

**South Downs Land Managers  
Annual General Meeting /Executive Committee Minutes - DRAFT**

**12.00 noon 30<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The Chanctonbury Meeting Room, The South Downs Centre, Midhurst

**Present:** Andrew Elms, David Taylor, James Cooper, Mike Tristram, Nigel Clutton, Robin Edwards, Simon Ward, Tim Bamford, William White, William Wolmer, Alison Tingley, Mark Lee.

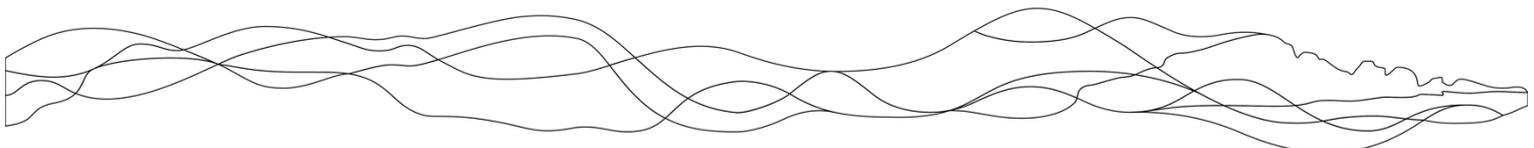
- 1. Apologies:** Andrew Thomas, Chris Passmore, Sabrina Harcourt-Smith
2. Mike Tristram welcomed Andrew Elms to the Committee
- 3. Minutes of the AGM meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016** were agreed. There were no matters arising
- 4. Outgoing Chairman's observations:** Mechanisms for liaising with the NPA are now well established and robust, through formal meetings between the Executive and the NPA and more informal farmer breakfast meetings, conferences and workshops that have been well attended by SDLM Members. On the technical side the Local Plan is nearing completion and SDLM has contributed in particular to the development of the agricultural policies. The NPA are starting a review of the Partnership Management Plan, although this is likely to be a light touch, focussing on delivery. There remains a question over how agri-environment will be delivered post Brexit and the fear that farmers may not receive the same level of funding, which will remain a challenge for the incoming chairman to take forward. MT thanked members of the Committee for their support over the past 6 years and in particular the NFU and CLA teams for taking things forward.
- 5. Election of Executive Committee:** MT proposed that those farmer representatives on the South Downs Partnership are included in the EC circulation of minutes, with their agreement, but not necessarily required to attend the meetings. MT confirmed that he would be prepared to brief them on any matters raised from SDLM Executive meetings. James Cooper proposed that election to the Executive Committee was taken en block. This was seconded by Nigel Clutton. All those listed below were duly re-elected.

Stan Abbott  
James Cooper  
Andrew Thomas  
Simon Ward

David Ashcroft  
Sabrina Harcourt-Smith  
Mike Tristram  
William Wolmer

Nigel Clutton  
David Taylor  
Andrew Elms  
Willy Craig      David Uren

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South Downs Partnership Members: David Uren

Chris Passmore

Mike Tristram

**6. Election of Officers:** MT proposed William Wolmer to take over as Chairman, there being no other nominations William was duly elected. James Cooper and Mike Tristram had agreed to stay on as Vice Chairmen to support William and Andrew Thomas as Treasurer. Since the appointment of the Liaison Officer AT has taken on much of the Secretarial role therefore MT proposed that AT take on this position in an ex-officio role.

Chairman: William Wolmer

Vice Chairman: James Cooper

Vice Chairman: Mike Tristram

All voted in favour

Secretary: Alison Tingley (ex-officio)

Treasurer: Andrew Thomas

**7. Treasurer's Report:** AT circulated the Treasurers report. It was noted that the SDNPA contribution of £2500 that was invoiced in November had not yet been paid. AT to chase. It was noted that there was an error in the Year to Date and 2017 Forecast columns where the Reserves carried forward should have been £6,508 not £7,658 as in the report. Assuming that this income is received this will leave a deficit of £789 and reduce the reserves to £5221 (Year to Date) and £5,710 (Forecast). Subject to this change the report was accepted.

**8. Liaison Officer's Report:** AT outlines the work carried out during the year which has included 14 email circulations on a variety of topics of interest to members such as workshops, farmer breakfasts, conferences, project news etc. Two newsletters have been sent out, maintaining and updating the website, including changes to membership information, SDNPA staff information. Finally organising meetings preparing agendas and minutes for the Executive Committee and liaising with NPA. Since January AT has reduced her hours to approximately 10 per month, although work load obviously varies. In the near future preparations for the Summer meeting and adding NFU and CLA contact will be a considerable chunk of work.

There being no other business MT declared the AGM part of the meeting closed

**9. Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting** of 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017 were agreed

**10. Matters arising**

- **Update on Organisational Changes to SDLM :** William White informed the EC that he had written to all members within the SDNPA boundaries informing them that they were now SDLM members and that their details would be passed on, unless they notified him to the contrary. The list would now be made available to AT, who had signed a data protection form. CLA have also notified members within the Park that they are now SDLM Members. RE to check with Megan Lock as to the availability of the list

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- TFA have publicised the SDLM to their members and provided them with a link to the southdownsland website so that they can opt in. AT had not yet been contacted by any TFA members.

Some concerns were raised at the time taken to integrate the NFU and CLA members and the need to attract new blood to the Executive Committee. Both NFU and CLA confirmed their commitment to keep the SDLM group going but felt that it was not their sole responsibility to rejuvenate the Exec. Members agreed that a good mechanism for dialogue with the SDNPA had been established and that should a crisis occur in the future that this was more likely to attract people to become more involved.

- 11. Summer Meeting:** AT outlined a proposed agenda for the Summer meeting at Ridgeview Wine Estate on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Following concerns raised by Mark Lee on problems arising from the NPAs work to promote the Park resulting in more visitors and the lack of visibility of Rangers on the ground it was agreed that the main speaker should be a Ranger who could talk about what they do, what their priorities are, projects in the pipeline, so that landowners might get a better idea of how they could work together. Andrew Lee would also be invited to provide a brief update on the Management Plan review and feedback from the Future of Farming workshops.
- 12. Update by leads /Partners/ Other Organizations.** MT questioned whether topic leads were still required and suggested that this structure be reviewed.
  - **Archaeology:** SW reported that Nicola Peacock had taken over as Archaeology Strategy Lead following Anne Bone's retirement.
  - **Landscape:** William Wolmer emphasised that farm clusters are farmer driven groups involving but not necessarily led by SDNPA. RE confirmed that Natural England see farm clusters as an important way forward for delivery of landscape conservation. If Defra do decide to pass on agri-environment budgets to NPAs and AONBs then it should be ring fenced for delivery on the ground landowners had raised concerns that it would potentially be top sliced to cover administration costs
- 13. Any other business**
  - **Whole Estate Plans:** William Wolmer asked if others around the table had any experience of completing Whole Estate Plan. He had found the process and framework around ecosystem services cumbersome. It was acknowledged that this was an evolving process and would not be suitable in all cases but that on balance it was probably an advantage if an estate was looking to do things that were an exception to planning policy.
  - William Wolmer thanked Mike for his dedication to and guidance of the SDLM over the past 6 years. This was echoed by other members of the Committee.
  - **Dates of next meeting**
    - General Summer meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017 16.00hrs
    - Executive Committee meeting Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 12.00 – 13.00
    - Liaison Meeting: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017 14:00 – 15.30

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