



*Verderers of the New Forest
Verderers' Grazing Scheme
The Queen's House
Lyndhurst
Hampshire
SO43 7NH*

*Official Verderer
Lord Manners*

*Telephone: 023 8028 3134
Fax: 023 8028 3101*

MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10th July 2019

Present:

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

IN COMMITTEE in the Verderers' Meeting Room

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	Mr H Mills (HM) - 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. RD and DR are members of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate RD and DR are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. OV has tenants who are in the VGS RD and 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	
4. VGS Cross checks – Due diligence	TW supplied a report detailing the following; 2019 VGS application forms have been returned and are due to be processed next month. The annual Inspection of the Winter feeding areas that were used over 2018-19 took place on May 31 st by the NE lead Advisor for the New Forest, the Head Agister, the FC Ecologist and the VGS Administrator. All feeding areas were found to be in satisfactory condition but concern over vehicular accesses and the numbers of cattle using the sites was raised. Letters have been sent to all commoners whose feeding areas were inspected detailing not only their approved areas but the routes they must take to access them.	

5. VGS Annual Grants 2019	TW reported to the committee that all the VGS annual grants awarded for 2019 have been paid except the HIWWT which is due for payment in December.	
6. Pound rebuild 2018 and 2019 Proposals	TW reported on the proposed 2019 rebuilds. East Boldre, Cadnam, Picket Post and Ober.	
7. Small grant applications	<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>Mr JS Pooley Mr P Niccolls Mrs EM Gerrelli Mr JR Gerrelli Mr C Smith Mrs M Rayner Mr G Rees Miss R Spencer-Fleet Mr P Reynolds Mrs S Shore Mr J Young Mrs H Gregory Mr M Lovell Mr & Mrs Van Hennik Mr R Maton Mrs J Potheary Mr B Ingram Mr P Bessant Miss N Dennes</p> <p>Six applications were rejected. TW to inform applicants of results.</p>	Action TW
8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing	TW reported on the proposals for driftway and sightline fencing projects.	
9. VGS Rule Breaches	<p>The Committee agreed to fine the following VGS members £400 each for having a 2 year old colt running on the Forest after February 1st 2019. The fine will be deducted from the 2019 VGS payment</p> <p>Mr R Bessant Mr J Winter TW to write to the commoners</p> <p>The committee discussed the 2018 incidents of stock being removed from the forest by the Agister where the owner had failed to do so. The question was should these commoners receive a penalty under section 6 of the VGS rules? The committee requested that the 2019 data be collated and repeat offenders be sent a warning letter.</p>	Action TW

	<p>The committee also requested TW send out a newsletter to all commoners highlighting their agreement to abide by the VGS rules. To include;</p> <p>2 year old colt rule Getting poor/ sick stock off the Forest Isolation rules on the TB plan Hire Bull movements between Forest herds and Non-Forest herds Please remember to attend the drift (include drift list and instructions) Non Use of Ivermectin wormer on drifts and if returning to forest within 2 weeks of worming Drifts ideal time to replace collars – but remind available all year from Agister or Office TW to ask for any other items to be included in the newsletter at the August staff committee meeting</p>	Action TW
10. AOB	<p><u>Ponies Testing Positive for PSSM</u> The committee agreed to accept ponies testing positive for PSSM into the Welfare Scheme. This only includes ponies tested between now and the 31st Dec 2019 and not retrospectively. TW to write to the NFPB&CS</p> <p><u>Equine Flu</u> The committee considered a proposal from the NFPB&CS for funding towards the inoculation of the New Forest Stallions against Equine Flu. The committee rejected the proposal as it was felt this was the Stallion owners' choice and responsibility. TW to inform the NFPB&CS</p> <p><u>Grant Application for Mobile Pound Handling Equipment</u> TW put forward a request from the Agisters for additional mobile handling equipment to upgrade the current pounds. These additions would help greatly with the health and safety aspects of using the hurdles. The committee agreed to fund the grant and add the equipment to the HLS asset register. TW to arrange the purchase of equipment.</p> <p><u>New Forest Pony Publicity Group</u> TW informed the committee that the NFPPG was being disbanded after 20 years of promoting the Forest bred Pony. The committee agreed with TW's recommendation that the final grant award be used to reprint the groups excellent leaflet that is distributed widely across the Forest at campsites, shows and events.</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 27 th November 2019 2pm.	

T Woodley
VGS Administrator



Copy to:
VGS Management Committee
Verderers