

Minutes of the 95<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of  
The Agricultural Economics Society  
held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 @ 08.30hrs  
at Wadham College, The University of Oxford, UK

AES President Paul Wilson opened the meeting at 08.30hrs and thanked everyone for attending.

1. Members who have passed away since the last AGM (President)  
Members stood for a minute in remembrance of Sir David Metcalf and Professor Jim Rollo who passed away since the last AGM.
2. Minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> AGM held at the University of Bordeaux, France, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (President)  
The minutes of the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025 were approved, proposed by Derek Shepherd and seconded by Stephen Ramsden.
3. Matters arising (President)  
There were no matters arising.
4. Election of Officers and Executive Committee (President)  
Steve Ramsden (Chair of the Executive), Wilfrid Legg (Honorary Secretary) and Derek Shepherd (Honorary Treasurer) stand down at this AGM. Sarah Baker becomes Chair, David Stead becomes Honorary Secretary and Paul Caskie becomes Honorary Treasurer. Carmen Hubbard becomes President Elect. Frederic Ang joins the Executive as the incoming Editor-in-Chief of the *JAE* and Rob Ackrill joins the Executive as the incoming Editor-in-Chief of *EuroChoices*. Deb Roberts, Andrew Barnes, and Emma Dillon retire from the Executive after completing their term. Cathal Buckley, Claire Jack, Stuart Henderson and Luiza Toma had been nominated for the four vacant places on the Executive and were elected to the Committee.
5. Treasurer's Report and re-appointment of Handley's Chartered Accountants (Derek Shepherd)  
The Honorary Treasurer reported the Society's 2025 figures as follows:  
Subscriptions income £26,590  
Royalty income £78,985  
Other income £11,324  
Surplus on annual conference £0  
Surplus for the year £21,718  
Current market value of investments £209,862  
Current market value of Prize Essay fund £126,035  
Current savings account balance £256,000  
Current account balance £140,000  
  
Handley's Accountants were reappointed - proposed by Janet Dwyer and seconded by James Jones.
6. Report of Executive Committee (Steve Ramsden)  
The Chair of the Executive delivered his report via a PowerPoint presentation, which will be

made available on the AES website and annexed to the Minutes of this AGM. Some highlights:

- This AGM takes place 100 years to the day that the meeting to found the Society was held.  
Membership in 2025 was 687, an increase over 2024 and the highest for over 20 years.
- The Annual Conference in 2025 took place at The University of Bordeaux.
- The joint AES-Defra one-day conference took place in London on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, with the theme of 'Mission Impossible? Assessing Agricultural Policy Success'. Thanks to Defra, Lioba Wendling and Hannah Chaplin for hosting the event.

The President thanked the Chair of the Executive for his report.

7. Votes of Thanks (President)

The Chairman thanked the Chairman of the Executive Committee (Stephen Ramsden), Hon. Secretary (Wilfrid Legg), Hon. Treasurer (Derek Shepherd), the other outgoing members of the Executive (Deb Roberts, Andrew Barnes, and Emma Dillon), the incoming president (Alan Matthews), Neil Chalmers for continuing the ex-officio role of Social Media Manager, the EAAE and IAAE Liaison Officer (Tim Lloyd), the Programme Secretary (Hervé Dakpo) and the AES Administrator (Katy Thorne). He also thanked the Chief Editors of the Society's journals Jonathan Brooks (*JAE*) and John Davis (*EuroChoices*), both of whom will retire from their role during the course of 2026.

A video of an acceptance speech from one of this year's AES award winners, David Pannell (Lifetime Achievement in Research), was played.

8. Any Other Business (President)

The President announced that, in celebration of the Centenary year, the Executive Committee has established a Centenary Postgraduate Research Support fund allocating a total of £100,000 over three years. This will provide tuition or stipend co-support, top-up scholarships, skills-based support, professional development workshops and publication support grants.

David Blandford suggested that, given the Society's activities, that the Executive consider creating a charitable foundation to benefit from various opportunities including gift aid.

9. Welcome to the incoming President (Alan Matthews) and invitation to deliver the Presidential Address.

The Chair closed the AGM at 09.15, welcoming David Stead (UCD) to present **The Agricultural Economics Society: the first 100 years** launch, followed by David Blandford (Pennsylvania State University) **Retrospective of AES Presidential Addresses**; and following tea and coffee, the centenary photograph and the arrival of HRH The Princess Royal, the Centenary Presidential Address: **Agricultural Policy in an Age of Upheaval** by Professor Alan Matthews (University of Dublin, Trinity College).

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_