

South Downs Land Managers

Constitution as amended by AGM on 6th June 2016

1. AIMS

1.1 REPRESENTATION:

To bring together, to understand and to represent the interests of those involved in the land-based economy of the South Downs National Park ('the National Park').

1.2 ENGAGEMENT:

To work with the National Park Authority in developing policies which recognize and celebrate the South Downs as a continually changing working landscape.

1.3 EDUCATION:

To explain to organizations and individuals interested in the development and management of the National Park what land managers do, and so promote understanding, trust and respect between land managers and those who live, work, regulate or come to enjoy themselves in the National Park.

1.4 WORKING TOGETHER:

To promote cooperation among members locally and across the National Park area, for mutual benefit. To cooperate with other organizations with similar objectives, for effective outcomes.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 Membership is open to all involved in the management of land in the South Downs National Park area – including but not exclusively farmers and foresters, landowners and their tenants, farm workers, rural entrepreneurs and the agents and professionals who support them.

3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 3.1 The Executive Committee (EC) shall act as an advisory panel to represent to the Park Authority the interests of the members and of all land management sectors in the National Park
- 3.2 The EC shall comprise a representative cross-section of land managers in the Park together with an NFU and a CLA officer ex officio
- 3.3 EC members are not required to be members of CLA or of NFU but will be appointed for their ability to represent the interests of their sector within the Park.
- 3.4 Nominations proposals for new panel members to make up a sufficient body of advisors on the panel may be made to the Chair by any member, and may also be sought by the NFU and CLA officers from the appropriate NFU and CLA area committees.
- 3.5 Nominees must be proposed and seconded to EC, by its CLA & NFU officer members. Appointment of nominees will require simple majority vote of the EC, at a meeting of which at least 7 days' notice has been given, and/or by email.
- 3.6 EC members will step down after a maximum of 3 years' service but may be re-appointed by proposal and voting as set out in 3.5

4. OFFICERS

- 4.1 The EC will appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer from among its members and at its discretion may appoint other officers.
- 4.2 Officers will step down from their office after a maximum of 2 years' service but may be re-appointed by proposal and voting as set out in 3.5
- 4.3 The CLA and NFU ex officio members may on behalf of the EC commission the services of a Liaison Officer, reporting as appropriate to those ex officio officers and/or the Chair

South Downs Land Managers

5. MEETINGS

- 5.1 The EC will meet together and with the Park Authority as necessary for its Aims and shall hold general meetings for the wider membership of SDLM
- 5.2 The quorum for decisions shall be 4 EC members

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 6.1 It shall be the duty of any member with a personal or financial interest in any item discussed at any meeting of the Group at which they are present to declare such interest. The Chairman (or if it be the Chairman, another Officer appointed by the Executive Committee to temporarily chair this part of the meeting) shall have the discretion to ask the member to withdraw from the meeting for all or a part of that discussion, and not to vote thereon.

7. FINANCE– replace existing text with the following:

- 7.1 Accounts will be presented annually by the Treasurer to the EC. Any SDLM member may request a copy.
- 7.2 A subscription may be raised, and/or reserves may be utilized, by proposal of the NFU and CLA ex officio members and majority vote of the EC.
- 7.3 In the event of dissolution of SDLM the available funds shall be transferred 50:50 to NFU and CLA on condition they be expended in pursuit of the Aims listed in 1.1-1.4.

8. AMENDMENTS – replace existing text with the following:

- 8.1 This constitution may be amended, or SDLM dissolved, by a 2/3rds majority of members present or giving their proxy to the Chair, at a meeting of which at least 21 days' notice has been given to SDLM members, with which notice the motion shall be referred to specifically.

South Downs Land Managers

