the pavilion and purchasing what is known as the dog field and I know we have many more improvement ideas for when funding allows. Another great asset we have is the people who are involved. We have a great committee and a growing number of loyal supporters who are always there to help on show day be it setting up, cleaning, serving in hospitality, counting money, standing on a gate and so on. Without this help we couldn’t do it.

We are, however, losing 3 of our members this year. Sandra and Pippa are moving away from Longridge and it is definitely too big of a distance to commute. They are unable to be with us tonight, but I would like to thank them both for all they have done for the show in running the Junior section and the community section and all the extra help and support they have provided over the many years they have been involved. I wish them all the best for the future. Leo has also stepped down from running the website, he has done a fabulous job over the last 20 years that he has been involved with the show, dragging us into a digital age and even running an online show. I would like to thank him for all his hard work and years of service.

So now we must start looking to the next show. We hope to have new people on board to help with the baking and craft section as well as someone to take over running the junior section and our new partnership with big hits digital media for our new website. I do feel that bringing new people in must be a focus for this year. To ensure the shows future we need to encourage more younger members and those who may not be younger but may have found themselves with more time on their hands that can help take the show further forward. We struggle a little on the smaller fundraisers and as the show grows so does the preparation and management. And fundraising is essential if we are going to realise some of our other dreams like a new storage building and improved toilet facilities. How do we do this? Well, that is for another committee meeting.

So once again thanks to everyone who made 2023 a great year and I look forward to 2024.

**Treasurer Report:** Christine Richards went through the accounts. All committee members should have seen a copy of the accounts.

Approved by Claire Eccles and seconded by Graham Kelsall.

**Election of Honorary Officers**:

Solicitor: Angela Bartley of 888 Law

Proposed Graham Kelsall Seconded by Jon Hesketh

Auditor: McDade Roberts

Proposed Anthony Cowell Seconded Graham Kelsall

Veterinary Surgeon – Oakhill Veterinary Centre & Longridge Vets

Proposed Claire Eccles Seconded John Harrison

**Election of officers**

The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary will all carry on next year on bloc.

Claire proposed that Nicky McClenaghan carry on as Vice Chairman and it was all agreed by the committee. Graham Kelsall Seconded

**Election of committee members:**

John & Nicola McClenaghan are happy to continue on the committee.

**Election of Trustee:**

All trustees were prepared to re-stand and no other nominations were received.

**Members proposed resolutions.**

None

**Any other Business:**

The Field was purchased in 2023, Graham Kelsall wanted to mention and a big thank you to the lenders through loans and donations who helped purchase.

Leo Redpath was proposed by Antony Cowell for a life membership and seconded by Claire Eccles. Graham Kelsall proposed Sandra and Pippa Davies for Life membership Claire Eccles seconded.

Glynn Davis was not available for President, Jim Rogerson will be our 2024 President.

Meeting Closed at 8.53pm

Next AGM February 2025 at 8pm in the Caton Rooms.