

## South Downs Land Managers

### Revised Constitution as approved at AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Purpose of amendments –

- To continue, more sustainably, to represent the interest of land managers in the National Park under our Memorandum of Understanding with the Park Authority
- To expand SDLM's reach and effectiveness through closer integration with NFU and CLA.

Amendments:

- 1. AIMS – no change**
- 2. MEMBERSHIP – no change**
- 3. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - replace existing text with the following:**
  - 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 for new panel members to make up a sufficient body of advisors on the panel will be sought by the NFU and CLA officers from the appropriate NFU and CLA area committees, or otherwise made to the Chair of the EC.
  - 3.5 Nominees will 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 – replace existing text with the following:**
  - 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
- 5. MEETINGS – replace existing text with the following:**
  - 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 – no change**
- 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 to 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

### NEW SHORTER 2016 Constitution – Draft v070516

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2. **AIMS**
  - 2.1 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').
  - 2.2 ENGAGEMENT:  
To work with the National Park Authority in developing policies which recognize and celebrate the South Downs as a continually changing working landscape.
  - 2.3 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.
  - 2.4 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.
3. **MEMBERSHIP**
  - 3.1 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.
4. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  - 4.1 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
  - 4.2 The EC shall comprise a representative cross-section of land managers in the Park together with an NFU and a CLA officer ex officio
  - 4.3 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.
  - 4.4 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.
  - 4.5 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.
  - 4.6 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
5. **OFFICERS**
  - 5.1 The EC will appoint a Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer from among its members and at its discretion may appoint other officers.
  - 5.2 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
  - 5.3 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
- 6.

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### 7. MEETINGS

- 7.1 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
- 7.2 The quorum for decisions shall be 4 EC members

### 8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

- 8.1 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.

### 9. FINANCE– replace existing text with the following:

- 9.1 Accounts will be presented annually by the Treasurer to the EC. Any SDLM member may request a copy.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.

### 10. AMENDMENTS – replace existing text with the following:

- 10.1 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

### OLD Constitution (last amended 2009)

- 1. AIMS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS LAND MANAGEMENT GROUP ('SDLMG'/'the Group')**
  - 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. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
  - 3.1 The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Group. Officers are ex officio members of the Executive Committee.
  - 3.2 The Executive Committee shall be at least 5 members. In the event of equality in the votes cast at a meeting of the Executive Committee the Chairman will use a casting vote.
  - 3.3 Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Group, and may serve up to a maximum of 8 consecutive years unless no other member is nominated.
  - 3.4 Nomination for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting. Members may nominate themselves or be nominated by another member with their consent. Nominations must be proposed and seconded by two other members. If fewer nominations are received by the deadline than there are vacancies, further nominations may be taken from the floor of the meeting up to the number of vacancies available.
  - 3.5 Only those members of the Group present in person at the meeting may vote; the votes will be counted and the results announced during the meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies occurring between General Meetings from among the members of the Group
  - 3.6 The Executive Committee shall meet at least 3 times a year. The Secretary shall give Executive Committee members not less than 7 days' notice of meetings. Executive Committee meetings are notified on the Group's website and are open to all members to attend: any Land Manager or member wishing to attend should notify the Secretary at least 3 days beforehand.
- 4. OFFICERS OF THE GROUP**
  - 4.1 Officers of the Group are elected from among the members of the Executive Committee. If any nominee for an Officer post fails to be elected as a member of the Executive Committee they can no longer be considered for the Officer post.
  - 4.2 Nomination for the election of Officers shall be by the Executive Committee or made in writing to the Secretary at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting. If there is no nomination for a particular post received 7 days before the Annual General Meeting nominations shall be accepted from the floor of that meeting. If only one valid nomination for an officer post is received within the time specified, and the member is elected or re-elected to the Executive Committee, then voting on that post is not required.
  - 4.3 Only those members of the Group present in person at the meeting may vote; the votes will be counted and the results announced during the meeting.

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- 4.4 Nominees for election as Officers shall declare at the meeting at which their election is to be considered any financial or professional interest likely to be of concern to the Group.
- 4.5 The Officers shall consist of: Chairman; two Vice-Chairmen; Secretary; Treasurer. The Offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person.
- 4.6 All of these shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting, but no individual may serve more than 3 consecutive years in one post, unless no other member is eligible or nominated.
- 4.7 If no nominee for an Officer post is elected at the Annual General Meeting, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy from within the Executive Committee. If vacancies occur among the Officers between meetings the Executive Committee may fill these in the same way. Where the elected Executive Committee considers that it is in the interests of the membership to bring in additional areas of knowledge, they have the power to coopt.

### 5. MEETINGS

- 5.1 The Inaugural General Meeting of the South Downs Land Management Group will be held on 15 June 2009 followed by an Annual General Meeting in or about June or July of subsequent years. The timing of Ordinary General Meetings will be decided by the Executive Committee and there is no minimum annual number of Ordinary General Meetings of the Group. Special General Meetings of the Group shall be held at the written request of 25 per cent or more members or by the decision of the Chairman or majority decision of the Executive Committee of the Group.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee shall give at least 21 days' notice to members of the Annual General Meeting each year and at least 7 days' notice of other General Meetings. This notice may be given by posting on the website.
- 5.3 In the event of equality in the votes cast at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting the Chairman will use a casting vote.
- 5.4 The quorum for any General Meeting shall be 5 Executive Committee members and 10 further members. The quorum for an Executive Committee meeting shall be 5 Executive Committee 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

- 7.1 Accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.2 Any subscription requires the approval of a General Meeting.
- 7.3 The Executive Committee shall, out of the funds of the Group, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Group.
- 7.4 After the payment of the administration and management expenses and the setting aside to reserve of such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds of the Group shall be applied by the Executive Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the Group.
- 7.5 All moneys at any time belonging to the Group shall be invested by the Executive Committee in or upon such investment, securities or property as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent as may for the time being be required by law or by any special trusts affecting any property in the hands of the Executive Committee. In the event of dissolution of the Group the available funds of the Group shall be transferred to another body with similar objectives.

### 8. AMENDMENTS

- 8.1 This constitution may be ratified or amended by a 2/3rds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or other General Meeting of the Group.
- 8.2 If a motion for dissolution of the Group or any amendment to the Constitution is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or other General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the meeting is given.