

Date: 18 May 2023

Title: Report Item 9 – Elections to the South Downs National Park Authority

By: K Larkin (Parish Clerk)

Purpose: To provide background information and a timetable

Recommendations: To consider nominating a councillor to stand for election

As East Dean and Friston parish is located wholly within the National Park boundary the parish council is entitled to nominate a councillor representative to sit on the SDNP Board.

This process occurs every four years and ensures that there are six parish representatives: two from each of Hampshire, West Sussex and East Sussex, serving on the 26-person Board. Should any county have more than two nominations it will be necessary to hold a ballot and you will be notified should this be the case.

The first stage is to nominate a councillor – just as you would for any outside body and send the name to the East Sussex Association of Local Councils as soon as possible. The process will need to be completed by the end of May to satisfy the requirements of DEFRA.

The Timetable is as follows:

- **Friday 26th May** - Return of completed nomination papers to SDNPA, obtainable from the South Downs Centre, North Street, Midhurst, GU29 9DH. Phone 01730 814810. Candidates should also provide a personal statement setting out what they can bring to the role.
- **Friday 9th June** - Ballot Papers to be sent to parishes
- **By Friday 23rd June** - Ballot Papers to be returned to SALC c/o The Village Centre, Trinity Road, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex, BN6 9UY, in an envelope clearly marked 'Ballot Paper'.
- **Monday 26th June** - The Count will take place at Hurstpierpoint Village Centre commencing at 2.00pm to which candidates and their agents are cordially invited.
- **Tuesday 4th July** - SDNPA members Induction Day
- **Tuesday 11th July** - SDNPA AGM, including attendance by new members

Dr John Godfrey, DL has kindly agreed to act as the Returning Officer for this election.