

South Downs Land Managers
Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting
11.30am, 25th May 2016
Ditchling Room, South Downs Centre, Midhurst

Present: Mike Tristram, Andrew Thomas, William Wolmer, William White, James Cooper, Simon Ward, Alison Tingley.

1. **Apologies:** David Taylor, Stan Abbott, Robin Edwards, David Hill, Nigel Clutton, David Uren, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 24th February 2016 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising: item 2 Farm Cluster information had been put on the website under Projects.

Item 4. **ACTION** MT still to prepare a paper for the AGM that projects the budget forward on the new model.

Item 6: SDNPA restructure. JC emphasised the need for a forestry specialist in the new NPA structure

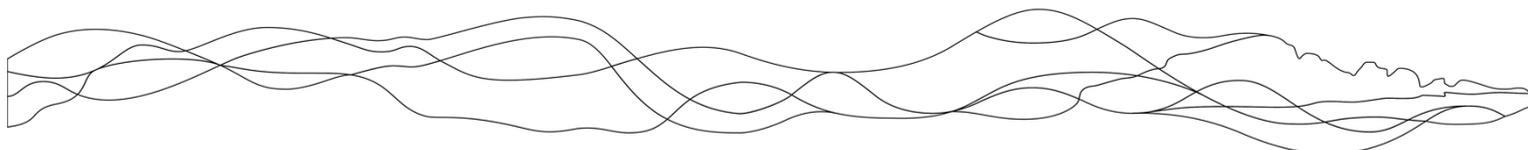
ACTION: ATi to add information on the Heathlands Reunited Project. WWo is SDLM rep on the Steering Group.

3. **AGM: draft agenda** It was agreed that with changes being made to the constitution prior to elections that item 8 was no longer needed. **ACTION:** ATi to remove and re-circulate. ATi reported that numbers for the AGM were low and that there was a danger that we would not be quorate. **ACTION** JC offered to chase a few people. ATi to provide a list of members and contact details.

4. **Changes to constitution:** MT outlined the reasons for making changes to the constitution. It needs to be retained in order to maintain the Memorandum of Understanding with the SDNPA and in order to retain the bank account. The Executive Committee does not necessarily fit with either the NFU or CLA structures but both are supportive, over time the constitution may have less importance. If the NPA continue to fund the SDLM at the current level there are sufficient funds to retain the Liaison Officer for a period of 5 years – without the NPA funding funds would last for a period of 3 years. A further rethink would be required at this point.

It was stressed that it would be important to present the changes in a positive light and stress that they are a simplification of the current version. **ACTION:** ATi to prepare the Constitution as a track changed document and circulate with the revised agenda.

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5. Updates by Lead

- **Landscape & Biodiversity:** Seven farm cluster groups have now been established or are in development in the SDNP One cluster group (Arun to Adur) is in receipt of Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Funding and five others (Adur to Eastbourne, Rother Valley, Selborne, South Downs and Winchester Downs) applied for Facilitation Funding in March this year and should hear next month if they too have been successful. In response to a question WWO confirmed that farmers do not have to be in HLS, ELS or CSS in order to join the clusters. If clusters are unsuccessful for funding, no money will be available for facilitation. MT suggested that the NPA be asked if they would in this instance be able to facilitate groups.
- **Planning:** JC Raised concerns at the inability of SDNPA to sort out problems with the processing of planning applications and response times by Chichester District Council. NFU were also aware of a case in East Hampshire District Council area where an application had not been determined within 6 months. NFU had written to Tim Slaney about this. ATh suggested that it would be interesting to see how the NPA fared in the Local Authority Planning league tables
- **Cultural Heritage:** Lidar is currently carrying out ground truthing before the document is made public. At the moment the NPA are keeping the information very close to their chest. It was not clear when or how the information gathered would be made available.

6. **Partner (NFU/CLA) / Other Organizations.** WWi explained that Tom Ormesher would attend the Liaison meeting in the afternoon as the NFU lead on Planning. NFU still had concerns over the abolition of the IDB on the Rivers Arun which is due to disappear in November. NFU would like the IDB to be retained until EA have put in place a Vision for the area following their 2.5 year consultation. The ELTRAS report identified that in 20 years time some land may be in unfavourable condition for farming.

7. Events/ Meetings

- NPA Liaison meeting:

8. Any other business

- **Confirmation of re-election of members**
- **Confirmation of re-election of officers**

Those present confirmed that they were willing to stand again in the absence of any further nominations.

9. Date of next meeting: 31st August 2016

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