

# **Organic Countryside CIC**

## **(also known as Walden Countryside)**

Agenda for Annual General Meeting – Monday 13 July 2026 at Noakes Grove Nature Reserve, 7pm

1. Minutes of the 2025 AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Accounts for year ending 21 January 2026
4. Community Interest Company report
5. Election (or re-election) of directors
6. Activities report for period since August 2025
7. Review of policy documents
8. Shareholdings and possible membership categories
9. Any other business

Nominations for election of directors should be made by email before the AGM and include confirmation that the nominee is willing to stand for election.

# Organic Countryside CIC AGM 20 August 2025

## Minutes

Present: Michael Chapell, Clarissa Cochran, David Corke, Elaine Corke, Emma Horton, Dave Law, Karen Law, Nikki Sammons, Perter Savic, Andrew Urquhart, Marta Urquhart (and Andrea), Suzanne Walker

Apologies: Susie Boatman, David Buckley, Sue Powell.

1. The minutes from the 2024 AGM were outlined by David and approved by the meeting – proposed Elaine: seconded Suzanne.
2. The accounts from January 2024 to January 2025 had already been circulated but Michael gave a quick synopsis and said that it had been a reasonably good year despite donations being lower than in previous years and despite the purchase of the major assets namely the fencing hurdles and the flat trailer. It was agreed that both these assets were excellent investments; the hurdles benefiting conservation values and the volunteers' time as well as making the nature reserves much easier and safer for the visiting members of the public.

The accounts were approved – proposed David: seconded Dave.

### CIC report

David outlined the points of this report mentioning that it is essentially similar to last year's report. He emphasized that the aim of the company is to benefit wildlife and provide an amenity and focus of interest to the community. Stakeholders (i.e. those people who regularly use the reserves) are consulted as far as possible as to their needs. CIC report approved by the meeting – proposed Elaine: seconded Peter.

### Policy documents

David outlined the updated policy documents, which will be on the website.

Risk assessment – Risks to visitors are the same as going for a country walk; work party members are not allowed to use power tools unless qualified and under their own licence. Each separate group such as Scouts, Forest School, Mindfulness etc. operate under their own insurance. We have first aid representatives and first aid boxes available.

Under our own insurance we are committed to conduct regular tree surveys and have appropriate tree surgery when necessary. Nikki asked when the next survey was due and David answered that it was soon although he couldn't say exactly when.

Safeguarding – This policy has not changed over the year.

Data protection – This policy has changed as we no longer use Mail Chimp to send out newsletters. Instead, newsletters are sent by email with the recipients blind copied. Our lists are kept in confidence and we do not use recipients' details for any other purpose.

### Election of directors

All directors are willing to stand for the next year, so no election took place. The meeting approved the current list of directors – proposed Suzanne: seconded Michael.

### Nature reserves and conservation report

This was outlined by Elaine. The full report is attached.

David added that when we first bought Noakes Grove, the scrub area alone had been designated

a Local Wildlife Site (LoWS), thereby giving it a certain amount of protection. This was because of the wild liquorice that grew there. After a certain amount of badgering, he has now got the council to all the whole of Noakes Grove nature reserve to be a LoWS.

AOB

Elaine suggested that we plan soon for the next AGM so that we can hold it at a slightly more sensible time than August, when so many people are away. Nikki and Emma suggested we do the same for the open day thus avoiding school half terms and holidays and choosing earlier in the year.

Organic Countryside CIC  
 Balance Sheet  
 As at 31 January 2026

		2026	
			£
FA - land and buildings	Cost - b/fwd	90,186	
	Depn - b/fwd	(2,897)	
	Depn - charge	(819)	
		<u>86,470</u>	
FA - plant and machin	Cost - b/fwd	12,924	
	Cost - additions	1,000	
	Depn - b/fwd	(10,464)	
	Depn - charge	(2,960)	
		<u>500</u>	
			86,970
Bank	Current account	18,833	
	PayPal	121	
	Saffron Walden B/S	1,000	
		<u>19,954</u>	
			19,954
Creditors	Director's account	(1,339)	
	Director's loan > 1 year	(57,730)	
	Net VAT due	43	
		<u>(59,026)</u>	
			(59,026)
Net assets			<u><u>47,898</u></u>
			£
Share capital	Brought forward	24,270	
	Shares issued	-	
		<u>24,270</u>	
			24,270
Profit and loss accoun	Brought forward	15,016	
	Net profit/(loss)	8,612	
		<u>23,628</u>	
			23,628

2025  
£

90,186  
(2,078)  
(819)  

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87,289  

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8,005  
4,919  
(8,005)  
(2,460)  

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2,460

89,749

7,787  
164  
-  

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7,951

7,951

(1,339)  
(57,730)  
655  

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(58,414)

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39,286

£

23,270  
1,000  

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24,270

17,104  
(2,088)  

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15,016

## CIC 34

### Community Interest Company Report

#### Company Name in full

Organic Countryside CIC [trading as Walden Countryside]

#### Company Number

6794848

#### Year Ending

31st January 2026

### PART 1 - GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY'S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

The Company owns one and manages two other nature reserves in the northern half of Uttlesford,

The reserves are always open to visitors, free of charge, and in the course of the year an estimated 2000-2500 visits were made by individuals and family groups (including visitors to organised open days). In addition an estimated 1500 – 2000 visits were made by children attending forest schools or similar activities.

Childrens' activities include:

Scout and Guide groups (including the junior branches of these organisations)

Pre-school children attending regular nursery forest schools organised by a local nursery school

The Wild Child club is organised and taught by us and is for a group of home educated children aged from 6 to 11. The club members attend regularly and some have been members for four years. Social contact with other children is particularly appreciated by home educated children and the club provides free play opportunities as well as allowing study and enjoyment of natural history.

There are youth mindfulness, family, and children's nature-based well-being sessions for children on a one-to-one basis.

Each of our reserves produces food in ways that improve the management of the reserve. Our sheep maintain good conditions for wild flower meadows and the traditional orchard (now a rare habitat) produces high quality, pesticide free, apple juice.

We have adopted "Walden Countryside" as a trading name for two reasons:

- All activities are in the Saffron Walden area of Essex
- "Organic" in our name might give the impression that our food produce is certified organic. Although it is produced by "no chemical input, high animal welfare" methods we can no longer afford the very high costs of organic certification. The purchasers of our produce are all fully aware of the traditional (organic-style) agriculture we practice, so certification is not needed.

The main stakeholders are:

The volunteers who undertake the care of our sheep and the habitat management of our reserves. We have whatsapp groups to encourage co-operation amongst the members of each volunteer group and encourage their comments and feed-back

The visitors to our reserves who are encouraged to sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter which carries news of activities that anyone may attend. When volunteer presence coincides with visitor presence we encourage visitors to tell us what they think of the reserve and what we might do better. Uninvited comments on Google Reviews have an overall score of 4.8 made up of twenty five 5\*, four 4\*, and one 3\*

The children (and their parents) who attend regular events take an active part in deciding the nature of events we provide.

We do not have a formal membership with an annual subscription. The recipients of our emailed newsletters are:

“Shareholders” in the company who provided the money to purchase our main reserve.

## PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

“Friends” who have donated time or money towards the management of our reserve

“Local people” who have asked to receive the newsletter.

## PART 3 – DIRECTORS’ REMUNERATION

No remuneration was received by the directors” below.

## PART 4 – TRANSFERS OF ASSETS OTHER THAN FOR FULL CONSIDERATION

No transfer of assets other than for full consideration has been made.

## PART 5 – SIGNATORY

The original report must be signed by a director of the company

Signed

Date

David Corke

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