



# *Verderers of the New Forest*

THE QUEEN'S HOUSE  
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Official Verderer  
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All Verderers – for information

20 October 2006

## **MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' CSS SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE SCHEME MANAGER'S OFFICE ON 20 OCTOBER 2006**

Present:

Mr O Crosthwaite Eyre	- Official Verderer - Chairman
Mr A Pasmore	- Elected Verderer
Mr A Gerrelli	- Elected Verderer
Mrs P Thorne	- DEFRA Verderer
Mr C Draper	- Scheme Manager - Secretary

Apologies:

Mr J Adams	- Elected Verderer
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Item (a)	Discussion and Decisions (b)	Action (c)
1. Penalty for turning more animals out than in 2004	<p>1. The Committee considered whether or not to implement a 25% penalty/reduction in payments to commoners who turned out more animals this year than in 2004. This option was incorporated in the rules at the start of the Scheme Year. Its purpose is to encourage commoners to reduce the number of ponies, donkeys and cattle they turn out on the Forest in order to keep the total under the limit of 7,000 which DEFRA has set as a maximum for the Scheme to continue. The number has dropped by just over 300 this year to 6,849, from 7,156 in 2005.</p> <p>2. Despite concerns that the numbers are still dangerously close to the maximum, and that failure to implement the penalty could lead some commoners to increase the number of animals they turn out next year in the expectation of not being penalised, the Committee agreed to adhere to the decision taken when the measure was introduced. That was, not to implement the penalty if the total was under 7,000. It was agreed that the Scheme Manager would emphasise to commoners the very real risks posed to the Scheme if numbers rise again, and stress that the penalty will be implemented if numbers rise above 7,000 – with the risk that DEFRA could withhold payments altogether.</p>	Scheme Manager

<p>2. Limit on payments to a maximum of 5,000 Animals</p>	<p>1. The maximum number of animals (ponies, donkeys and cattle) allowed to be supported under the Scheme is 5,000. This year, members entered 5,399. The Committee considered how best to comply with the Scheme limit. It was agreed that the fairest method would be to reduce payments proportionally for all members – an option approved by the Advisory Group. Accordingly, payments this year will be reduced from £60.00, to £56.00, for each eligible pony, donkey and cow entered in the Scheme.</p>	<p>Scheme Manager</p>
<p>3. Breaches of the Verderers' Byelaws/Other Misdemeanours</p>	<p>The Committee considered how breaches of the Verderers' byelaws and other commoning misdemeanours should be dealt with under the Scheme. It was agreed that, rather than publish a definitive list of breaches and penalties, the rules would be amended to include an option to withhold Scheme payments from members who ignore a clear directive from the Verderers, or whose commoning practices are considered unreasonable (the Scheme rules already include automatic disqualification from the Scheme – and loss of payment – for failure to comply with the Scheme rules which include a requirement to comply with the Verderers' byelaws at all times)</p>	<p>Scheme Manager</p>

Signed on Original

C F R DRAPER  
Scheme Manager (Secretary)