



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

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**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**Present:**

Lord Manners (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs D Westerhoff (DW)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr Barry Dowsett (BD)	- Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
Mr Dave Readhead(DR)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator

**REMOTELY BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL**

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	All Present via Video Call	
2. Declarations of interest	RD & DR declared membership of the VGS. RD & DR are members of the New Forest Livestock Society. RD & DR are members of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate RD & DR are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. OV has tenants who are in the VGS RD & DR are committee members of the CDA DW is a trustee of the New Forest Trust	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Minutes of the last meeting were approved  Matters Arising  2018 & 2019 Animals Removed lists have been compared for those incidents where Agisters have removed animals because the owner was unable to – 2 commoners were identified as having had large numbers of animals caught by the Agisters.  TW to write to the commoners identified warning that they risk a penalty to their VGS grazing payments if this occurs in 2020.	Action TW

4. VGS Cross checks – Due diligence	<p>TW reported that in 2019 VGS payments were made at the end of December</p> <p>423 Forest VGS payments 64 Commons payments</p> <p>Total number of animals entered in scheme for 2019 were Registered Mares 3854 Forest &amp; 232 Common, Other Equines 1265 Forest &amp; 277 Common, Cattle 4784 Forest &amp; 525 Common, Pigs 530 Forest &amp; 135 Common.</p> <p>All 2020 VGS application forms have now been sent out with a return date of 15<sup>th</sup> May. They were a month later going out this year due to the delay in confirmation of the roll over.</p>	
5. VGS Annual Grants 2020	<p>The committee examined a table detailing the awards of the annual VGS grants. Payments were made at the beginning of April. The committee had already agreed to increase the annual grant to the NFPB&amp;CS by £1500 to assist towards the grazing of the Futurity colts for an extra year due to the cancellation of the Spring Stallion Grading due to Covid-19.</p>	
6. Pound rebuilds 2019	<p>TW provided an update on the current status of the pounds contracted for renewal in 2019</p> <p>East Boldre – STANDARD – Not yet started Cadnam / Bartley - STANDARD – Due to start early May. Picket Post – Completed May 2020 Ober – STANDARD – completed by RM Smith Blackfield – STANDARD – Not yet started – Need to hand dig and have Gas man on site to supervise due to proximity to pipeline. NEW Ocknell/Withybeds – STANDARD – Completed May 2020</p> <p><u>2020 proposals - Small pounds</u></p> <p>Quotes requested from other contractors for small standard pounds</p> <p>Setthorns/ Adlems Lane</p> <p>Slufers</p> <p>Sway</p> <p>Woodlands</p> <p>Durmast</p> <p>Warwickslade</p> <p>No contracts have been awarded for 2020 due to current circumstances.</p>	
7. Small grant applications	<p>The committee discussed the VGS Small Grant Applications.</p> <p>The grants awarded from now on are to come with a stipulation that purchases must be made within 6 months of the award with the exception of buildings.</p>	

	<p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>P Tillyer A Tilbury P Reynolds B Dolbear C Moore S Rangecroft S Mills M Lovell A Naphine</p> <p>1 application was deferred pending confirmation of land ownership. TW to inform applicants of the committee's decisions.</p>	Action TW
8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing	<p>TW reported on the status of the 2019 Drift fence &amp; holding pen projects</p> <p>Blackfield – Holding pen (Being done same time as Pound rebuild) – Not yet completed Copse of Linwood – Holding Pen – Not yet completed Picket Post – Holding Pen – Completed May 2020 Bentleys – Holding Pen – Completed April 2020 East End Allotment Sightline Fence – Completed Sept 2019 Sluffers ( New Holding pen) – Completed Feb 2020</p> <p>No Contracts have been awarded for 2020 at present</p>	
9. VGS Rule Breaches	<p>3 VGS rule breaches were discussed.</p> <p>Mr &amp; Mrs Rees – A 2 Year old colt remaining on Forest after 1<sup>st</sup> Feb - £400 penalty agreed – TW to inform and deduct from 2020 VGS payment.</p> <p>Mrs K Smith – Non Stock proof fencing allowing depastured stock to leave the perambulation. Letter requesting fence be rectified sent back in Oct 2019. TW to write and request commoner make field stock proof before the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept or risk penalty to their 2020 VGS payment.</p> <p>A Goodall – Failure to adhere to the Forest TB plan – Decision deferred. TW to contact commoner and advise.</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>
10. AOB	No AOB	
11. Date for next Meeting	TW will circulate proposed date for Nov meeting to the Committee members in due course.	Action TW

T Woodley  
VGS Administrator



