

## **ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION TRUSTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION**

The vision of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI) is for no member of the farming community to ever have to face adversity alone. RABI operates throughout England and Wales to provide financial support, guidance and practical care to those in need within the farming community.

The Council of Trustees (the Trustees) are collectively and individually responsible for overseeing and ensuring the good governance of RABI. The Trustees provide strategic oversight and ensure RABI is effective, innovative and continues to evolve to deliver RABI's charitable objectives.

### **Role summary**

- Contributing actively within the Council of Trustees to set RABI's strategic direction, defining goals and evaluating the charity's performance.
- Ensuring that RABI complies with its Royal Charter, charity law and any other relevant legislation and regulations.
- Safeguarding the reputation and values of the charity.
- Ensuring that RABI pursues its objects as defined in its Royal Charter and By-Laws.
- Protecting and managing RABI's resources, ensuring they are applied appropriately and in pursuance of the charitable objects.
- Acting as an ambassador for the charity at a local and national level; in certain circumstances, representing RABI as a spokesperson at events or specialist meetings.

### **Time Commitment**

Trustees are expected to attend an induction session prior to their first Council Meeting and thereafter to attend all Council and General Meetings.

Council Meetings are held four times a year during normal office hours, when restrictions permit, at the office in Oxford and last for approximately three hours. In current circumstances, due to COVID-19 restrictions, meetings will be held via Zoom. The ability to utilise electronic means of communication is important at all times, but particularly at present.

As well as its AGM, in normal times, RABI holds an annual conference and the charity's trustees are expected to attend and help act as hosts. One of the four Council Meetings will usually take place the day before the conference with trustees invited to an evening social event following the meeting.

An additional strategic trustee workshop is held annually across two days (generally one afternoon to the following lunchtime) to include an evening social event. Trustees are additionally encouraged to attend an annual visit to one of RABI's investment properties.

Trustees are likely to be asked to join one of the four Council Committees, all of which meet during normal office hours. The number of Committee meetings varies, with most meeting four times a year, for approximately two hours at a time.

When acting as an occasional ambassador for the charity, trustees may be requested to meetings and events during the working week or, sometimes, in the evening or at weekends.

### **Qualities of a Trustee of RABI**

- Motivation: enthusiasm for and belief in the mission and objectives of RABI.
- Vision: the ability to think strategically and be forward-looking in relation to the charity's objects and aims.
- Empathy: embracing fully RABI's core values - caring, trust, fairness, stewardship and respect.
- Commitment: to understand and accept the legal duties, time commitment, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.

### **Role Specific Requirements**

- General understanding of the agricultural sector in England and Wales.
- Previous experience as a trustee and a background in farming or the agricultural sector.
- Experience of appropriate oversight of charitable assets.