

**South Downs Land Managers
Minutes of Executive Committee**
11.30am 25th April 2018
The South Downs Centre, Midhurst

Present: William Woolmer (Chairman), William White, David Ashcroft, Andrew Elms, Mike Tristram, Simon Ward, Alison Tingley

- 1. Apologies:** James Cooper, David Taylor, Stan Abbott, Robin Edwards, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, Nigel Clutton
- 2. Minutes** of the Executive Committee meeting held on 22nd November 2017 were approved.
- 3. Matters Arising:** 3. NFU membership of SDLM. The current NFU Sussex Chairman is outside the Park and therefore NFU are unable to replace Willy Craig at present.
Action: WWh to investigate replacement
5. Update by leads: None
- 4. Post Brexit agri-env letter to South Downs MPs and selected peers** A copy of the letter sent by Tony Whitbread on behalf of the SDN was circulated with the papers. WWo echoed the response from David Taylor that had been copied to other EC Members, The points raised by David and William were agreed by other Members.
Action: AT to contact SDN setting out our position
- 5. General Data Protection Regulation** A paper outlining the personal data held by the Liaison Officer on Members and implications of the GDPR was circulated with the agenda. As a result of discussions it was agreed that AT should use Mailchimp to send an email to all members seeking their 'opt in' to our holding their data and sending newsletters and relevant information via email. **Action: AT to send email before 25th May deadline.**

It was suggested that for security reasons that a password protected copy of the contact spreadsheet should be sent to either NFU or CLA, whilst the password itself be sent to the other organisation. **Action: AT to send WWh/RE copy of the spreadsheet / password.**

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DA informed the group that EHDC have a councillor who is leading on GDPR who may be able to provide guidance.

6. **Sheepwatch:** AT informed the group that a report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare on 'Tackling livestock worrying and encouraging responsible dog ownership' is on website at <http://www.southdownsland.com/noticeboard>. It provides a summary of current legislation, issues and scale of the problem and examples of good practice. A number of recommendations are put forward including better signage and information for dog owners, improved recording of incidents, changes to relevant legislation, the provision of alternative locations for dog walking by Local Authorities. **Action: AT to circulate details of the Sheep Watch Conference on 22nd June in Petersfield**

The SDNPA have still not taken up the offer from NFU of purchasing a stock of 'Keep your dog on a lead' signs that could be given to landowners for use at lambing time. There was a debate in the House of Common last week on this issue that focused on the 'Take the Lead' campaign in Sussex.

DA commented on the recent ban on electric dog collars and suggested that it had been a useful mechanism for people to get dogs under control when used properly. People should have received training to prevent misuse.

7. **Date/agenda for AGM** It was agreed that the AGM would be held on 27th June prior to the Executive Committee meeting and Liaison Meeting. In addition to the normal election of members and officers and reports it was agreed that a paper confirming GDPR arrangements should go to the AGM.

In response to a question raised by James Cooper regarding progress in seeking new members for the SDLM Executive, it was agreed that the farm clusters may provide an ideal mechanism to engage landowners at a local level. **Action: AT to contact farm cluster groups to see if able to put forward volunteers.**

MT suggested that a joint paper by CLA, NFU and WWo should go to the AGM on how SDLM should be taken forward after the existing funds run out, setting out new funding and /or administrative mechanisms. **Action: RE, WWh & WWo to prepare paper. Andrew Thomas to provide guidance on where finances currently stand.**

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8. **Date and venue SDLM for summer meeting?** It was agreed that a summer meeting was not necessary

9. **Any other business**

Following the success of a meeting between Trevor Beattie and a group of young farmers organised by Mark Lee, a further meeting is to be held with both Trevor Beattie and Andrew Lee.

The SDNPA have appointed Bruce Foulkes as their Farm Liaison Officer. **Action: AT to contact to find out more about his role.**

- **Dates of future meetings**

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| 27 th June 2018 | 12 noon Executive Committee & AGM; followed by
14.00 Liaison meeting |
| 28 th September 2018 | 10-11.30 am Joint Liaison meeting; followed by
11.30 -13.00 Executive Committee |
| 5 th December 2018 | 10-11.30am Liaison Meeting; followed by
11.30 -13.00 Executive Committee |

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