

## South Downs Land Managers

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
**16.45, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**  
**At The Dover Barn, Dover Lane, Poling**  
**Nr Arundel BN18 9PX**

### MINUTES

**Present:** Stan Abbott, Michael Bowley, Nigel Clutton, James Cooper, Nigel Draffan, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, Len Ireland, Mick Jellis, Dominic Gardner, Keith Langmead, Sam Langmead, Ben Lee, Mark Lee, Tom Ormesher, Chris Passmore, Danny Steniford, Paul Strudwick, David Taylor, Andrew Thomas, Alison Tingley, Mike Tristram, Richard Turner, Simon Ward, William White, William Wolmer

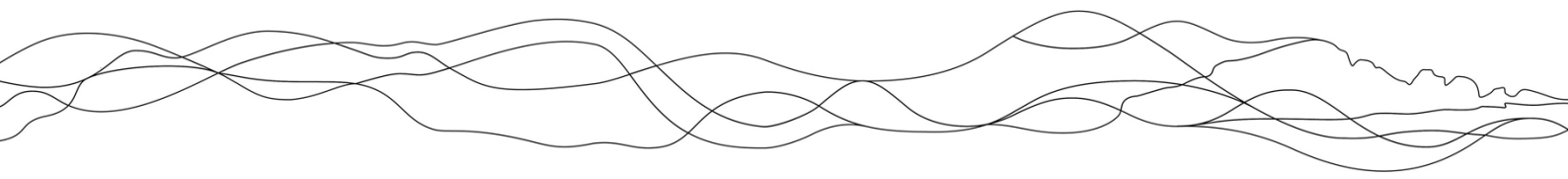
**1. Apologies:** Were received from Tim Armour, David Ashcroft, Annie Brown, Megan Cameron, H J N Fitzlan-Howard, Anthony Fuller, John & Kate Glazier, Carola Godman-Irving, Richard Goring, Oliver Harwood, Michael Houghton, Jon Hutcheson, Nick Jones, Richard & Rosemary Keyser, Charles Langmead, Viscount Mersey, Henry Nicholls, Sir James Scott, Gwenda Tear, Tom Tupper

**2. Minutes** of Annual General Meeting held on 22nd April, 2015 were approved. There were no matters arising.

**3. SDLM Organisational Review** The SDLM was set up to facilitate liaison between the National Park Authority and landowners during the formative years of the NPA. The Executive Committee has largely consisted of the same group of people who have represented the wider land management group of around 250 members and have had some influence on the Partnership Management Plan (PMP), emerging Local Plan and the employment of additional Rangers. Members pay a sub of £20 in addition to any NFU or CLA subscriptions. The Chairman MT set out the rationale for the SDLM organizational review, which will reduce administration and simplify book keeping arrangements.

MT went on to outline proposed changes.

- All NFU and CLA members in the NP area will automatically become members of SDLM
- There will be no subscription in addition to NFU or CLA subs – this can be reviewed if/when necessary
- NFU and CLA will put forward members to the Executive Committee which will be a joint advisory panel for both NFU and CLA on National Park matters
- The current Memorandum of Understanding between the NPA and SDLM will not be jeopardized
- AT will continue to be employed as Liaison Officer, who will report to NFU/CLA ex-officio members and the Chairman
- The Liaison Officer will maintain contact with Members and will report on NPA and provide feedback from Members to the NPA
- The SDLM website will be maintained
- Liaison meetings between the SDLM and NPA will be held 3-4 times per year
- At least one open meeting per year will be held
- The SDLM will continue to hold a bank account, reserves and receive annual funding from the NPA



## South Downs Land Managers

- William White and Robin Edwards would become signatories on the account

Under proposed model the current reserves will last for 3.5 years. At which point a further review will take place.

After lengthy discussion James Cooper proposed that we move towards the changes outlined above. Nigel Clutton seconded the motion, which was passed nem con.

**4. Amendments to Constitution** Proposed changes to the constitution were set out in a paper which had been circulated prior to the meeting. NC proposed that all changes be taken en block. This was seconded by William Wolmer and passed nem con.

ND proposed that all changes be accepted as set out in the paper, NC seconded and were passed nem con.

**5. Chairman's Observations** MT thanked Nigel Clutton for his hospitality, Alison for her work as Liaison Officer, Members of the Executive Committee especially those serving as Officers or in lead capacities for their time and NFU and CLA for their partnership work with SDLM over the course of the year. MT also thanked individual members who had contributed to informing and influencing the NPA for example by attending the Farmer Breakfasts organised by the NPA. He also flagged that he was keen to step down as Chairman in the near future and that anyone interested in taking on the role should talk to either himself, Robin Edwards or William White.

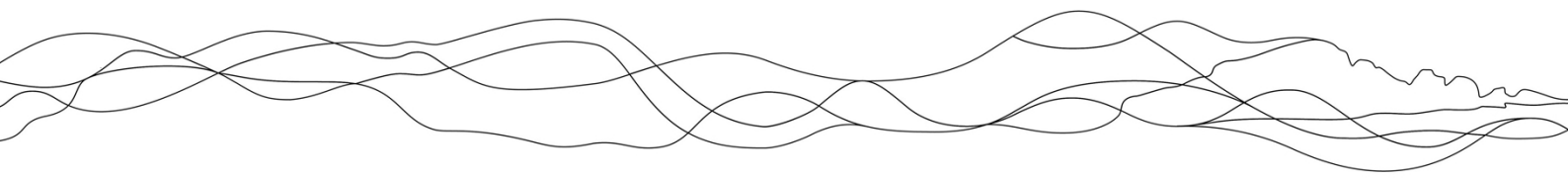
**6. Liaison Officer's Report** AT provided a summary of activity over the past year. **Meetings:** 2 Liaison meetings covering Local Plan response and update to timetable (now due for adoption in 2018); Whole Farm Plan Guidance; South Downs Food and Drink Portal now over 400 members, 690 events on website and 10,000+ subscribers to newsletter; SDNPA organization review and restructure bringing together Operations and Strategy headed up by Andrew Lee. Details to be posted on website when available.

2 Executive Committee meetings have also been held.

**Consultations:** Local Plan. Main points included support for policy SD22 Whole Farm Plans where linked to development proposals for diversification within estates or large farms which may not otherwise be considered acceptable; and the positive approach to the conversion of redundant agricultural buildings in policy SD49 seeking optimal viable use, of redundant historic buildings.

Objections were raised to 3 policies in particular: SD 46 requiring agricultural buildings that have been redundant for more than 3 years to be demolished; SD47.4 requiring any diversification business to remain ancillary to the main farming business; and SD48 agricultural and forestry workers dwellings will only be permitted where no other dwelling on or closely connected to the holding have been sold off in the past 10 years

During the year the Executive has also commented on the draft Whole Farm Plan Guidance which is linked to policy SD22.



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**Communications:** 2 newsletters have been sent out keeping members up to date with projects at the NPA and other relevant organizations.

16 email notifications of events/information have been sent out and 12 Blogs posted

JC thanked AT for her work especially on the Local Plan submission.

**7. Treasurer's Report** Andrew Thomas presented the meeting with the financial report. In the last financial year total income had been £5,454 and outgoings £8,598, higher than previous years due to additional costs of SDLM and Farmland Bird website improvements. Reserves currently stand at £7,658. In the 2016 forecast, income is expected to be broadly similar £5,155 to date and outgoings slightly less than last year, resulting in a loss of £1,930. Going forward under the new structure, assuming a continued income from the NPA of £2500 per annum and lower expenditure of around £4,200, there would be an annual loss of £1,700. Meaning, that the current reserves would last 3 to 4 years.

In a response to a question about membership MT confirmed that NFU and CLA would identify all their members who own land in the NP, these would be added to the list that AT has that are not be members of either organization.

David Taylor proposed acceptance of the Treasurer's report, it was seconded by WW.

### 8. Election of Executive Committee

MT thanked Members and Officers of the Executive again for their commitment and for agreeing to see the process of transition through. It was proposed that election to the Executive be taken en block. This was seconded by KL. All those named below were duly re-elected

Stan Abbott  
James Cooper  
David Taylor  
Simon Ward

David Ashcroft  
Sabrina Harcourt-Smith  
Andrew Thomas  
William Wolmer

Nigel Clutton  
Christopher Passmore  
Miike Tristram

### 9. Election of Officers

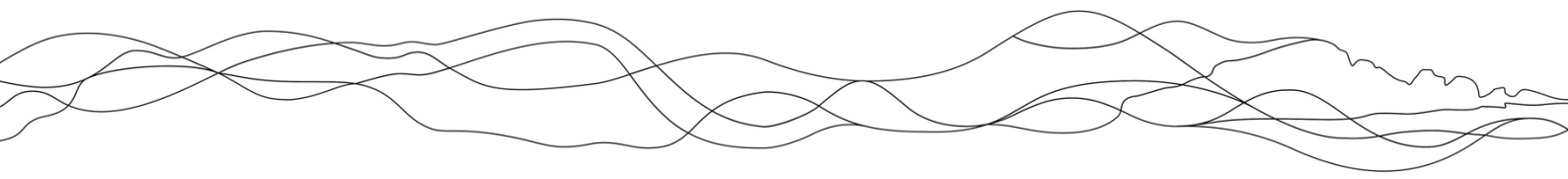
Chairman: Mike Tristram. JC thanked MT for agreeing to stand again. Over the past 5 year he has made a huge personal commitment to the organization and has done a first rate job. There being no other nominations JC proposed that MT be re-elected as Chairman, this was seconded by SH-C and passed nem con.

Officers: There being no other nominations MT proposed that the following people be re-elected (no seconder required as proposed by the Chairman) which was passed nem con.

Secretary: William Wolmer  
Treasurer: Andrew Thomas

Vice Chairman: James Cooper  
Vice Chairman: David Taylor

**10. Any Other Business** WWi asked if anybody had received an email entitled 'dangerous chemicals' seeking a ban on spraying of chemical during the day. He asked to be informed if anybody does receive it.



## South Downs Land Managers

### 'Tackling Rural Crime'.

PS Tom Carter and PC Kim May from Sussex Police

#### Rural Crime

- Agricultural
  - Hare coursing
  - Livestock attacks
  - Poaching
  - Farm theft
- Equine
  - Tack theft
  - Horse theft/attacks
  - Fly grazing
- Wildlife
  - Raptor persecution
  - Bat roost/bird nest destruction
  - Damage to SSSIs
  - Trade in endangered species
  - Badger persecution
  - Release of non-native species
  - Habitat destruction
- Heritage
  - Night hawking
  - Theft from church buildings
  - Theft of Victorian post boxes
  - Criminal damage to heritage assets i.e. illegal off road driving on Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Other
  - Hunt issues
  - Trespassing
  - Illegal off-roading
- Prevention
  - Security marking –postcode, data tagging, smart water, tracker
  - CCTV, security lighting, trail cameras
  - Fencing, barriers, locks
  - Community schemes – Farmwatch
  - Local messaging groups
  - Insurance
  - Signage – livestock - seasonal

PS Carter urged anybody to contact him with any problems relating to rural crime. Evidence is crucial, if possible take a photo of illegal activity, suspect number plates etc.

Police are now taking a multi agency approach to try to tackle rural crime including food fraud. Posters are available from Tom one encouraging dog walkers to put their dogs on a lead around livestock and the other about anti-poaching.

His contact details are PS CC128 Tom Carter Mobile: 0777 540 6752  
tom.carter@sussex.pnn.police.uk

