



*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 2nd June 2021**

Present:

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

REMOTELY BY ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	Mr Dave Readhead(DR) - Elected Verderer	
2. Declarations of interest	RD declared membership of the VGS. RD is a member of the New Forest Livestock Society. RD is a member of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate RD is a member of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. RD is a committee member 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 <u>Additional Agister Handling Equipment</u> 10 x lightweight hurdles were purchased for the Agisters – the old heavy set is now at the Ashurst Compound for use at the drifts. <u>Termination of the Lease of the Fallen Stock Wagon</u> The New Forest Hunt Kennels were informed that the lease of the fallen Stock wagon was terminated and ownership transferred to them. <u>Worming on Drifts</u> A discussion took place on the alternative non ivermectin based wormers that are available to purchase. It was suggested that this subject would need to be looked into again when a new agreement is set up.	

4. VGS Cross checks – Due diligence	<p>TW confirmed that 531 commoners were entered in the 2020 VGS scheme. Equating to 80% of all forest stock being eligible for grazing payments having fulfilled their agreed grazing period.</p> <p>In 2021 664 forms have been sent out – 25 of these were commoners who are now in their 4th year of turning out and qualify to join the VGS.</p>	
5. VGS Annual Grants 2021	<p>The committee examined a table detailing the awards of the annual VGS grants. Noted that due to Covid 19 no microchipping or pony sales had taken place so far in 2021</p>	
6. Pound rebuilds 2021	<p>TW provided an update on the current status of the pounds contracted for renewal in 2020 and 2021</p> <p>Ipley – STANDARD – Due to be completed June 21 – Pipeline on site Cadnam / Bartley - STANDARD – Due to be started early June 21 Blackfield – STANDARD – Not yet started – Need to hand dig and have Gas man on site to supervise due to proximity to pipeline. Due to be started Summer 21 Setthorns/ Adlems Lane – Completed 2020 New Park – completed May 2021 Woodlands – Due to be started June 2021 Durmast – Due to be started July 2021</p> <p><u>2021 proposals</u></p> <p>Furzey Lodge Coxhill Sway Slufters</p>	
7. Small grant applications	<p>The committee discussed the VGS Small Grant Applications. 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>TW was asked to follow up on those grants not yet claimed for from previous year's awards.</p> <p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>Mr D Wilding & Miss L England Mr T Hordle Miss Katie Smith Mr Robin Johnson Mr P Bessant Mrs M Turner Mr B Ingram</p> <p>TW to inform applicants</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>

8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing	<p>TW reported on the status of the 2021 Drift fence & holding pen projects</p> <p>Blackfield – Holding pen (Being done same time as Pound rebuild) – Not yet completed</p> <p>Ipley – Completed 2021</p> <p>Coppice of Linwood – Holding Pen – Not yet completed</p> <p>Adlams Lane – completed 2020</p> <p>East Boldre Middle Allotment sightline fencing</p>	
9. VGS Rule Breaches	<p>None to report</p> <p>In reply to a query of 2 yr old colts being out after 1st Feb- the agisters confirmed there were no issues after the 1st Feb date.</p>	
10. AOB	<p><u>Help for small/new/young commoners in the future</u></p> <p>Discussion on the provision for small/new or young commoners in any future schemes. It was identified that only a couple of hundred commoners were in receipt of BPS leaving many smaller commoners with no funding due to not being eligible to join the BPS as under the 5-hectare rule.</p> <p>A suggestion was made to look into the possibilities of relaunching the OPOF Mentorship Scheme through the HLS to assist and educate those new to commoning before they become eligible to join the VGS. TW to rum the idea past NE and talk to NFLAS on the logistics of repeating the project. TW to report back to the committee on NE's views.</p> <p><u>Feeding Areas</u></p> <p>TW informed the committee that the annual feeding area inspections are due to take place after the lifting of restrictions at the end of June.</p> <p>OV noted that the Verderers had been approached by the CDA with a request to remove a feeding area from a commoner, but they were informed that this was complex matter and not connected to the condition of the allocated feeding area. A guide on best practice for cattle commoners is being worked on by the CDA for publication and a draft version will be made available shortly.</p>	
11. Date for next Meeting	Wednesday November 24 th 2pm	

T Woodley
VGS Administrator