

## South Downs Land Managers

*Chairman* Mike Tristram  
*Vice Chairman* James Cooper  
*Vice Chairman* David Taylor  
*Secretary* William Wolmer  
*Founder President* Nigel Clutton OBE

*Liaison Officer:* Alison Tingley  
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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 22<sup>th</sup> April 2015  
At Field Farm Barn, Colemore  
Nr Alton GU34 3PX

#### **Minutes:**

#### **Present:**

##### Committee Members:

Mike Tristram (Chairman)  
James Cooper (Vice Chairman)  
Andrew Thomas (Treasurer)  
William Wolmer (Secretary)  
Nigel Clutton  
Sabrina Harcourt-Smith  
Robin Edwards  
Simon Ward

##### Members:

Remony Moser  
Esther Dawson  
Richard Denman

##### Officer:

Alison Tingley

1. **Apologies:** were received from 28 people

2. **Minutes** of Annual General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 were approved. There were no matters arising

3. **Chairman's Observations:** The Chairman thanked Alison Tingley for taking on much of the work from the Chairman. He also thanked all members of the Executive Committee who have attended meetings especially those who serve and contribute in various Officer or Lead capacities; our CLA and NFU colleagues for their partnership working; and members who have contributed to informing and influencing the Park Authority, by participating in, for example, the Farmers Breakfasts organised by the Park Authority, in Jan/Feb 2015. Discussions included the new Countryside Stewardship scheme, the Leader program, and the new SDNPA Food and Drink Portal.

The Chairman went on to outline the function of the South Downs Partnership and the role that individuals play in bringing their experience and specialist knowledge to bear on strategic work that the Authority has in progress. Three members of the SDLM have sat on the Partnership since inception: Chris Passmore, David Taylor and Mike Tristram. David Taylor's place has just been taken on by David Uren. A fourth SDLM member Jane Cecil also sits on the Partnership for the National Trust.

The Partnership has had a number of joint workshops with Park Authority members this year:

- Sep 14: how to embed an Ecosystems Approach in the planning system
- Nov 14: how to develop a Spatial Portrait for the Local Plan

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- Feb 15: how to deliver access effectively
- April 15: how to develop the Local Plan spatial portrait(2), and, a Research Strategy

These discussions give Partners scope to influence the 'how not to' and the 'how to' do these things. The farming members on the Partnership help key officers in the Authority understand the implications for the land management sector at an early stage. Any member interested in being considered when a Partnership vacancy comes up, please let MT know. There might possibly be a role at this time for an additional Partnership member with a strong involvement in diversified tourism business activity.

The Chairman informed Members that there will be a vacancy among the Secretary of State appointed Members of the Authority itself this September. SDLM would like to encourage applications from land managers or others with understanding of land management; anyone with likely interest in this position is asked to contact MT.

This has been the first full year of SDLM sponsorship of the website of the South Downs Farmland Bird Initiative, [www.sdfarmlandbirds.com](http://www.sdfarmlandbirds.com). The first year's South Downs Farmland Bird Survey results are now available on the website which he commended. The SDFBI partnership includes SDLM, SDNPA, GWCT and RSPB. It is an opportunity for SDLM to promote public and Park understanding of the wider benefits of farming.

With regards to the appointment of landowner representation onto the NPA, JC expressed disappointment that more regard was not taken in view of the fact that 85% of the area is farmed land.

ACTION: ATi to arrange for the Chairman to send a letter to whoever is in charge of Defra after the election.

**4. Liaison Officer's Report:** ATi outlined the main areas of work undertaken since the last AGM.

### **Input to consultations**

Following discussions at the April 2014 Exec Committee meeting and AGM a detailed response was submitted to the NPA on the Local Plan and Community Infrastructure Levy, taking on board comments made at the meetings.

During the year the Executive has also commented on the draft SDNPA Food and Drink Policy and provided input into developing the SDNPA IDOX planning reporting system. SDNPA sought our help in identifying the types of agricultural planning applications that require monitoring and how they might be identified.

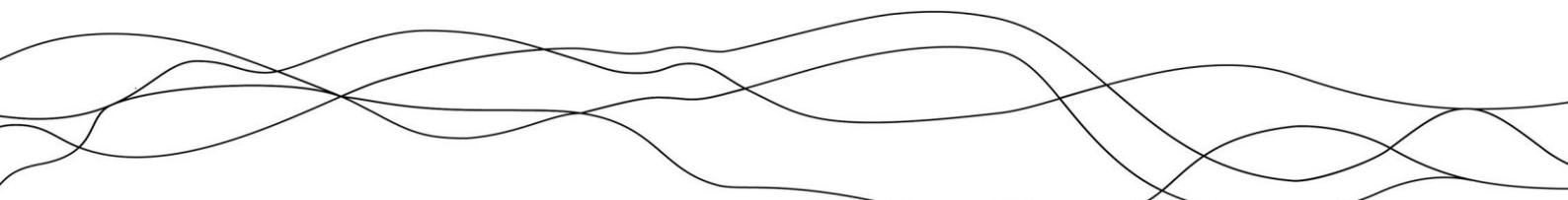
### **Making a difference on the ground**

Additional Rangers have now been employed in each of the area teams, something that the SDLM had long pushed for.

**Meetings** - Items discussed at the various meetings are listed below

Two Liaison meetings were held with the SDNPA in which a broad range of topics were discussed, including

- their response to our comments on the Local Plan/ CIL
- SCF grant review of criteria
- NELMS



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- NIA framework contract
- Broadband
- Community Land Trusts

At the Summer Members meeting that took place in Midhurst last June there were presentations from Officers from the SDNPA on four 'hot' topics followed by workshops where SDLM Members were able to input ideas to shape developing projects

- Payments for ecosystem services
- Woodland management
- Food and Drink Portal
- Dog behavior campaign

### **SDLM Organizational Activity**

Two meetings of the Executive Committee were held in April and November  
AGM

Autumn Members Meeting took place in Ditchling

- Talk by Dr John Godfrey on the "Landscapes of War and Peace: Sussex, The South Downs and the Western Front 1914-18"

### **Communications**

Three Newsletters have been sent via email and are available on our website  
<http://www.southdownsland.com/>

19 notifications of events and circulation of information have been sent to Members. Event information is also available kept up to date on the website at  
<http://www.southdownsland.com/noticeboard.php>

At last years meeting the Chairman reported on the new visual identity that the SDNPA were developing. This has now been approved by the NPA and you will see has been applied to the newsletter, revised leaflet and other stationery.

### **Membership**

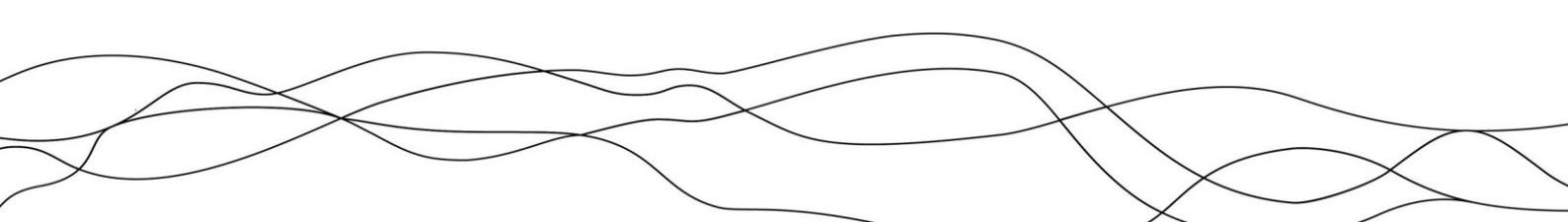
Membership has fluctuated slightly over the year.

### **Focus for the coming year**

Summer meeting to take place in June topic will be Local Plan preferred options consultation

**5. Treasurer's Report:** ATh reported that there had been a loss last year of £903 up from the previous year. This was in part due to increased administration costs. The deficit was covered by reserves of which there are still £8,302 at the end of the last financial year.

In response to a question from Members ATi reported that there are in the region of 250 names on the membership list. Reminders will be going out shortly to those not yet paid up.



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### 6. Election of Executive Committee

The members of the EC were thanked. The following members have confirmed their willingness to stand for the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:

Stan Abbott	David Ashcroft	Nigel Clutton
James Cooper	Sabrina Harcourt-Smith	Jonny Morris
Christopher Passmore	David Taylor	Andrew Thomas
Thomas Tupper	Mike Tristram	Simon Ward
William Wolmer		

MT also suggested, subject to confirmation of his agreement that David Uren be asked to sit on the Executive Committee.

Proposer: James Cooper  
Secunder: Richard Denman

### 7. Election of Officers (James Cooper took the Chair)

JC proposed that Mike Tristram be elected as Chairman for a further year. This was seconded by Andrew Thomas

Mike Tristram resumed the Chair for the election of Officers

Nigel Clutton proposed that the following people be re-elected, this was seconded by Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

Vice Chairman: James Cooper    Secretary: William Wolmer  
Vice Chairman: David Taylor    Treasurer: Andrew Thomas

### 8. Any Other Business.

JC endorsed comments made by the Chairman earlier and asked that the appreciation of the Committee of the work by the Liaison Officer be recorded.

**9. Date of next meeting:** The Summer meeting of the SDLM will be held at Coombes Barn. The main topic for discussion will be the Preferred options for the South Downs Local Plan.

The meeting was followed by a presentation from Jamie Cordery – South East Liaison Officer, The Deer Initiative on 'Recognising the signs and dealing with deer'.

The main problem species within the South Downs are Fallow deer, in order to control numbers it is critical to cull females. All old WGS and new CS Woodland Grants where deer are identified as an issue will require a deer management plan. He urged landowners to insist that stalkers produce an impact assessment or at very least to keep records of what culled. Co-operation with neighbours is essential especially in controlling fallow numbers. Best Practice guidelines are available on the Deer Initiative website [www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/best\\_practice/](http://www.thedeerinitiative.co.uk/best_practice/).

