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SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

AUTHORITY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All Members are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the South Downs National Park Authority to be held at **1.00pm on 16 October 2025** at the **Memorial Hall, South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex, GU29 9DH.**

Siôn McGeever

Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

AGENDA

PART I

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declaration of Interests

To enable Members to declare to the meeting any disclosable interest they may have in any matter on the agenda for the meeting.

3. Minutes of the previous meetings held on 8 July and 1 September 2025

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Authority meetings held on 8 July and 1 September 2025 (Page 5).

4. Urgent Matters

To consider any matter on the agenda which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of urgency to due special circumstances (if Members have any urgent matters they are asked to consult the Chair before the meeting commences).

5. Public Participation

The Chair will allow members of the public to ask questions, make statements or present a petition on any matter on the agenda for this meeting or on any matter that falls within the Authority's powers, subject to procedures set out in Appendix 3 to the Authority's Standing Orders.

6. Need for Part II Exclusion of Press and Public

The Authority is asked to consider whether, in respect of Agenda Item 16 the public, including the press, should be excluded from the meeting on the basis that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if a member of the public were present during the items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the Authority, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exempt information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. It is proposed on the basis that whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of Authority proceedings relating to the delivery of its planning service, it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by the need for the Authority to be able to consider matters in relation to its business and fully consider the implications of its proposed actions which will have implications for the agreements in relation to the ongoing delivery of its planning service without the disclosure of information that could undermine its position or its ability to deliver value for money through these arrangements.

7. Authority Chair Update

To consider a report from the Chair of the Authority (Report NPA25/26-8 page 15).

8. Chief Executive's Progress Report

To consider a report from the Chief Executive (Report NPA25/26-9 page 19).

9. Downs to the Sea update

To receive a verbal report from the Downs to the Sea Project Manager.

10. Annual update on SDNPA Communications and Engagement work

To receive a report from the Head of Communications and Engagement (Report NPA25/26-10 page 31)

11. Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Update

To consider a report from the Director of Growth and Organisational Development (Report NPA25/26-11 page 57).

12. Amendment to Standing Orders - Delegation of Authority to Enter into Conservation Covenant Agreements

To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Report NPA25/26-12 page 69)

13. Budget Monitoring 2025/26: Capital Programme and Budget Variation

To consider a report from the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Report NPA25/26-13 page 75)

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

14. Planning Committee

Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 8 May and 10 July 2025 (page 87).

15. Policy & Resources Committee

Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 26 June 2025 (page 115).

PART II

16. Part II Minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 September 2025

To approve as a correct record the Part II Minutes of the Authority meeting held on 1 September 2025.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

Members' Interests

SDNPA Members have a primary responsibility for ensuring that the Authority furthers the National Park Purposes and Duty. Members regard themselves first and foremost as Members of the Authority and will act in the best interests of the National Park as a whole, rather than as representatives of their appointing body or any interest groups.

Members are required to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest that is not already entered in the Authority's register of interests, and any personal interest and/or public service interest (as defined in Paragraph 18 of the Authority's Code of Conduct) they may consider relevant to an item of business being considered at the meeting (such disclosure to be made at the commencement of the meeting, or when the interest becomes apparent).

Access to Information

If you would like a copy of this agenda in large print or an alternative format/language please contact the Committee Officer at committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk or 01730 814810

Recording of Meetings

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations give a right to members of the public to record (film, photograph and audio-record) and report on proceedings at committee meetings. The Authority has a protocol on 'Filming, Recording and Reporting of South Downs National Park Authority Meetings' which is available [on our website](#).

As part of the Authority's drive to increase accessibility to its public meetings, this meeting will be filmed for live and/ or subsequent broadcast via the internet; at the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. The images and sound recording may be used for training or any other purposes by the Authority. By entering the virtual meeting room you are consenting to being filmed, recorded or photographed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding this, please contact the Governance Officer committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk

Public Participation and Meeting Attendance

Anyone wishing to speak at the meeting should register their request no later than 24 hours before the meeting by emailing public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk. The public participation protocol is available on our website www.southdowns.gov.uk/

Feedback

If you wish to give us feedback on your experience of the meeting please e-mail committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk

