



*Verderers of the New Forest  
Verderers' Grazing Scheme  
The Queen's House  
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*Official Verderer  
Lord Manners*

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**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

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
Mr H Mills (HM)	- Defra Appointed Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator

**IN COMMITTEE in the Verderers' Meeting Room**

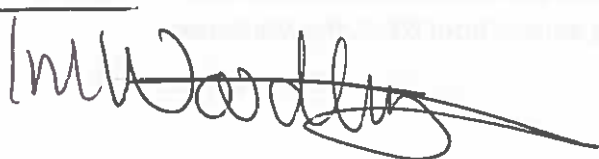
Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	No apologies – all present	
2. Declarations of interest	DR and RD declared their membership of the VGS. RD and DR are members of the New Forest Livestock Society. DR and RD are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. OV and HM have tenants who are in the VGS and one is a fencing contractor. HM has an interest in NFLAS. DR and RD 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;  The VGS members have been notified by letter of the agreed amendment to the Verderers Grazing Scheme Livestock Unit rates payable in December 2019. As the 2018 application forms had already been returned for payments due this December these changes could not be implemented until the 2019 application forms are sent out next February. The court felt it was important to let VGS members know of these changes before the coming winter as it may impact on their stocking decisions.	

	<p>The change to Livestock Unit (LU) rates allow the VGS to increase the incentive for Registered New Forest Mares and reduce the incentive for large numbers of cattle and non-registered equines.</p> <p>555 2018 VGS applications have been received. Confirmation forms of cattle and pigs fulfilling their qualifying periods have been returned – due diligence checks can now be made comparing marking fees to stock claimed for.</p> <p>NE have now received ministerial approval to consider potential HLS extensions of 2019 expiring agreements. This means that customers with expiring agreements that meet a specific set of criteria will have the opportunity to extend their agreements for another four years subject to agreement from the European Commission and budget availability. NE will now begin the process of recommending which 2019 expiring agreements are eligible for rollover and anticipate that this will include the three open forest agreements that are due to expire next year.</p> <p>With regard to the Verderers agreement, no decisions have yet been made about agreements expiring in 2020, the intention is that lessons will be learnt from 2019 and Ministers will then make decisions on future years. NE are continuing to look at all options to try and secure the best outcome for the New Forest and the NE Lead Advisor will be in touch if there is any further news.</p> <p>The Inspection of 11 Winter feeding areas that were used over 2017-18 took place on June 29<sup>th</sup> by the NE lead Advisor for the New Forest, the Head Agister and the VGS Administrator. All feeding areas were found to be in good condition.</p> <p>Letters have been sent to all commoners whose feeding areas were inspected detailing not only their approved area but the route they must take to access it.</p> <p>NE have issued a 1- year consent for the use of cattle nuts on approved feeding areas, which will be extended if no issues arise. Commoners have been requested to supply the VGS Administrator with a feed analysis label for the make of feed they use to be kept on file for future reference.</p>	
<p>5. VGS Annual Grants 2018</p>	<p>TW reported to the committee that all the VGS annual grants awarded for 2018 have been paid except the HIWWT which is due for payment in December.</p> <p>TW informed the board that at present NE are unable to confirm a payment schedule for the HLS mid term instalment that has historically arrived in December. HM offered to write to DEFRA requesting information on likely payment dates. TW to draft letter. The board agreed that until the payment schedule is confirmed the 2018 Grazing Payments will not be released.</p>	<p>Action TW &amp; HM</p>
<p>6. Pound rebuild 2017 and 2018 Proposals</p>	<p>TW reported on the completed 2018 rebuilds.</p> <p>Woods Corner, Sandhole Bridge and Norley Wood have been completed and inspected.</p> <p>Broomy is due to be completed before the end of December.</p> <p>Hoggin has been delivered and laid at the 4 new pound sites and Sloden</p>	

	<p>pound. Additional planned pound rebuilds for 18/19 are Ocknell/Withybeds Underpass and Boldrewood. As both of these are new sites the relevant permissions are being sought from NE &amp; Verderers.</p>	
7. Small grant applications	<p>The committee declared that any outstanding grants from previous years must be taken by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 or forfeited and the applicant would have to reapply. TW to send letters to all members with outstanding grants. 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. A breakdown of the VGS Grants awarded since the beginning of the scheme was studied and the committee agreed that because of the cumulative underspend on VGS projects the small grant scheme budget could be increased to cover the applications received for this meeting. Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>Mr MJ Gerrelli Mr MD White Mrs JC Woolgar Mrs S Shore Master G Shore Mr J Cook Mr J Dunning Mr J Winter Ms K Dovey Miss R Russell Miss H Dunning Miss S Rayner &amp; M Rayner Miss S Rayner &amp; M Rayner Mr A Ingram Mrs K Ingram Miss N Stephens Miss L Bow Mr T Gould</p> <p>One application was rejected. TW to inform applicants of results.</p>	Action TW
8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing	<p>TW reported on the completion of the driftway fencing projects in 2018. Holding pens at Woods Corner and Sandhole Bridge have been completed and inspected. The holding pen at Durmast is due to be completed in December. Shatterford/ Beaulieu Road 25m of Oak sightline fencing by bridge is due to be renewed in December. It is planned that a new holding pen at Slufers Pound be built over the winter. Relevant permissions are being sought from NE &amp; the Verderers.</p>	

9. VGS Rule Breaches	No rule breaches to report.	
10. AOB	<p><u>Fallen Stock Wagon Report</u>  TW reported that the annual Inspection of the fallen stock wagon took place on 26<sup>th</sup> September.  An Invoice for the annual lease was sent to the Hunt secretary and a cheque was received on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October for £100. The committee studied a report on the annual statistics for the hunt collection service and the success of the new incinerator.</p> <p><u>Bloodlines grant increase</u>  Proposed by Robert Maton last year to the NFPB&amp;CS and agreed in principle – Now brought to the VGS committee to approve. Funds to come from the existing Bloodlines Budget that is currently unused. Suggestion of a possible way of running a Bloodlines Diversification Scheme without the outlay. The committee agreed a budget of a maximum of £3000. RD and TW to meet with R Maton to work out the details and discuss potential contracts for owners.</p> <p><u>Ponies Testing Positive for PSSM</u>  The committee held a discussion on the possibility of being able to include those ponies that test positive for PSSM onto the VGS Welfare Scheme £150 incentive, currently only eligible for depastured ponies over the age of 18. No decision was made and more information was requested from the breed society before the next meeting. TW to contact NFPB&amp;CS</p> <p><u>De-horning of cattle</u>  The committee discussed the possibility of some kind of VGS inducement to encourage the de-horning of forest run cattle. It was agreed that the Small Grant Scheme could include applications from commoners to assist towards the purchase of de-budding equipment.</p>	<p>Action RD &amp; TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>
11. Date for next Meeting	The next VGS meetings will be Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2019 2pm.	

T Woodley  
VGS Administrator



Copy to:  
VGS Management Committee  
Verderers