

## MINUTES:

**Present:** Mike Tristram, Nigel Clutton, William Wolmer, Andrew Thomas, Simon Ward, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, Robin Edwards, Alison Tingley, James Cooper

1. **Apologies:** David Ashcroft, David Taylor, Stan Abbott, William White, Chris Passmore.
2. **Minutes** – were approved as an accurate record.

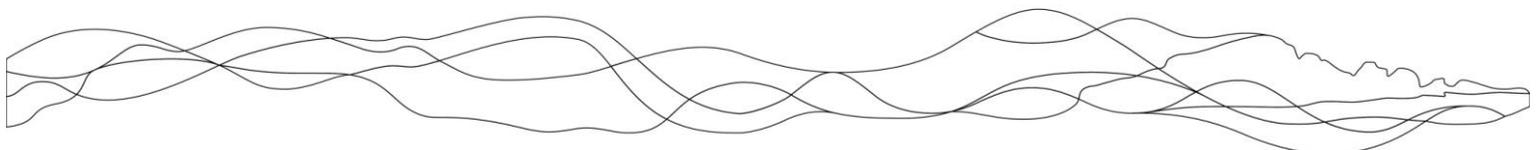
Matters arising: Item 2 (5) Isobel had contacted ATi and an article had appeared in the CLA magazine

Item 2 (11) Isobel Swift is currently representing landowners on the Local Access Forum. It was not felt that there was a need for a specific lead on funding as CLA and Strutt & Parker are currently doing a lot of work on funding streams such as LEADER, LEPs. Any relevant information to be sent to ATi for circulation to Members. ATi to research SD specific funding from Rangers, SDSCFG and role of rangers in delivering CS.

3. **Membership:** ATi reported Membership has remained roughly the same as last year. In order to try and increase membership she had attended the South of England Show but felt that it was not a particularly effective way of recruiting members and therefore not an efficient use of her time. The new leaflets have been available at SCATs and via Rangers. RE offered to do a mailshot to members within the Park with a covering letter. MT thanked RE for this and asked that he liaise with ATi regarding leaflets and wording of the letter.
4. **Communications**
  - Newsletters: the newsletter had been sent via email to 237 people and hard copies to a further 30. Only 90 people (38%) had opened the newsletter. Members felt that this was pretty good.
  - Frequency of communications – Members agreed that newsletters 3 times per year with relevant notifications in between were appropriate.
  - Leaflets: The revised leaflets had been re-designed to incorporate the SD shared identity.  
**ACTION:** ATi to ensure that SDNPA Rangers have copies to give to farmers.
  - Website: MT has built up a fresh design with a new company that is to go live shortly. Social media facilities will be available and it will fit multi screens. The cost of the new design was of the order of £1000, but it will be easier to update and improve upon.  
**ACTION:** ATi/ MT to email members when the site goes live.

RE asked if the SDLM owned the site.

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5. **Updates by Lead** (please brief another EC member if you will not be able to attend), including:

- **Landscape & Biodiversity:** WW reported that he had attended the NIA closing meeting about one month ago which was run as a workshop as to how the project could be taken forward. He felt that it had been focussed around 4 or 5 clusters but that there was not much evidence of how these linked together. NE are keen to promote more partnership working of landowners and may fund co-ordinators. A group of Malborough Downs farmers had also run an NIA which had had a much more bottom up approach. Two possible clusters seem to be emerging in the South Downs one in Hampshire around Selborne and the other near Arundel. It was agreed that this would be a good topic for a future newsletter or to develop an area on the website.

**Heathland Partnership:** WW also reported that an HLF bid had been submitted for the inception phase of the Heathland Partnership. He was keen to ensure that procurement mistakes of the NIA were not made again.

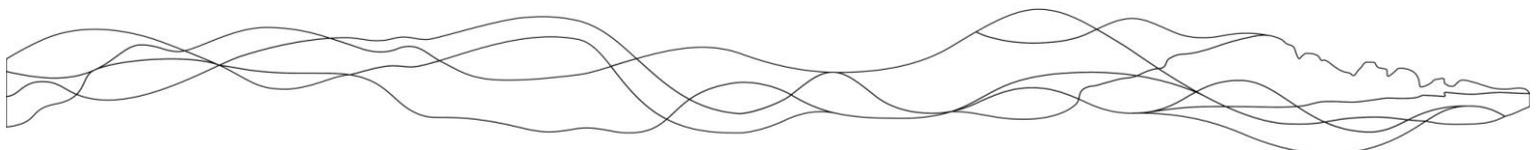
**RE** reported that the NPA had successfully bid for a Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) to support dairy farming in the South Downs. This is a DEFRA-funded pilot looking at producing a Local Development Order to extend permitted development rights for dairy farmers in relation to diversification into processing and retail.

**ACTION:** ATI to seek further information from David Doxford (SD Rural Economy Officer).

**Food & Drink Policy Document:** **ACTION:** ATi to follow up on where this has got to and whether or not our comments were taken on board.

- **Rural Economy:** SNDP branding has now been launched
- **Land Agents:** RE reported that Savils had bought Smiths Gore
- **Planning:** MT reported that the Local Plan is to have a strong spatial element based on landscape character areas, in each of which special qualities of the Park will be somewhat differently expressed. This approach has been approved by the inspector. Tim Slaney does appear to appreciate the role of Estates in developing / maintaining the area, and is keen to see development as part of an Estate Plan working for Park purposes. It is hoped that such Estate Plans will help the Park to continue to allow, where necessary as exceptions, the kinds of investments by Estates that have made the Park what it is. The Partnership put forward that this should include larger farms and smaller country Estates not just large Estates.
- **Access:** The SDLAF are looking for farmer representatives, preferably from the Hampshire area. ATi had approached two people but both had declined.

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- Cultural Heritage: SW represents SDLM on the Project Steering Group. Information coming out from the LIDAR survey is showing up some remarkable finds, including extensive Bronze Age field boundaries. About one third of these will be ground truthed over the next 3 years, with the landowners permission. They are particularly interested in three emerging themes: Bronze Age field systems, Medieval deer parks, late 19<sup>th</sup> Century to mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century military use of the downs.

On a slightly different note SW reported that the Sussex Heritage Trust wants to contact Parish Councils to find out how many K6 telephone boxes are still around and what uses they are being put to.

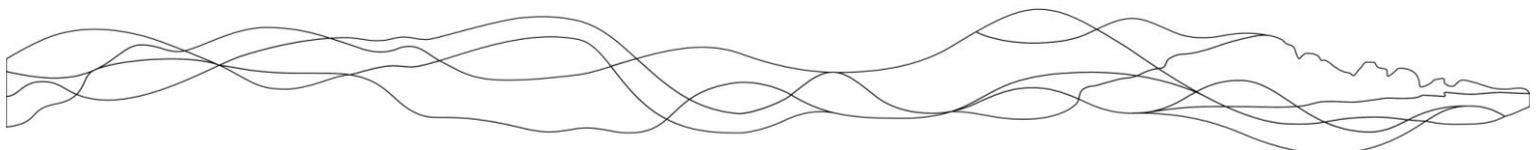
(James Cooper joined the meeting)

JC reported that the general impression (if not personal experience) was that delivery of planning was improving. Brackenwood Equestrian Centre was causing problems for the NP. ATi reported that she had been contacted by Ridgeview who had concerns at a planning application for 75 houses on their boundary, just outside the Park. The NPA have objected.

Forestry: No report

6. **Partner (NFU/CLA) / Other Organizations.** Updates  
CLA: RE reported that the CIL rates should be published next month.  
The Defra basic payment scheme online registration system had failed and that applicants had been notified by email. It is likely to be another year before landowners are able to apply online.
7. **Events/ Meetings**
  - NPA Liaison meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> May 1-3 pm at the South Downs Centre, Midhurst. Suggested items for the agenda: Preferred Options, FEZ, post NIA, Broadband, Food and drink, CS Stewardship funding gap.
  - Liaison meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015
  - Summer meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> June, Coombes. Main topic Local Plan Preferred Options. Fran Southgate from Arun & Rother Trust, to be invited to attend and give a short presentation.
  - Shows inc SD Show and Wood Fair: It was agreed that it was not appropriate for the SDLM to have a stand at the SD Show but that ATi to ask if SD Farmland Bird Initiative were interested.
  - Dates of further meetings: 11<sup>th</sup> November Plumpton or Stansted
8. **Any other business**  
AGM agenda: MT suggested that David Uren be asked to join the Executive Committee.

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ACTION: ATi to check constitution to make sure that elections are in line.

*3.3 Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually at the AGM and may serve up to 8 consecutive years unless no other member is nominated.*

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