

Annual General Meeting 2025

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Thornton Rose RDA will take place on:

Saturday, the 4th of October 2025 at 2pm

Thornton Rose RDA, Thornton Farm, Rosewell, EH24 9EF.

All members and their families are welcome to attend or send in their proxy votes via the voting link below. Members are those over the age of 16 and are eligible to vote, whilst those under 16 are associate members who will not have their vote counted.

We ask you to cast your vote below whether you are attending the AGM or not.

Please let Charlotte Smyth (Secretary) know if you would like other matters discussed at the AGM or Trustees Meetings.

[Online Voting Link](#)

Agenda

1 Welcome to Members (Becca)

2 Attendance and Apologies (Charlotte)

3 Minutes of the last AGM, Saturday 4th of October 2024 (Charlotte)

4 Chair's Report for 2024/25 (Becca)

5 Treasurer's Report (Daniela/Carol)

The Treasurer's report / annual accounts will be available online via the links at the bottom of the page. The accounts are audited and will be submitted to OSCR for the financial year February 2024 to February 2025.

6 Review of Resolution votes and proposed amendments (Charlotte/Becca/Daniela)

7 Election of Trustees (Becca)

We thank all our Trustees for their service over the last year. Our charity's rules over the election of Trustees are contained in our constitution. All Trustees step down at the AGM and seven are appointed by the members. At the moment we have nine existing Trustees, two of whom will stand down. The remaining seven have been nominated and agree to stand for election for another year. Once formed the new Board may appoint up to four additional Trustees.

Resolution 2021.1 proposed by Rebecca Maitland and seconded by Fiona Buchanan:

We the members of Thornton Rose RDA, SCIO SC028617, resolve to re-elect the Trustees: Daniela Gentile-Watt, Carol Perry, Charlotte Smyth, Helena Wood, June Gay, Margaret Gallagher and Lorna Curtis.

9 Close of meeting (Becca)

[Online Voting Link](#)

[Thornton Rose RDA AGM Minutes 2024](#)

[OSCR Annual Accounts Submission](#)

VOTING ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As well as voting for Trustees there are 2 Resolutions for all members to vote on at this AGM. Both have been brought forward by the Trustees and will be added to the end of the current constitution.

To make these changes we need 48 members or more to agree so please read them below and then vote.

1. Updating the Charity's Purpose

Thornton Rose wants to update its official purpose, so it stays in line with changes made by the national Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA UK). This matters because our current purpose matches theirs, and if they change, we need to change too—otherwise we might not be able to offer the same services in the future.

(Resolution 2025.1) -

June Gay proposed, and Charlotte Smyth seconded that: We, the members of Thornton Rose RDA (charity number SCIO 28617), agree to review the purpose of our charity set out in our Constitution to take account of the Riding for the Disabled's change of purpose and any other relevant factors to enable us to remain aligned to the national charity, as far as possible. To do this we are giving the Board of Trustees responsibility to bring forward proposed amendment/s to the purpose of Thornton Rose RDA for members to vote on by majority before the next Annual General Meeting and to submit to OSCR for their statutory approval.

What does this mean: We are asking if you agree to let the Board of Trustees suggest changes to our charity's purpose. These changes will be voted on by members before the next Annual General Meeting and then sent to OSCR (the Scottish charity regulator) for approval.

Why this matters: It means we don't have to wait a whole year to make the change. Members still get to vote, and we stay aligned with the national charity.

2. Expanding Services

To safeguard the charity's long-term financial health and maintain uninterrupted delivery of our vital services, we must explore and diversify our income streams. That is why Thornton Rose want to keep offering and expanding pilot services for

members and non-members. Including outside of core RDA riding times. These pilot services aim to:

- Support people and families with their mental health and wellbeing.
- Help individuals learn life skills or gain qualifications in animal care that can improve their lives.

Why do this? This will allow the charity to:

- Test adding to its core services without overstressing resources.
- Give people and families access to positive, meaningful experiences.
- Make the most of our volunteers' talents.
- Bring in more income to help the charity stay financially secure during the cost of living crisis.

This idea builds on a similar resolution passed in 2020—but it's simpler and clearer.

Resolution 2025.2 Fiona Buchanan proposed, and Mags Gallacher seconded that: We, the members of Thornton Rose RDA (charity number SCIO 28617), agree to help the charity to continue to grow and remain financially secure during the cost of living crisis. To do this we are giving the Board of Trustees responsibility for developing and running of extra services for both members and non-members – for up to five years starting from this Annual General Meeting, to help the charity grow and stay financially secure.

What does this mean - This change means Thornton Rose can keep helping members, people and families in the face of the recent surge in operational costs, which is a significant challenge. The change will enable people to access activities that they can either pay for it themselves, or we will help them to find someone else—like a charity or grant— to help cover the cost. It also means people can learn useful skills and maybe get qualifications in things like animal care or wellbeing, if we can find funding.

Why does this matter – A proactive approach to income generation is critical to enabling the charity to be flexible in a changing financial climate. We also want to make our services better and help our volunteers learn more by offering training paid for by other organisations. This change will help us do these things. It will also make sure that people who need support can keep benefiting from our skills and from working with our horses to improve their lives. By doing this, the charity will be able to apply for grants and funding from local councils, the Scottish Government, and other sources to help cover costs when other funding runs out.