

MINUTES:

Present: Mike Tristram, David Ashcroft, William Wolmer, David Taylor, Stan Abbott, Simon Ward, James Cooper, Chris Passmore, David Hill, David Uren, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith, Alison Tingley.

1. **Apologies:**, Nigel Clutton, William White, Andrew Thomas, Robin Edwards

2. **Minutes** – were approved as an accurate record.

Matters arising: Item 4 MT reported that he owns the domain name of the website on behalf of the SDLM. The two administrators are himself and the Liaison Officer.

ACTION: ATi to add information on the existing and developing farming clusters to website

3. **Executive Committee Membership:** See Strategic Review

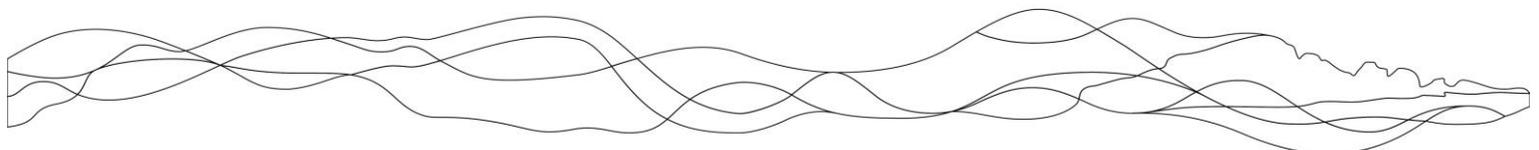
4. **Membership/Treasurers Report:** The Chairman outlined the report prepared by the Treasurer. In view of previous discussions on the strategic review of the SDLM, even with proposed changes it would be possible to continue with use of reserves, a reduction in the hours of the Liaison Officer for a further 5 years or so, assuming that the SDNPA continue to support the SDLM. MT explained that members are only removed from the system if they say they no longer want to be members, therefore the subscription income figure is higher than actual income from subscriptions. The reason for the £3144 overspend in 2015 was additional cost of renewing the SDLM and Farmland Bird websites. Website maintenance costs are likely to be in the region of £300/ year **ACTION:** Prepare paper that projects budget forward on new model for AGM.

5. **AGM:** It was agreed that the AGM should be held later in the year to allow time for discussions to take place with NFU/CLA. A provisional date and venue was agreed. Monday 6th June at The Dover Barn, Angmering. In order to try and encourage members to attend speakers on the topic of Rural crime to be invited.

6. **Updates by Lead**

- Landscape & Biodiversity: WW reported that one of the fallouts of the NIA had been the Farm clusters. Arun Cluster has received funding and 3 others are seeking funding Selborne, Winchester and South Downs (Meons and Ems). These groups are primarily farmer led with support in terms of time and a small amount of money by SDNPA Rangers.

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- Access: No feedback has been received from the Recreation and Access Strategy Lead. The SD Access Forum has concentrated on riparian rights on the River Arun and the closure of railway crossings.
- Cultural Heritage: SW reported that the Lidar survey has been completed but that the results have not been published
- Forestry: SA is now with The Woodland Trust and able to take less restrictive stance. He understood that the NPA restructure would include landscape leads and was hopeful that that would include a woodland specialist. Chalara likely to be a problem going forward.
- Rural Economy: DA reported that he had taken on Economic portfolio at East Hampshire District Council, who are looking into providing funding to assist applicants with the application forms for Fieldfare LEADER. Feedback has been mixed on effectiveness of LEADER funding
- Planning: Only two enquiries had been received from members in the past 6 months following an email requesting feedback.

7. Partner (NFU/CLA) / Other Organizations Updates

CLA: DH reported that the CLA had put in responses on both the SD Local Plan and CIL, in particular that agricultural workers dwellings should be excluded from CIL. DH asked if any other landowners had received a letter from the SDNPA (Eastern Area Manager) asking for landowner contact details and boundary of their land holding. Only one member had received the letter and there was some speculation as to its purpose. DH reported that the IDD on the Rother and Arun has been abolished. The upkeep of sluices and pumps will no longer be carried out by the EA but will most likely fall to the landowner

8. Events/ Meetings

- NPA Liaison meetings: The following dates have been set for future Executive and Liaison meetings 25th May, 31st August and 30 November 2016
NB Executive Committee Meetings will take place from 11.30 – 13.30 and Liaison Meetings 14.00 – 16.00 on the above dates
- Summer meeting: It was agreed that as the AGM is to be held later in the year no summer meeting would be held this year

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