

SDN AGM. Zoom Meeting Notes 26 Oct 2021

Present:

Tony Whitbread, Vic lent, Dan Osbourne, Anthony, John Templeton, Martin Ackland, Mike Tristam, Patrick Haworth, Graham Elvey, Simon Boyle, Stephen Poole, David Burnet, David Sawyer, Christopher Napier, Jill Sutcliffe, Phil Beldon, Alison Matthews, Owen Plunkett, Diane Hamilton, Grahame Joseph, Dan.

	Topic	Points discussed	Action
	Apologies	David Johnson,	
4	<p>Motions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of key post holders 2. Structure of executive 3. Nominees election of key post holders 4. Nominees election of executive 5. Co-option <p>-----</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Parish councils 	<p>Members to agree on proposed posts (see below).</p> <p>Up to recently we have had an informal structure so far but now we need to be more formal for better governance.</p> <p>New, smaller executive to give more regular guidance. Members to be elected annually. Motions are consistent with terms of reference.</p> <p>CN: post holders should have named substitutes. VI and TW in agreement.</p> <p>Motions 1-5 approved.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Parish Councils</p> <p>Historically, PCs have not been included in SDN. Rethinking this approach – can now become members (observing or voting).</p> <p>Concerns that there would be a lot of PCs joining, and that some may bring “political baggage.” Would have to join on the basis that there is no objection from parish nominees on NP (3 in each county), and do not bring “political baggage.”</p> <p>AM: They may find it difficult to join an outside organisation – likely better off as ‘observers’.</p> <p>JS: PCs are generally very busy. Could instead have one representative from each county (total of 33).</p> <p>MT: PCs may not subscribe to SDN aims and objectives? A South Downs Community Association could include parish councils and other outside organisations.</p> <p>Dan: Will Vic speak to the 6 PC reps already on NP to test the idea?</p>	

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	<p>-----</p> <p>7. Membership rates</p>	<p>Proposed: Test the waters for 6 month period. Motion agreed .</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Membership fees: New rates - need to provide more breakdown.</p> <p>DB: Would observer members have a different rate? VI: Since only for 6 months, cannot charge them.</p> <p>PH: How do the new rates affect the forecast? What's the expenditure?</p> <p>VI: Agree should present budget and expenditures but hasn't been possible this meeting. Hope to present ongoing budget and expenses next Exec.</p> <p>Current costs: Day-to-day costs include website maintenance, advertising, wages, software.</p> <p>MA: Concerned that there is a £4,000+ surplus, but no plans on how to spend it. Cannot enthusiastically support an increase in membership fees until there is a clear budget.</p> <p>DB: Now we have set-up a bank account this is a key activity to undertake prior to 2022</p> <p>VI: Agree to present draft budget at next meeting and discuss membership fees.</p> <p>PB: Is there another "filter" one could use for fees, such as the gross or net worth of an organisation? There is a big difference between totally voluntary unpaid people administering hundreds of people and NGOs with membership fees and a number of pro. paid staff.</p> <p>MT: Charities typically have reserve of £2,000 or so. Motion not approved. Expenditure needs to be made clearer. DB: to propose alternative options & possibilities</p>	
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	Topic	Points discussed	Action
5	Accounts and Finance Report	Current balance £4,151.34.	
6	New arrangements for banking and offices	<p>After a lot of difficulty, David has successfully set up a Lloyds bank account and funds transferred. This will enable us to have improved financial management, particularly from a budget & forecasting perspective. Vote of thanks for David passed!</p> <p>We'll be saving money through extra volunteers, though some expenditure will be needed, via CPRE Sussex, for admin support.</p> <p>PH: Most banks would require a constitution. Needs to be resolved sooner rather than later. What is the difference between networking group and campaigning group?</p> <p>DB: A networking group being one based on common points of interest that all members share & a campaigning group being one that pushes for change & if so we will follow The Charity Commission guidance – the SDN is more the former, but the constitution is being reviewed & updated before consultation & approval by the membership.</p>	
7	Reports	<p>A) Chairman – TW: nothing more to say.</p> <p>B) Organiser – VI:</p> <p>C) Members – OP: Rights of way issue in Hampshire.</p> <p>SB: Seeking ranger for Eastbourne downlands for ecotourism, etc. Other areas may benefit from this approach.</p> <p>SP: Opportunity to work with farmers – is SDN the right group to facilitate?</p> <p>MT: Statutory consultation due to go ahead after Xmas/22nd Jan. regarding 8km new carriageway on NP boundary, severing communities, landscape and bat habitats. Highway England's data not transparent. Any support gratefully received prior to consultation.</p> <p>CN: Written to Gove to argue that housing numbers in East Hampshire district should be reduced, as 57% of district is in NP. Houses become less affordable if in the NP. Winchester City council committed to net zero by 2030. Not proceeding with unsustainable developments.</p>	OP to email VI, VI to circulate.

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		PB: Coming up: Has to be a response to the Glover review. How will it affect SDN? Open access to Jack and Jill Windmill shut off. Can we push against this? Seaford Head planning application.	
8	AOB	SB: Do we have members' email addresses? DB: We have main points of contacts and these are undergoing checks and review to ensure up to date Yes – use (new) Google Group.	VI to add SB.
9	Dates of next meetings	TBC	

SDN AGM 26th Oct 2021

Record of MOTIONS

Motions AGREED

Motion 1: Election of Key Post Holders

This motion proposes that we elect the following key volunteer post holders annually:

- President
- Chair
- 2 x Vice Chairs (one for the eastern area and one for the western area)
- Treasurer
- Organiser

Motion 2: Structure of Executive

This motion proposes that the Executive should consist of:

President, Chair, 2 x Vice Chairs, Treasurer and Organiser plus 6 other members from SDN member organisation elected annually

Motion 3: Nominees Election of Key Post Holders

This motion proposes that we elect the following to posts:

- President: Professor Dan Osborn
- Chair: Dr Tony Whitbread
- 2 x Vice Chairs: West, - Christopher Napier and East, - Phil Belden
- Treasurer: David Burnet
- Organiser: Vic Ient



Motion 4: Nominees Election of Executive

This motion proposes that the 6 other Executive members be elected as follows:

1. David Coldwell, South Downs Society
2. Grahame Joseph, Amberley Society
3. Chris Todd, Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth
4. David Johnson, CPRE Sussex
5. Debbie Tann, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust
6. Mike Tristram, MAVES

Motion 5: Co-option

This motion proposes that Executive have the powers to co-opt other members in the as the need arises in the case of vacations, travel, illness, in ability to attend meeting by existing elected members, or because the need concerning issues as they arise during the year.

Motion 8: Terms of Reference (Constitution)

That these be changed to reflect Motion 1, 2, 5, and 6. Also they be redrafted to bring them up to date.

Motions Held Over

Motion 6: Parish Councils

That parish councils be entitled to join the SDN

Motion 7: Membership Rates

That these be update in accordance with the attached document.