Epsom RDA

AGM, 16 November 2025

1. **Welcome and thanks**

Laura Hales, Chair of Epsom RDA welcomed riders, families and volunteers. Special welcome to Mayor Councillor Leach. Annette for jewellery sales; Wednesday AM volunteers for raffle; Jill Sandeman for rider awards. Laura confirmed that the meeting was quorate and commenced.

2. **Apologies**

None

3. **Approval of AGM 2024 minutes**

Approved by Members

4. **Approval of Accounts 2023/24.**

Treasurer Angela Wilson presented the accounts. Copies were made available to the room. The charity generated an operating profit of c£11.3k compared with £3.4k last year. Total income of £119K comparable with £97k last year, but operating expenditure significantly higher with cost increases in feed, and increased herd numbers, vets' costs and farrier costs along with the strategic decision taken by trustees to bring in a paid Horse and Pony Manager, which has been a paid post since February 2025, funded from designated funds.

In relation to ride charges, last year it cost c£30 to put a ride on with a £10 contribution from riders. This year this had risen to £41 but the board felt ERDA was in a stable enough position financially to retain the £10 charge.

Ride money did not quite cover pony care costs, but the trustees are committed to maintaining the £10 cost for rides.

Thanks were expressed to the events team. Events during the year netted £7k slightly up on the £6.6k from last year. Angela noted how this reflects the work they have put in with the regular programme of events, as well as the Open Day and Carols at the Stables.

Total income 2024/25 is c£119k and increase of c£22k on 23/24. The cost and upkeep of the herd is increasing with 2 new ponies being bought this year to date and possibility of requiring another 1 or 2. There have been emergency costs, such as a water leak, new shelters and lighting.

Reserves are split £250k cash in hand for supporting the future strategy. Minimum reserves are set at £120k. Funds available are therefore £105k up from £64k.

Accounts Approved

5. **Chair's Report**

Laura set out an overview of the strategy and progress towards it.

This included expanding the offer of non-ridden activities and maximising the number of participants that can benefit from ERDA, since demand far outstrips the capacity of the service available. The waiting list remains closed but with the aspiration to reopen as soon as. The Board recognises the weight limit we currently have is affecting the ability to have some riders access the provision.

Year ending March 2024, ERDA provided 2381 sessions for 193 people – this was a reduction on the previous year mainly due to challenges with health of the herd. The additional pony care sessions have risen from 106 to 260 this year and the bonding and learning opportunities this was offering to the individuals was noted to be of significant value to them. Session leaders were thanked for achieving this in difficult circumstances.

Hippotherapy sessions for children had also been introduced, although paused given issues with horse health. There have been 29 riders who have achieved grade certificate in the last year.

Challenges remain with volunteer recruitment training and retention remains a key priority, as does meeting the need of all participants. There is a need for better communication with participants parents and carers to ensure we are accommodating all requirements. ERDA requires a trustee for rider participation.

6. Liz Clarke retirement noted.

7. Liz Clarke appointed as Horse and Pony Trustee. Nominated by Alenla Wilson, seconded by Zoe Foster.

8. Allie Philpin appointed at Fundraising Trustee. Nominated by Liz Clarke, seconded by Carol Reyes.

9. Ray Lee appointed as Trustee and Chairperson. Nominated by Allie Philpin and seconded by Angela Wilson.

10. Angela Wilson on behalf of the Trustees and the charity thanked Laura Hales for her time and dedication as chairperson for ERDA, moving from property trustee, where she instigated the new fire alarm system and lighting The site is looking more modern overall. She took over the role from Ray with enthusiasm, passion and her drive has made a big difference. She will be staying on with ERDA as a session leader as well as assisting with other internal matters.

11. Shaw Gibbs approved and retained as external auditors.

12. Any other business – no.

This brought the formal business of the AGM to a close.