

**South Downs Land Managers  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Minutes of meeting on 30th November 2016 at Boxgrove Village Hall**

**Present:** Mike Tristram, William White, Tim Bamford, Robin Edwards, David Taylor, Andrew Thomas, Chris Passmore, Stan Abbott, Alison Tingley, James Cooper

1. **Apologies:** Nigel Clutton, William Wolmer, Simon Ward
2. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were agreed. **Matters arising: Item 2:** ATi confirmed that information on Heathlands Reunited Project have been added to the SDLM website. **Item 5:** ATi reported that an issue had been raised by a member in the Itchen Valley area where the Parish Council had not been consulted on a planning application. She had raised this with Tim Slaney who confirmed that the Parish Council is not a statutory consultee but under the agreement with the local authority they should normally be consulted.
3. **Update on Organisational Changes to SDLM**
  - **Membership:** WWh confirmed that NFU has around 325 members within the SD National Park area and CLA 420. It was agreed that in order to comply with confidentiality ATi is to sign a confidentiality agreement and meet with NFU and CLA at their offices in order to compare the SDLM list with the NFU /CLA lists.

**ACTION:** RE and WWh to write to members to inform them that they will automatically become members of the SDLM and will start receiving emails and newsletters from SDLM, unless they choose.

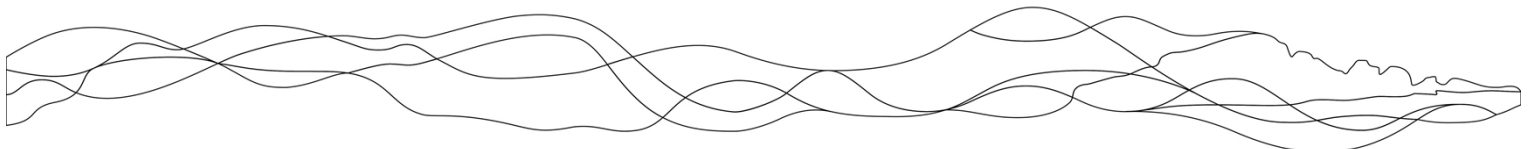
**ACTION:** CLA and NFU to include an article about the SDLM in their newsletters to capture any members that have an address outside the Park but have a land management interest within it.

**ACTION:** ATi to draft an email to SDLM members to ask them to stop their standing orders.
  - **Executive Committee Membership:** WWh informed the Committee that existing 'officers' of NFU would become ex-officio members of the SDLM. New NFU members will be Will Craig, Caroline Harriet and Andrew Elms. RE informed the Committee that none of the current CLA office holders live or work in the Park. Once ATi has gone through the list RE will use this to identify a suitable candidate from Sussex and Hampshire.
  - **Executive Committee Officer roles:** No further thoughts as to new people to take over. **ACTION:** RE to approach the Tennant Farmers Association to see if they wish to put forward candidates. MT relinquishing chair at next AGM but willing to stay on the EC. JC wishing to stand down as Vice Chair but willing to stay on the EC. DT wanting to step down from EC.

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- **Website:** AT outlined changes that had been made to the website content. It was agreed that it should be linked to NFU and CLA websites so that their Communications Officers can add information. The domain name is currently registered to and owned by MT. In next few weeks MT to set up a fresh set of accounts and transfer ownership to SDLM
  - **Leaflet:** It was agreed not to update the leaflet.
4. **Relationship with SDNPA.** There was some discussion as to whether or not the SDNPA staff are fully engaged with the SDLM. WWh to raise with Andrew Lee in a conference call with him on Friday. AL does not return full time until end January early February. The main activity at the moment for the SDNPA is Brexit.
5. **Updates by Lead**
- Landscape & Biodiversity:
  - Rural Economy: Coast to Capital LEP have £800,000 to spend and Enterprise M3 £2m to promote the wood fuel trade. The SDNPA are looking to repeat the economic profile study that was carried out during the NPA set up phase.
  - Land Agents: CDC has identified the need for traveller sites in the District and has recently lost on appeal applications where travellers have bought and developed land.
  - Planning: The 'mafia' group do not have a common view of Whole Estate Plans. Many see it as a tool for the NPA to gain information about the Estates which they don't necessarily want to divulge. No estates have yet submitted a WEP although some farms have. There was some concern that the NPA would require WEPs for diversification proposals or other development that would not normally be required or that they would become too onerous.
  - Access:
  - Cultural Heritage: The LIDAR report is available on the English Heritage website. The SDNPA are preparing guidelines for managing archaeological features in forestry settings. Sussex Heritage Trust have prepared a guide covering the history, survey, maintenance and contacts for K6 Telephone boxes.
  - Forestry: A large wood fuel plant is being built on the Kent coast. Euro Forest are to supply 160k tonnes of mainly hardwood. FC is seeing it as a major opportunity to get under-managed woodlands in the region back into management. C2C LEP are supporting a number of forestry businesses in the area, they are especially interested in using locally sourced wood for estate housing. There is a new woodland carbon fund for woods over 30ha. RLR registration is not required nor does it have to be in single ownership. Japanese larch phytophthora has been confirmed at both Cowdray and Petworth. Stansted are removing larch as a precaution. Chalara has been confirmed at Stansted.
6. **Partner (NFU/CLA) / Other Organizations.** Still early days for Brexit. At the Network /SDNPA/SDLM Liaison meeting in October there had been a lot of support for the need to maintain farming on the Downs. SDNPA are setting up a Charity/Trust to draw in funding and also looking at ways to charge.

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## 7. Forthcoming Events

- Farmer Breakfasts 2017
  - 2nd February – Central/Wealden at South Downs Centre
  - 8<sup>th</sup> February – Eastern venue possibly Plumpton tbc
  - 9<sup>th</sup> February – Western possibly Langrish House Hotel tbc
- Landowner Conference
  - 3rd February 2017 - Turning land into an asset: Working together to build more affordable homes

## 8. Meeting Dates for 2017

- 2017 AGM **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June** 16:00 venue to be confirmed AT to approach Ridgeview
- Liaison Meetings: The following dates have been suggested by the SDNPA although not all may be needed

Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	14:00-15:30
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	14:00-15:30
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	14:00-15:30
Wednesday 22 November	14:00-15:30
- Executive Committee meetings to be held prior to the Liaison meetings  
12:00 – 13.00

## 9. Any other business - None

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