|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Official Verderer*  *Lord Manners* | ***Verderers of the New Forest***  *Verderers’ Grazing Scheme*  *The Queen’s House*  *Lyndhurst*  *Hampshire*  *SO43 7NH*  *Telephone: 023 8028 3134*  *E Mail: tinawoodley@verderers.org.uk* |

**VERDERERS’ GRAZING SCHEME – SMALL GRANTS *(Members Paying at Forest Rate)***

The VGS ‘Small Grants’ Scheme is available to VGS members who turn stock out on the Crown Lands to help them with their commoning business (The Verderers’ HLS funds can not be used to support grazing outside the Scheme). The main purpose of the Small Grants Scheme is to assist commoners with improvements on their back up land to increase its usefulness/availability for back-up grazing, although other projects may be considered. Grants are limited to a maximum of £2,000 and applications may be submitted to the VGS Administrator at any time for consideration by the VGS Management Committee. Examples of projects for which the fund is available (subject to local circumstances and formal approval) are listed below:

Fencing/hedging/ditching

Provision of water

Construction/provision of animal handling facilities

Construction/provision of barns/sheds where these are otherwise not available/adequate

Other projects to support commoning business

Please use the application form overleaf.

Tina Woodley

Verderers’ Grazing Scheme Administrator

**APPLICATION FOR VGS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME** (Note. VGS grants are only available to VGS members who turn out stock on the Crown Lands)

**Title, Name and Initials** …………………………………………….

**Address** …………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**Number and type of animals turned out (please include any paid at the Commons rate)**:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Stock | Number - Forest | Number - Common *(please indicate which common)* |
| Ponies |  |  |
| Cattle |  |  |
| Donkeys |  |  |
| Pigs |  |  |

**Amount requested** (up to a maximum of £2,000) ………………………….

**Description of project for which grant requested**

**Justification** (please provide a short explanation of why the project is necessary and how it will contribute to your commoning business – use a continuation sheet if necessary)

**Plan** (please attach a map or sketch showing the location of the project and include any photographs)

Tick here to confirm plan attached …….

**Quotes** (please attach a minimum of 2 quotes for the work)

Tick here to confirm quotes attached …...

**Forest Rights** Does the Land have Forest Rights? Yes/No

**Tenure** (is the land owned or rented? If rented, please provide evidence of remaining term of tenancy agreement: ……………………………………

**Owned\*/Rented\*** (**evidence of remaining tenancy term attached)** (\*delete as appropriate)

**Other Grants** Are you in receipt of any other agricultural state aid (Not including DEFRA Countryside Stewardship or Environmental Stewardship Schemes, Single Payment Scheme or woodland and tree planting grants or payments for the provision of access)? **YES / NO**

If yes, does the accumulated amount, including this grant offer, exceed the threshold of €7,500 (c. £5,000) during this financial year (in terms of your business year) and the previous two years? **YES / NO**

**I confirm that the land is used as back up grazing for my commoning stock.**

Signed ………………………………….. Date …………………………………..

**-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**(Certificate for completion by Scheme Administrator)**

**It is confirmed that the applicant is a member of the VGS.**

Tina Woodley Date:

Verderers’ Grazing Scheme Administrator

Decision by the VGS Management Committee: Approved/Rejected

Date of meeting …………………………

Applicant Informed (copy of letter attached for record)