



*Verderers of the New Forest
Verderers' Grazing Scheme
The Queen's House
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Lord Manners*

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MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6th June 2018

Present:

Lord Manners (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mr D Readhead (DR)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator

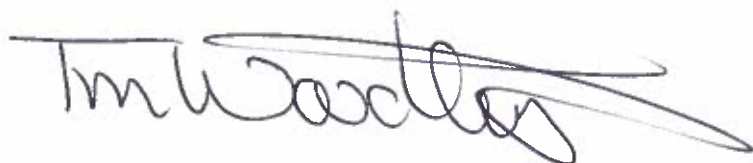
IN COMMITTEE in the Verderers' Meeting Room

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	Mrs D Westerhoff (DW) Mr H Mills (HM)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer - Defra Appointed Verderer
2. Declarations of interest	DR and RD declared their membership of the VGS. RD and DR are members of the New Forest Livestock Society. DR and RD are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. OV has tenants who are in the VGS. DR and RD are committee members of the CDA	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Minutes of the last meeting were approved	
4. VGS Cross checks – Due diligence	TW supplied a report detailing the following; 2017 Forest & Commons VGS payments were made at the end of December to 494 Commoners. 2018 650 application forms have been issued and 492 returned. The total of all eligible stock in the VGS for 2017 was 80.83%. The committee discussed the approaching end dates of NE HLS agreements on adjacent commons, the uncertainty of future schemes and the affect it will have on VGS payments to Commons commoners. TW to contact NE for an update on the current situation and report at the next meeting.	
5. VGS Annual Grants 2018	TW reported to the committee the status of VGS annual grants awarded for 2018.	

6. Pound rebuild 2017 and 2018 Proposals	<p>TW reported on the completed 2017 rebuilds.</p> <p>2018 Pound Rebuild proposals – Ashurst/Sandhole Bridge, Woods Corner, Broomy and Norley Wood. Additional pounds at Boldrewood and Ocknell/Withybeds Underpass are new sites requested and require the relevant permissions being granted. Permission is also being sought from NE for replacement hoggin at Sloden and the 4 other 2018 pounds.</p>	
7. Small grant applications	<p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>Mr & Mrs BI Van Hennik Mr B Dolbear Mr & Mrs PJ Stride Mr RG Mansbridge Mr A Dunkason Mr J Gerrelli Mr J Cook Mr MJ Bull Mr A Luker Mr & Mrs A Vanderhoek Mr RG Bessant Mr T Hordle Mr J Pemberton Mr T Gould Mr R Maton Mr C Moore Miss RF Spencer-Fleet Mr L Byford Mrs S Napthine Mr J Young Miss H Dunning Referred to next meeting; Mrs S Coombs</p> <p>TW to inform applicants of results.</p>	Action TW
8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing	<p>TW reported on the completion of the driftway fencing projects in 2017. Pilley Allotment, Hatchet Mill and the Verderers field at Boltons Bench. Also sightline fencing at the old railway bridge at Burbush. Quotes are being sought for the 2018 proposals. Holding pen at Woods Corner, Holding pen at Durmast, Holding pen at Sandhole, Sightline fencing at Shatterford and a single span of sightline fencing at Manor Farm, Holmsley Road. Permission is also being sought for a new holding pen at Slufers. The proposal for drift fencing at Sheepwash was deferred to the next financial year.</p>	
9. VGS Rule Breaches	<p>No rule breaches to report.</p>	

10. AOB	<p><u>Change to the LU rates</u> The committee discussed possible changes to the current LU values for next year's VGS. TW was asked to run some example tables and circulate to the committee members for discussion at a meeting in September to allow any changes to be announced at September Court. The introduction of VGS penalty's for stock removed by agisters was discussed and deferred to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Incentive for higher herd health status for VGS cattle</u> A number of commoners have expressed an interest in the possibility of an incentive / grant being introduced for stock that enters into a vaccination programme. The committee decided it needed more information and requested a report following the CDA's meeting with local vets.</p> <p><u>Feeding Areas & Access to feeding areas</u> The annual feeding area inspection is due to take place on 29th June. TW to report to the OV on the condition of the feeding areas and the access routes before writing to the commoners with the conditions of use for each permitted feeding area.</p> <p><u>Poaching by cattle outside holdings</u> OV informed the committee that the problem areas would be reviewed again in late Summer to monitor their recovery.</p> <p><u>Reflective cattle ear tag trial</u> The committee examined the sample reflective ear tags and agreed that if the trial was successful more could be purchased under the reflective collar grant budget.</p> <p><u>Bloodline grant increase</u> The committee considered a request from the NFPB&CS to increase the grant amount awarded for the Futurity Scheme. The committee did not agree to the increase as they felt the allocated budget was sufficient. TW to inform Treasurer.</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>
11. Date for next Meeting	The next VGS meetings will be Wednesday 28 th November 2018 2pm.	

T Woodley
VGS Administrator



Copy to:
VGS Management Committee
Verderers

