

Suffolk Horse Society
AGM Meeting
Trinity Park, Felixstowe Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP3 8UH
on Saturday April 25th 2026 at 2.00pm

MINUTES

Present

Cherry Grover	Gail Sprake	C Thompson	Sam Maloy
Jayne Groom	George Pratt	Alan Hawes	Ben Ryder Davies
Paul Smith	Peter Bundock	Christine Oakley	Mary Ryder Davies
Sophie Keene	Grace Cowley	Nigel Oakley	Danielle Lawrence
Susan Wager	Chris Spalding	Analisa Elia	Libby Archer
Tegan McKim	Rose Spalding	Gill Evans	Bruce Smith
Bruce Langley McKim	Fiona Clark	Keith Twyman	Jeff Hallett
Bill Smith	Matthew Bundock	Andy White	M Hallett
Andrea Hoskins	Pauline Hayter	John Fleming	Margaret Paul
Neil Syrett	Dennis Hayter	Fiona Fleming	Amanda Hillier
Wendy Kinsley	Nina Dunnett	Richard Dunnett	Harry Ziman
Peter Crockford	AL Thompson	Clare Euston	Sophie Bartram
Hazel Chapman	Claire Bartram	K Timmins	Belinda Rudderham
Liz Pardey			

MINUTES	
	<p>The meeting was opened at 2pm by Jayne Groom (JG) Retiring President. She welcomed those present and declared the meeting quorate and correctly constituted. She noted that due to an accident on the A14 some members had notified that they would be delayed.</p> <p>Mrs Gail Sprake (GS), Company Secretary, explained and clarified the voting procedure for the AGM.</p>
1	<p>Apologies for Absence These were received from: Adrian Hoskins Andrew Wager Karen Wager Jonathan Purse Susan Pennell Daniel Oakley Heather and Leona Fleming Frank and Christine Kinge Tom and Sandy Walne John Latham Robert Pritchett Karen White Mark Donsworth Julie Turner Tony Alston Jane Midwood</p> <p>Sue Wager (SW) Chairman read out a list of members and friends who had died since the last AGM.</p> <p>Mr Rod Blackmore Mr A Bull Mr RA Clarke BVMS MRCVS Ms Karina J Cox Mr Robert Davey Mr Nicholas Longe Mr AJ Martin Mr Paul Rackham Lord Kenneth Goudy Mr Brian Buckenham Ms Wynne McNay Ms Valerie Bone</p> <p>A minute's silence was held as a mark of respect to those we have lost.</p>
2	<p>To receive and adopt the Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting held on 26th April 2025 The minutes had been previously posted on the Suffolk Horse Society website and sent to any member who has requested a copy.</p>

	<p>NS proposed that the minutes were taken as read and they are received and approved as a true and accurate record. Fiona Fleming seconded.</p> <p>Voting in the room and Proxy votes totalled: For = 111 Against = 0 Abstained = 3 The minutes were approved</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>To receive the Chairman’s Report for 2025 Sue Wager read the Chairman’s report for 2025 Ladies and gentlemen, members, friends and supporters, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the 138th Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Horse Society and to present my Chairman’s Report. At last year’s AGM here at Trinity Park, the membership elected five new trustees to Council: Fiona Fleming, Pauline Hayter, Julie Turner, Matthew Buncock and Bruce Smith. We also welcomed the re-election of Alan Hawes as Treasurer. Members voted Mrs Christine Oakley as President Elect for 2025, and today she succeeds Mrs Jayne Groom, who retires from the role during this meeting. In July, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held at the request of 25 members, proposing a change to the Articles of Association to limit trustees to two consecutive terms, before taking a break of one year. This resolution was defeated. The Society remains deeply grateful to the Horse Betting Levy Board for their continued and generous support of our breeding grants. We must also thank every kind and generous donations from our members, friends and the general public received into the office. In 2024, the Society received a substantial legacy, ring-fenced for a Genomic Project in conjunction with Nottingham Trent University. By analysing genetic samples from Suffolk horses, we hope to identify rare bloodlines and strengthen the breed’s gene pool. My sincere thanks go to all members who have already submitted hair samples. The success of this project depends on a wide and representative range of samples, and we encourage any owners who have not yet taken part to do so. Sample kits are available here today. I would also like to thank every member involved in breeding this past year—stallion owners, mare owners, and those who have welcomed new foals. Your work is vital to the preservation of the Suffolk horse. Foal numbers remain stable. In 2025 we were notified of 46 pure-bred foals—22 colts and 24 fillies—and four AA foals, two colts and two fillies. We were also delighted by the safe arrival of a colt foal bred from imported Australian semen, who we hope will progress through the Society’s colt project and become a future stallion. This year, 12 foals have already been reported. Three additional stallions were successfully collected from, adding to our semen bank. We are extremely grateful to the owners who made their stallions available for this important work. In 2025, three colts were licensed: Vumba Grand Slam, Edgehill Ernie and Edgehill Fynn. Our thanks go to inspectors Mr Matthew Bundock and Mr Peter Crockford. Earlier this month, two more colts from the Society’s colt project—Colony Kingsguard and Stour Valley Samuel—were licensed and added to the stallion list. We applaud all members who spend countless weekends showing, driving, riding and demonstrating their Suffolks. Your dedication promotes the breed and inspires new owners. The 2025 show season began in May with the Woodbridge Horse Show, our breed show. Two new shows—the Great Yorkshire Show and the Halifax Show—were added to our affiliated list, bringing the total to 14. The Society van travelled north to support these new additions. Unfortunately, heavy rain forced the cancellation of the Framlingham Horse Show in July. For 2026, two further shows have been awarded affiliation: the Emney Show and the Whiterose County Show, bringing the total to 16. Woodbridge once again held a Horse of the Year Show (HOYS) qualifier, and we were thrilled to see three Suffolk horses qualify and compete at HOYS in October:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euston Dazzling Countess, exhibited by Paul Hotson for Euston Farms • Tinglestone Cyclone James, exhibited by Katy Barr for HRH The Princess Royal • Lockspit Robert, exhibited by Paul Smith and Sophie Keene <p>It is wonderful to see our breed represented on such a prestigious stage, and all involved deserve warm congratulations. The season concluded with our own Suffolk Spectacular, a two-day event hosting the Foal and Youngstock Show for the second year at Jimmy’s Farm. With qualifiers from across the country, the ring was filled with Suffolks—a truly magnificent sight. Championship results were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supreme Champion: Colony Eli, bred and exhibited by the Suffolk Punch Trust • Champion Foal: Eyke Melody, bred and shown by John and Fiona Fleming • Champion Yearling: Stour Valley Samuel, bred and shown by George Pratt <p>My thanks go to all owners, stewards, judges and volunteers who made the weekend such a success. Another highlight was the annual Ploughing Match at Bucklesham, held with the Eastern Counties Heavy Horse Association. Four pairs and four single horses worked the plots, and we thank the Ramsey family for their hospitality and Mr Nigel Oakley for judging. The Young Handlers Championship Final took place in October, kindly sponsored and hosted by Cambridge Assisted Learning, with Mr Decca Murfitt judging. Standards were exceptionally high, and the winner was Miss Grace Cowley. Congratulations to all our young handlers—the future of our breed. The President, Mrs Jayne Groom, hosted a very enjoyable Annual Awards Dinner at Bury St Edmunds Golf Club. Thank you to everyone who donated auction and raffle prizes, and congratulations to all award recipients. On behalf of the Society, I extend heartfelt thanks to Mrs Jayne Groom as she retires as President. Jayne has been tireless—attending Council and committee meetings, chairing the Marketing Committee, supporting the Society stand, leading a successful show team, and providing refreshments at countless events, including today. Jayne, thank you for your dedication.</p>

	<p>It has been an honour to serve as your Chairman for the past three years. The role is rewarding, but not without its challenges. I am grateful to the trustees who have supported me throughout my term.</p> <p>At times, tensions arise between passionate individuals who all care deeply about the Suffolk horse. I sincerely hope that, moving forward, trustees will work together constructively. Division does not serve the Council, nor the future of the breed. I must also thank our exceptional office team—Belinda and Liz—who work tirelessly to keep the Society running smoothly and support our members.</p> <p>However, I am disappointed to report instances of rude or aggressive phone calls and inappropriate emails directed at them. This behaviour is unacceptable. I ask all members to treat our staff and representatives with the respect and courtesy they deserve.</p> <p>To end on a positive note, I want to thank every member who is preserving, protecting and promoting this iconic Suffolk breed. Your commitment is the foundation of everything we do.</p> <p>I hope that in some small way I have contributed to the continued survival of this precious horse. I offer my full support and best wishes to the new chairman.</p> <p>And finally, my sincere thanks to all of you.</p>
4	<p>To receive and adopt the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.</p> <p>Jayne Groom said these have been reviewed by the Independent Accountants. These were correctly posted on the Society website and sent to any member who had requested a paper copy.</p> <p>Alan Hawes (Treasurer) (AJH) presented the Annual Report.</p> <p>AJH summarised the accounts. He noted that income has reduced from the previous year. Investments have been volatile in 2025.</p> <p>AJH proposed that the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 be taken as read and that they be received.</p> <p>Seconded: Chris Spalding (CS)</p> <p>Voting in the room and Proxy votes totalled:</p> <p>For = 111 Against = 3 Abstained = 2</p> <p>Annual Report and Accounts were adopted.</p>
5	<p>To appoint Accountants for 2026</p> <p>Jayne Groom: The Council recommend that Ensors are appointed as the accountants for Suffolk Horse Society, to act as such until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. JG asked for a proposer and seconder.</p> <p>Proposed: Alan Hawes</p> <p>Seconded: George Pratt</p> <p>Voting in the room and proxy votes = 107</p> <p>Votes against = 3</p> <p>Abstentions = 5</p> <p>Ensors were appointed as accountants for 2026.</p>
6	<p>To elect the President for 2025/2026 (Mrs Christine Oakley)</p> <p>Jayne Groom confirmed that Mrs Christine Oakley has accepted the invitation to serve as Suffolk Horse Society President for 2026/2027.</p> <p>This was proposed by Bruce McKim</p> <p>Seconded by Peter Crockford</p> <p>Voting in the room and proxy votes = 114</p> <p>Votes against = 0</p> <p>Abstentions = 4</p> <p>Christine Oakley was duly elected as President of the Suffolk Horse Society for 2026/27.</p> <p>Christine Oakley was delayed in traffic. On arrival the Chain of Office was handed over. Jayne Groom said a few words as the retiring President.</p> <p><i>“Well here we are. A year ago when I became President, I did not know what the year had in store. It seems to have gone so quickly. All in all I have enjoyed it, although I did not like the turbulence that the EGM caused. I attended as many shows and functions as I could. Some of the highlights included the great privilege of meeting the outgoing and incoming President of the Great Yorkshire Show and for my horse to take them around the ring at the closing ceremony. I tried to make the Annual Awards Dinner a bit different last year, by having some entertainment, which I hope went down well! We also held the Spectacular and Foal and Youngstock show at Jimmy’s Farm again. And now we are heading for the new show season. I would like to thank all the Trustees for their help and support throughout this last year. Also thank you to Sue Wager for her last three years as Chairman and for all her tireless work. Finally it is my great pleasure to present the President’s Award – item 9 on the agenda.</i></p> <p>Item 9 taken out of order: Presentation of the President’s Award</p> <p><i>I have known this person since I became involved with Suffolk horses. They work tirelessly to promote the virtues of the horse whether it be breeding, showing, ploughing or doing demonstrations. This person is always willing to help and provide support. It might be a local village fete, a town parade – like the St George’s parade last Thursday – or a prestigious county show, travelling all over the countryside. Therefore I would like to give this award to Claire Bartram, her family and team who all work so hard to promote the Suffolk Punch and keep it in the public eye. Thank you.”</i></p> <p>Jayne Groom stepped down from chairing the meeting and handed over to SW who continued the meeting in place of Christine Oakley.</p>
7	<p>Election of President Elect 2026/27 and President 2027/2028</p>

	<p>Two nominations were received: Mr Paul Heiney and Mrs Fiona Clark Those present were asked to use their voting cards to cast their votes and these were counted and added to the proxy votes received. Mr Paul Heiney: Voting in the room and proxy votes = 86 Mrs Fiona Clark Voting in the room and proxy votes = 32</p> <p>SW declared that Mr Paul Heiney is Suffolk Horse Society President Elect for 2026/2027</p> <p>Mrs Christine Oakley (CO) – President - arrived at 2.35pm. Jayne Groom presented her with the Chain of Office. Mrs Oakley took over the Chair and continued the meeting.</p>
8.	<p>To receive the names of newly elected Councilmen Ten nominations were received for the six vacancies on the Council. This was put to fully paid-up members to vote. The ten nominees were: Claire Bartram Peter Crockford Mark Donsworth Richard Dunnett Cheryl Grover Adrian Hoskins Sam Maloy Paul Smith Neil Syrett Harry Ziman</p> <p>The result was received in a sealed envelope from Ensors. 174 Ballot papers were returned. The newly elected Councilmen who will serve for four years, are: Claire Bartram Peter Crockford Mark Donsworth Richard Dunnett Cheryl Grover Paul Smith</p> <p>Christine Oakley welcomed the successful nominees and thanked all members who had stood for election to Council. She reminded all Council members that there would be a short meeting following the AGM.</p>
9	President's award – taken at Item 6
10	To consider Any Other Business There was no other business
11	<p>Members' Questions submitted in advance One question was received by the closing date 11th April.</p> <p><i>Q: Has the Suffolk Horse Society considered ownership syndication of Suffolk horses as a way of involving more members and supporters? Syndication has been very successful in the world of racing and brings funding, enjoyment and interest in the sport and breeding to a broad spectrum of owners.</i></p> <p>This will be taken to the next Council Meeting for discussion</p>
	<p>CO thanked GS for acting as Official Scrutineer at the meeting. Belinda, Liz, JG and SW were thanked for their work. AJH was thanked for his hard work in producing the accounts. Flowers were presented to JG in appreciation of her work as President. Flowers were also presented to Belinda Rudderham and to Liz Pardey from the office.</p> <p>The President Christine Oakley thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 2.54pm</p>
	The raffle was drawn.