

**South Downs Land Managers
Minutes of the Executive Committee
22nd November 2017
The South Downs Centre, Midhurst**

Present: William Wolmer, James Cooper, David Taylor, Tim Bamford, Oliver Harwood, Simon Ward, Stan Abbot, William White, Mike Tristram, Alison Tingley

Agenda

- 1. Apologies:** Chris Passmore, Andrew Elms, Nigel Clutton, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, David Ashcroft
- 2. Minutes** of the EC meeting held on 30th May 2017 were agreed
- 3. Update on Organisational Changes to SDLM**
 - progress with membership **TB to follow up with Robin**
 - NFU Willy Craig no longer Area Chairman and therefore needs to be replaced with another member as current Chairman farms outside the NP **WWh to seek alternative representative**
- 4. South Downs Pre-submission Local Plan Comments Draft (amended version to follow)**

The Committee thanks AT for putting together the draft comments. Changes were made as per the attached.
- 5. Update by leads /Partners/ Other Organizations.**

Landscape: SDNPA hosted the National Parks England Conference. The event focussed around the farmed landscape of the Park and featured local food and drink. WWo was asked to speak about farming in the National Park.

Planning: JC reported that he had had very little feedback from Members on planning related issues

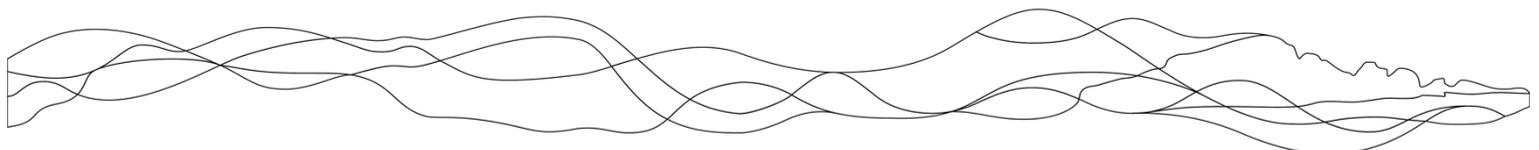
Cultural Heritage: MT queried whether or not the LP should be more inclusive in terms of its definition of cultural heritage. It was generally agreed that it probably should

CLA: Mainly focussing on Brexit, land use policies, fly tipping and hare coursing

NFU: As above

Forestry: The construction of a renewable energy biomass plant in Sandwich Kent is almost complete. It is hoped that the plant can help to bring unmanaged woods into production by providing a new outlet for low value hardwood. Indicative pricing may not provide returns

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for owners, but may enable favourable management which will open up woods for future returns and deliver biodiversity gain.

South Downs Farmland Birds Initiative: SDFBI Now have 4-5 years worth of survey data. Bruce Foulkes is working with GCWT and cluster groups in the South Downs. He is going to be looking for opportunities to publicize the results of the survey work. Some funding has become available for research. Any ideas for future research to Bruce. **ALL**

6. Any other business

- SDLM representative required for SDN Meeting 5th December, 2.30pm, Woods Mill to discuss post-Brexit agri-environment measures. **Mike Tristram volunteered to represent the SDLM**
- Request for panel member from the farming/estate community to assist in public discussion on Countryside and Farming after Brexit on evening of Friday 9th March at the Bedales Olivier Theatre. It was suggested that CLA might be able to field a speaker. **TB to follow up**
- **Dates of next meeting**
tbc

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