



*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 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Present:

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	Lord Manners – Official Verderer	
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. 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  <b>Feeding area inspections 2022</b> Feeding area inspections for 2022 being made by JRG and Leanne Sargeant (FE) as Jenny Thomas no longer in forest post for NE. Very few feeding areas used Winter 2021/22  <b>Outstanding Small Grants</b> TW chased up the outstanding grants and will inform those still outstanding from older than last year that they will need to reapply as the offers have expired. TW informed the 2 deferred applications from 2021 and one is still pending due to planning permissions needed.	

	<p><b>Agister Radios</b> The 5 new and 2 replacement radios have been purchased and delivered.</p>	
4. VGS Cross checks – Due diligence	<p>Commons &amp; Forest VGS Numbers 2021 495 x Total members – 424 Forest 71 Commons</p> <p>Adjacent Commons contributions have been received HCC's new CS scheme started Jan 2022 – payment received for Jan/Feb NT contribution received – very likely to be the final contribution Wellow Parish contribution received Minstead Manor contribution received.</p> <p>Majority of VGS application forms have been returned – TW chasing up missing forms.</p> <p>4 x Bloodline Filly Supplements were given in 2021.</p> <p>2 commoners 2021 cattle payments that were withheld until confirmation that the animals had fulfilled the qualifying period – grant released March 22 1 commoners pig payment that was withheld pending VGS committee investigation into late payment of marking fees – VGS committee discussed via email and as no evidence of intentional late payment was found the committee agreed to release the grant in April 22</p>	
5. VGS Annual Grants 2022	<p>The Committee studied the VGS annual grants table detailing the current year spend up to the end of May 2022. No spend in 2022 on Microchipping as no Beaulieu Road Sales have taken place due to the damage at the sale yard. – It is hoped that 2 Autumn sales will take place and microchipping will be resumed. All Annual Grants were released at the beginning of April. The Futurity Scheme received the additional £1500 to extend the scheme – this will return back to £8000 in 2023. RD to discuss with the Young Commoners continuing training opportunities now the law regarding towing has changed. The committee felt very strongly to continue funding the driver training as safety is very important when travelling animals.</p>	Action RD
6. Pound rebuilds 2022	<p>The Pound projects for 2022 include Cadnam / Bartley Due to be built June 22 Ipley – Completed Furzey Lodge - Completed Coxhill – Due to be built June 22 Sway – Completed Slufers – Due to be built June 22</p> <p>Pondhead – June 22 Warwickslade – June 22 Montys – Summer 22 (Highways)</p>	

<p>7. Small grant applications</p>	<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. £16205.00 awarded and not yet claimed - £4000 from 2021 (fencing projects that are now underway – problems with obtaining materials)</p> <p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>Spencer-Fleet Byford Lang Theron Ingram Stride Pothecary Stephens Russell</p> <p>TW to inform applicants 1 application was deferred pending discussion on Forest/Common marking fees TW to investigate and hold further discussions on how the changing of paying marking fees would/could/should affect entry into the VGS or future schemes.</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>
<p>8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing</p>	<p>TW reported on the status of the 2022 Drift fence &amp; holding pen projects</p> <p>Furzey Lodge – Holding pen completed in Oak Coppice of Linwood holding pen – June 22 Markway repairs to drift fence completed May 22 Highland Water repairs to drift fence completed May 22 Withybeds Drift fence repairs – Aug 22 East Boldre Allotment sightline fence – to be confirmed</p>	
<p>9. VGS Rule Breaches</p>	<p>None to report</p>	
<p>10. AOB</p>	<p><b>Data Protection</b> A discussion was held on the protocol for protection of data supplied by the commoner on their VGS forms. TW confirmed the forms were stored securely in locked cabinets and that the viewing on the database was restricted to employees only via a secure link. TW informed the board an annual audit of data protection and procedures took place.</p> <p><b>Ipley Pound Access</b> DR wanted to propose an alternative access to the Ipley Pound via the extension of the existing track. RD/TW to bring forward for discussion with FE.</p>	<p>Action TW</p>

	<p><b>Bracken Harvesting</b>  RD requested more information on the possibility of funding opportunities for commoners harvesting bracken for their own use from the open forest. TW to enquire with NE.</p>	Action TW
11. Date for next Meeting	TBA	
	Meeting closed 16.42	

T Woodley  
VGS Administrator

 22/7/22