

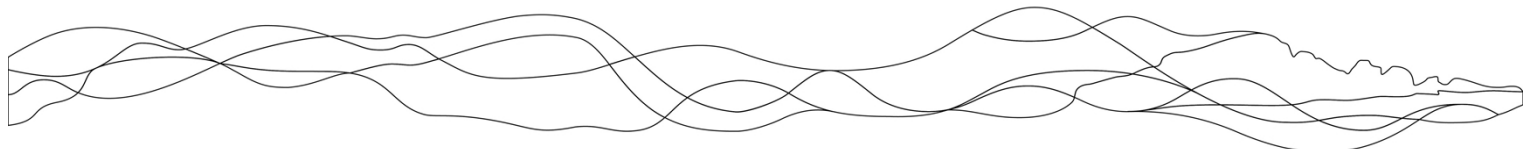
**South Downs Land Managers
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
12.00 noon 2nd March 2017**

The Ditchling Meeting Room, The South Downs Centre, Midhurst

Present: Mike Tristram, Simon Ward, Megan Lock, Chris Passmore, William Wolmer, William White, Alison Tingley

1. **Apologies:** Andrew Thomas, Andrew Elms, David Taylor, Nigel Clutton, Stan Abbott, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith
2. **Introductions** and welcome to new members – No new members were present
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2016** were agreed as a true record
4. **Matters arising**
 - 4.1 **Update on Organisational Changes to SDLM**
 - Progress with membership: AT and ML had gone through the lists of members from all 3 organisations and identified on the NFU and CLA lists those that are already SDLM members and those that are duplicated on either NFU and or CLA lists. RE and WWH will now write a joint letter to all those that are not SDLM members and inform them that they will now automatically become SDLM members unless they choose not to.
 - An article had appeared in the CLA enews and regional newsletter. An article also appeared in the national magazine encouraging members to join the SDLM. **ACTION:** AT to draft an article for NFU.
 - SDLM members with standing orders were contacted at the beginning of December with regards to stopping these.
 - Response from TFA awaited
 - 4.2 **Relationship with SDNPA**
 - Feedback from Farmer Breakfasts MT reported that the breakfast meeting that he had attended had been well attended. Presentations had been good but there had not been enough time for discussion. Presentation topics were Opportunities for the Wooded Landscapes Andrew Player SDNPA Woodland Lead; Eastern South Downs Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund – Anthony Weston; South Downs Farmland Birds Initiative – Bruce Fowkes RSPB; Countryside Stewardship – evidence requirements, proposed changes & key dates and Catchment Sensitive Farming – Nigel Hiscoke and Sue Simpson Natural England; The Duchy Future Farming Programme – Tim Bevan
 - Feedback from Farming/Affordable Housing Conference. MT reported that the conference had been well attended; speakers set out the need for small scale affordable housing across the National Park and outlined the SDNPA strategy for

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making it happen. Presentations on the legal perspective, tax issues, Community Land Trusts and Planning were made. **ACTION:** AT to put presentations from both events onto the SDLM website

After some discussion it was agreed that SDLM would support NFU and CLA in their push to get Q class development included in Permitted Development Rights

4.3 AGM: No progress has yet been made in organisation of the AGM on 19th June. **ACTION:** AT to pursue possibility of holding the AGM at Ridgeview Vineyard. It was agreed that the topic should be diversification and planning. Using the Vineyard as an example of diversification and identifying what Local Plan Policies might mean for farming

4.4. Executive Committee Membership: MT confirmed his intention to stand down as chairman at the next AGM. NFU and CLA were asked if they had had any further thoughts on who might replace him. It was agreed that if no body could be found then as a temporary arrangement NFU/CLA could front it. AT to send an email to members seeking interest.

5. **Brexit:** Farming through Brexit – An outline of proposed research by Sussex University on behalf of SDNPA was circulated. AT reported that David Taylor had already agreed to participate. **ACTION:** AT to find out if more farmers are required and if necessary to circulate information by email to members.

ML reported that CLA are currently working on UK Farming and Environment Policy

6. Updates by Lead

6.1 Landscape & Biodiversity: WWo There are currently 6 farming clusters in the NP area. Clusters are currently carrying out a lot of training and awareness raising. It is early days in terms of delivery. The groups are proving particularly successful in pulling in 'unenvironmental' farmers and for discussing a wide range of topics, not just environment issues.

6.2 Rural Economy: WWh raised the issue of the new business rates on rural buildings and the impact that it is likely to have. It was agreed that it should be raised at the Liaison meeting

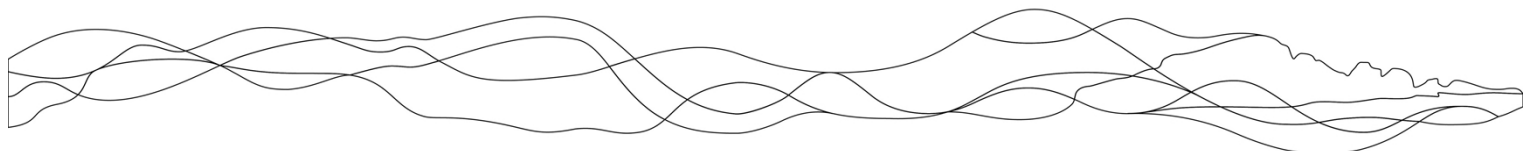
6.3 Land Agents:

6.4 **Planning:** - CIL charging schedule was circulated with the agenda. This has been adopted by the SDNPA and comes into force on 1st April 2017. It was noted that charges within the SD were high compared to other local authorities and that farm workers dwellings are not exempt as is the case in other areas.

6.5 **Access:** David Taylor has stood down from the SD Local Access Forum and has been replaced by his son Nick Taylor

6.6 **Cultural Heritage:** No update but SW reported that he had been contacted by James Winkworth Head of Income Generation and Marketing for SDNPA regarding the setting up of a Charitable Trust. They are currently looking for Trustees.

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6.7 Forestry:

7 **Partner (NFU/CLA) / Other Organizations.** Updates inc Brexit see above

8 **Dates of next meeting**

- Executive Committee meeting Tuesday 30th May 2017 12.00 – 13.00
- Liaison Meeting: Tuesday 30th May 2017 14:00 – 15.30 (Confirmed this is just between SDLM and SDNPA)

9 **Any other business**

- WEPs Both MT and WWo are in the processing of drafting WEPs. It has proved to be quite formulaic but useful in raising awareness of the good things that an estate is doing or plans to do. Some concern was raised over how easy it would be to make changes in light of external factors. It was agreed that the NPA should be pushed for a quick and simple method of amending the WEP and that this would be raised at the liaison meeting. NB Vicky Colwell is taking over from Jodi Slater as the WEP lead.

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