

## South Downs Land Management Group

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**at Boxgrove Village Hall, Boxgrove, Chichester**

Present:

Committee Members:

Mike Tristram (Chairman)  
James Cooper (Vice Chairman)  
David Taylor (Vice Chairman)  
Andrew Thomas (Treasurer)  
William Wolmer (Secretary)  
Stan Abbott  
Nigel Clutton  
James Cooper  
Sabrina Harcourt-Smith  
Tom Ormesher  
Chris Passmore  
Tom Tupper  
Simon Ward

Members:

Michael Haughton  
Hamish Janson  
Keith Langmead  
Richard Pailthorpe  
C M Wettern

Officer:

Alison Tingley

James Cooper acting as Chairman for the meeting welcomed everyone to the 5<sup>th</sup> SDLMG AGM and thanked them for coming.

- 1. Apologies:** Apologies were received from 25 people.
- 2. Minutes** of the AGM held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013 were approved. There were no matters arising
- 3. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman's Annual Report was circulated to the membership. The main points were:

Activity in the last year has been dominated by the consultation on the South Downs Partnership Management Plan. The SDNPA took on board many of the comments submitted on behalf of the SDLMG. In addition comments were also submitted on the Access Network and Accessible Greenspace (ANG) Report.

The SDLMG have continued to press for an increased number of Rangers which was partially taken into account in the recent restructure, resulting in an additional Ranger in each team.

In partnership with the SDNPA and other conservation organisations we have supported the re-launch of the Farmland Bird Initiative, participating in the Steering Group and sponsoring the website. [www.farmlandbirds](http://www.farmlandbirds) will ensure that scientific

## South Downs Land Managers



research and evidence is available to farmers as well as helping to get the message across of the value of farmland, particularly for ground nesting birds.

Three liaison meetings have been held with the SDNPA at which a broad range of topics have been discussed including the NPA's approach to planning including the development of the Local Plan and CIL, NIA procurement, water resources, action to reduce livestock worrying and ways in which the SDNPA can work more closely with land managers at the local level.

SDLMG Committee Members have contributed to the developed a new visual identity for the South Downs which is to be formally adopted by the SDNPA in June. Producers and businesses will be encouraged to use the identity in their logos, branding, signage etc to show allegiance with and raise profile of the South Downs.

At the last AGM there were talks on Access including the Local Access forum and the Management Plan consultation. Two Executive Committee Meetings have been held, this afternoon the Executive discussed the draft submission on the Local Plan and CIL charging structure consultation, which following changes will be submitted to the NPA on behalf of the SDLMG.

Following the resignation of Gwenda Tear in November the Executive Committee decided that a paid Liaison Officer was required to take the pressure off Members of the Committee, part of the administration, namely finances and subscriptions is now being provided by a professional bookkeeping service. The role of the Liaison Officer, Alison Tingley, will be to sustain and increase membership to ensure that we can retain our influence with the NPA, as well as dealing with communications and drafting consultation responses.

Looking ahead, the topic for this year's General meeting will be the Local Plan and CIL. Members of the Committee are involved in the Steering Group of the SD Nitrate Modelling Project and new Heathland Partnership.

There followed some discussion regarding the Local Plan submission and CIL. Concerns were raised that as the NPA is not responsible for providing most of the infrastructure that it should go to the Local Authorities that do. It was noted that further opportunities would be available to Members to comment at subsequent stages. **Action:** ATi to amend SDLMG submission to reflect discussions.

It was agreed that item 5.1 of the Constitution: that due to the change in format of the AGM i.e. not part of a larger General Meeting that it was acceptable to hold the AGM at the end of April rather than June/July as stated in the Constitution.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Copies of the Treasurer's Report were circulated. Andrew Thomas confirmed that the grant from the SDNPA has remained the same and that Membership was similar to last year although there are a significant number of subscriptions still outstanding. ATh confirmed the new arrangement for collecting subscriptions electronically, where possible, which is much more time and cost efficient.

In response to a question from the floor about when the grant from the SDNPA was received, the Chairman this had been down to when he sent the invoice. **ACTION:** ATH to ask the book keeper to send invoice automatically in November.

## 5. Election of Executive Committee

The outgoing members of the EC were thanked for the contribution they had made, alongside those who were standing for re-election. The following members have confirmed their willingness to stand for the Executive Committee for the ensuing year:

Stan Abbott

James Cooper

Christopher Passmore

Thomas Tupper

William Wolmer

David Ashcroft

Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

David Taylor

Mike Tristram

Nigel Clutton

Jonny Morris

Andrew Thomas

Simon Ward

**Proposer:** Mark Lee

**Seconder:** Keith Langmead

## 6. Election of Officers

The following Officers agreed to stand for re-election:

Chairman: Mike Tristram

Secretary: William Wolmer

Vice Chairmen: James Cooper and David Taylor

Treasurer: Andrew Thomas

**Proposer:** Sabrina Harcourt-Smith

**Seconder:** Tom Tupper

## 7. Any Other Business

Mark Lee said that he had attended a Parish meeting on the Local Plan and CIL that had been very poorly attended and raised concerns at the process.

Concerns were also raised at inconsistencies of planning decisions between the delegated Local Authorities and the Park. SDLMG were emphasizing in their response to the Local Plan consultation that development should not have to meet the purposes of NP designation but that it should not be in conflict with the purposes. Whilst the Chief Executive had previously stated that development should have no lasting harm there was concern that in practice this may be treated by some officers as 'no harm' which would be unnecessarily restrictive.

Nigel Clutton urged any members to feed issues to the Liaison Officer or Executive Committee as they arise.

## 8. Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting of the SDLMG will be held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at Capron House in Midhurst, arrival 6.00pm for 6.30pm start. The topic of the evening will be the Local Plan and CIL.

The meeting was followed a presentation by Alison Tingley on the SDNPA restructure.