

These approved minutes of the Farriers Registration Council (FRC) are to be treated as privileged and are for the sole use of current members of the FRC and the FRC Secretariat. These minutes may not be used, published, copied in any form or redistributed without the prior written consent of the Chair of the FRC.

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Farriers Registration Council held as a hybrid meeting on
Wednesday 22 October 2025, commencing at 10.30am



Established under the
Farriers (Registration) Act 1975

Present

Appointed By

Dr J Sutton (*Chair*)

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Mr Y Breisner

British Horseracing Authority

Mr A B Charlwood

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

Mr I Davidson

Scottish Enterprise

Mr S Green AWCF

Elected Member

Mr D Harman AWCF GradDipELR

British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association

Mr B J Howson AWCF

Elected Member

Mr A Jordan

The Worshipful Company of Farriers

Mr R A Kearn DipWCF

Elected Member

Mr C D McKell DipWCF (*Deputy Chair*)

Elected Member

Mr J Sim AWCF (V)

British Farriers and Blacksmiths Association

Mr M Weston (V)

British Equestrian Federation

(V) = attended virtually

Apologies

Ms J Bryan

Lantra

Operations Superintendent K Colman

Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty
to Animals

Mr D Mountford MA VetMB MRCVS

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Staff

Brigadier D J Greenwood (Registrar)

Mrs N Finck (Deputy Registrar)

Mrs V Jones (Executive Assistant)

Public

There were no members of the public present nor observing the live video stream.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Ms J Bryan, Operations Superintendent K Colman and Mr D Mountford.

The Chair welcomed Mr Jordan to his first meeting of the Council as a new WCF appointee and thanked Council Members for maintaining the confidentiality of the Council Meeting papers ahead of the meeting. Council members noted that there were no members of the public expected to be in attendance.

2. Declarations of Interest

Council members declared possible conflicts of interest as follows:

Mr Y Breisner – BHA representative, horse owner and Trustee of British Horse Foundation and World Horse Welfare

Mr A Charlwood – appointed by the WCF and WCF Liveryman and Honorary Assistant to the Court of the WCF

Mr I Davidson – appointed by Scottish Enterprise

Mr S Green – working farrier, member of BFBA and horse owner

Mr D Harman – working farrier, WCF Liveryman, member of the BFBA and BFBA Executive Committee

Mr B Howson – working farrier, member of BFBA and horse owner

Mr A Jordan – appointed by the WCF and WCF Liveryman

Mr R Kearn – working farrier

Mr C McKell – working farrier

Mr J Sim – working farrier, member of the BFBA and BFBA Executive Committee

Dr J Sutton – appointed by the RCVS, Liveryman of WCF, FEI Anti-Doping Official and Equine Insurance Underwriter

Mr M Weston – appointed by British Equestrian Federation

3. Notification of any items to be raised under 'Any Other Business' (AOB)

No matters had been submitted by Council Members ahead of the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the AGM and Council meeting held on 30 April 2025 were noted for reference purposes only; the minutes had previously been approved by Council members out of committee.

5. Matters Arising which are not Agenda Items

There were no matters arising to be considered.

6. Council Membership 2025

Council noted the following changes to Council Membership during 2025:

In-year:

- Mr M Potter appointed by Lantra had completed his term of office on 31 May 2025. Ms J Bryan was appointed by Lantra as his successor with effect from 1 June 2025.
- Mr M Peaty appointed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) had concluded his term of office on 31 May 2025. Mr Peaty will continue as Chair of the Approvals Committee (AC) as a contractor until the end of 2025.
- Dr J Sutton was appointed by the RCVS as Mr Peaty's successor with effect from 1 June 2025.
- Mr A Jordan was appointed by the WCF as Dr Sutton's successor with effect from 24 June 2025.
- Mr R May AWCF appointed by the WCF had concluded his second term of office on 24 September 2025. Mr H Price GradDipELR was appointed by the WCF as his successor and an induction had been scheduled.

Upcoming:

- Mr Y Breisner appointed by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) will complete his final term of office on 31 December 2025; BHA will appoint a successor in due course.
- Mr M Weston appointed by the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) will complete his final term of office on 31 December 2025; BEF will appoint a successor in due course.

7. To Receive and Consider the following Reports, Council Committee Minutes and Associated Papers:

7.1 Minutes of the Registration Committee (RC) Meeting of 2 September 2025

The Council noted the minutes of the RC held on 2 September 2025 presented by Mr Breisner, Chair of the RC.

[Mr P Grant, Chair of the IC joined the meeting at 10.40am]

7.2 Update on the Independently-Operated Investigating Committee (IC)

Mr P Grant, Chair of the IC, joined the meeting virtually to update the Council on business conducted by the IC over the previous 12 months. Mr Grant reported that the IC had met on 3 occasions during the period to consider 31 formal complaints. Of the 31 complaints, 12 were referred to the DC for further consideration as possible cases of serious professional misconduct. 7 of these cases related to inappropriate behaviour and 5 related to criminal convictions received by Registered Farriers. The IC had noted that in line with previous years the overall number of complaint enquiries had remained consistent (71 enquiries during 2025) and the nature of complaints received had primarily continued to concern the behaviour of Registered Farriers over workmanship concerns.

The IC had also considered 8 cases in respect of Registered Farriers failure to comply with Council policy regarding submission of Annual Returns and 22 cases in respect of failure to comply with the Council's CPD Policy.

The IC had continued to rotate its members throughout the year to maintain the experience and knowledge held by the Committee. Mr Grant recorded his gratitude to his IC colleagues and the FRC staff for their continued support throughout the year.

[Mr Grant left the meeting at 11.50am]

[Mr J Anderson joined the meeting at 11.55am]

7.3 Update on the Independently-Operated Disciplinary Committee (DC)

Mr J Anderson, Chair of the DC, joined the meeting virtually to update the Council on business conducted by the DC over the previous 12 months. The DC had heard 11 cases, sitting over 18 days during the reporting period. The hearings had been conducted either in person or online using virtual and hybrid methods. Mr Anderson reported that there had been an increase in the number applications for Restoration to the Register received throughout the year; this was considered a good indicator that those previously removed from the Register wished to be restored. Approval of Restoration was not automatic, and the onus was on the applicant to persuade the DC that they were now fit to be restored and that suitable insight had been achieved on their part. Similar to the IC, the DC had continued to rotate its membership to maintain consistency of knowledge and expertise.

[Mr Anderson left the meeting at 11.05am]

[The Chair concluded the open session of the Council Meeting]

8. THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7 and 8.8 WERE CONDUCTED IN CLOSED SESSION OF THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER MATTERS OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIAL SENSITIVITY

[Mr M Peaty joined the meeting at 11.10am]

8.1 Report of the Approvals Committee (AC)

8.2 ATF Policy and ATF Guide

8.3 Minutes of the Finance Committee (FC) Meeting of 24 September 2025

8.4 Operational Plan

8.5 Retention of Records Policy

8.6 FRC Investment Policy

8.7 Disciplinary Committee (DC) Sanction Leaflets

8.8 Budget 2026

9. Any Other Business:

9.1 2026 Meeting Dates

Council members noted the provisional Council and Committee meeting dates for 2026 pending any changes required as a result of their decision to merge the FC and RC from January 2026.

9.2 Valedictory

The Chair took the opportunity to record his gratitude to the long-standing Council Members, Mr Breisner and Mr Weston who both complete their terms of office at the end of the year. Both Mr Breisner and Mr Weston had been valuable Council Members who would be missed by Council colleagues.

The meeting concluded at 12.38pm

Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 29 April 2026

Annex A: FRC Policy, Guides and Reports APPROVED during this meeting

- AC Report – Herefordshire, Ludlow and North Shropshire College
- ATF Policy and ATF Guide
- Schedule of Charges 2026
- Risk Register
- Environmental & Sustainability Policy Measures
- AFA – the way forward
- Cost-saving measures
- Operational Plan 2026
- Retention of Records Policy
- Investment Policy
- Disciplinary Sanction Leaflets x 4
- Budget 2026

Approved: 21/11/2025

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