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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 9 December 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 meeting held on 16 October 2025**

To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Authority meetings held on 16 October 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 Items 21 and 22, 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 paragraphs 1 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to any individual and 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, it is felt that on balance this is outweighed by the individual's right to privacy and the requirement of the National Park Authority to be able to consider matters in relation to its business and fully consider the implications of its actions or proposed actions particularly in relation to decisions which may have implications on the effective day-to-day running of the Authority without the disclosure of information that could adversely impact the day-to-day running of the Authority and its ability to deliver its services.

- 7. Authority Chair Update**  
To consider a report from the Chair of the Authority (Report NPA25/26-14 page 11).
- 8. Chief Executive's Progress Report**  
To consider a report from the Chief Executive (Report NPA25/26-15 page 15).
- 9. Approval of the Revised South Downs Partnership Management Plan 2026-2031**  
To consider a report from the Performance and Project Manager (Report NPA25/26-16 page 25)
- 10. Local Access Forum update**  
To receive a verbal update from the Chair of the Local Access Forum
- 11. South Downs Active Travel Network Plan**  
To consider a report from the National Trails and Access Lead (Report NPA25/26-17 page 283)
- 12. Amended South Downs Trust Memorandum of Understanding to support the Trust in setting up a trading company**  
To consider a report from the Director of Growth and Organisational Development (Report NPA25/26-18 page 365)
- 13. Audited Statement of Accounts 2024/25 and Letter of Representation**  
To receive a report from the Interim Chief Finance Officer (Report NPA25/26-19 page 383)
- 14. External Audit Findings and Opinion**  
To consider a report from the External Auditor (Report NPA25/26-20 page 491)
- 15. Value for Money – Auditor's Annual Report 2024/25**  
To consider a report from the External Auditor (Report NPA25/26-21 page 583)
- 16. Review of the Member Code of Conduct**  
To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Report NPA25/26-22 page 615)
- 17. Appointments to Committee**  
To consider a report from the Head of Governance and Monitoring Officer (Report NPA25/26-23 page 631)

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- 18. Planning Committee**  
Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 11 September and 9 October 2025 (page 637).
- 19. Policy & Resources Committee**  
Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025 (Page 651).
- 20. Appointment, Management and Standard Committee**  
Minutes of the Appointment, Management and Standards Committee meeting held on 10 June 2025 (Page 663).

**PART II**

**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR MEMBERS OF THE AUTHORITY ONLY**  
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## **21. Policy & Resources Committee**

Part II minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee meeting held on 18 September 2025.

## **22. Appointment, Management and Standard Committee**

Part II minutes of the Appointment, Management and Standards Committee meeting held on 10 June 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**

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto:public.speaking@southdowns.gov.uk). The public participation protocol is available on our website [www.southdowns.gov.uk/](http://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](mailto:committee.officer@southdowns.gov.uk)

