



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

*Official Verderer  
Edward Heron*

*Telephone: 023 8028 3134*

**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME EXTRAORDINARY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

Present:

Mr Edward Heron (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Miss Alison Tilbury (AT)	- Elected Verderer
Mr Clive Chatters (CC)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr Mark Gammon (MG)	- Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
Mrs Tina Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	All Present	
2. Declarations of interest	RD & AT 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 & AT are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. RD is a committee member of the CDA and AT is a member of the CDA CC is an Officer of HIWWT	
3. VGS Uplift	<p>The HLS Scheme has received a significant uplift to its annual income (amount still to be confirmed but guaranteed to be in excess of a 30% increase. This equates to £237,000 – The HLS board have agreed that this amount can be dedicated to the VGS Projects and allocated between the projects as the VGS Committee decides. This meeting was to decide how the amount would be split between the projects.</p> <p>The Committee studied a number of scenario calculations as supplied by TW to demonstrate the effect of increases to the current schemes.</p> <p>The following decisions were taken and TW to amend the VGS Terms and Conditions and inform the VGS members for the changes to the 25/26 Scheme year.</p>	

	<p>A/ Increase the current personal VGS cap from £6000 to £8000 – This has not been increased since the start of the scheme.</p> <p>B/ Increase the Small Grant Budget by £5000 – It has been £15,000 since the start of the scheme – now £20,000 per annum.</p> <p>C/ Add an additional £50,000 uplift to the VGS Cattle Supplement – This will increase the annual budget from £200,000 to £250,000. This will be distributed when the Herd's TB52 forms have all been received after the end of the TB window which is now the end of March.</p> <p>D/ Add the remaining £182,000 uplift to the VGS Grazing Scheme budget – Increasing from £592,957 (2024) to £774,957 (2025). This will increase the Livestock Unit Value for registered mares, stallions, cattle and pigs. The current cap of 40 cattle per person will remain.</p> <p>E/ The Microchipping Project at Beaulieu Road is currently unable to take place because of changes in legislation. The committee agreed to redirect the £5000 per annum Microchipping budget to increase the Drift Fence Project budget to £24,000 as the fencing that was installed as capital projects back in 2013/4 are now needing significant repairs and replacement.</p> <p>F/ A recommendation was made to approach the Verderers Court with a suggestion that Registered Part Bred New Forest Mares (min 25%) receive grazing payments to the value of 0.3LU or equivalent marking fee. This would not be introduced until 2026/27 if agreed and it may also be influenced by the changes in passport legislation which may make the qualifying criteria to the grazing scheme very difficult to administrate.</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action RD</p>
4. Dates for Next Meetings	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 - 2pm – Verderers Office	
	Meeting closed 4.30	

T Woodley  
VGS Administrator

