



*Verderers of the New Forest
Verderers' Grazing Scheme
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MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24th May 2017

Present:

Lord Manners (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs D Westerhoff (DW)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr H Mills (HM)	- Defra Appointed Verderer
Mr D Readhead (DR)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator

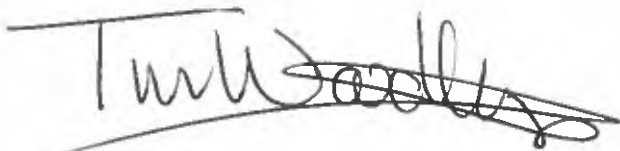
IN COMMITTEE in the Verderers' Meeting Room

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	None	
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	
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 VGS payments made to Forest commoners in Dec 2016 and Commons commoners in Jan 2017. TW informed the committee that the Supplementary Feeding Areas inspection by NE and the Head Agister is scheduled for June 19 th 2017. TW reported that the 2016 HLS health check had been completed and submitted to NE in March 2017. All VGS objectives for 2016 had been met.	
5. VGS Annual Grants 2017	TW reported to the committee the status of VGS annual grants for 2017.	
6. Pound rebuild 2016 and 2017 Proposals	TW reported on the 2016 rebuilds – D Bessant completed 4 replacement pounds in 2016 – Woodgreen, Woodfidley, Holmsley and Appleslade. The Woodgreen pound was much larger than the standard pound design which brought the total for 2016 over projected spend.	

	2017 pound rebuilds –Ashurst/Sandhole Bridge, Sloden Drove, Latchmoor and Pilley Bailey are scheduled for replacement in 2017. D Bessant's quote has been accepted and a contract has been issued.	
7. Small grant applications	<p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>Miss K Harrison – Barn for housing cattle Mr O Cook – Livestock trailer Mrs J Haugh – Livestock handling system Mrs K Clarke – Livestock trailer Mr M Noble – Stable & barn repairs Mr R Bessant – Livestock handling system Mrs A Smith – Cattle crush Miss E Dovey – Livestock shelter Mr C Moore – Erection of barn Mr R Johnson - Roller Mr A Napthine – Hay barn Mr P Bessant – Replacement tractor Miss S Garret – Fencing renewal Mr A Thomas – Livestock trailer Mr G Rees – Concrete / hardstanding Mr J Gerrelli – Livestock trailer Miss R Wedge – Livestock handling system Mr B Mansbridge – Flatbed trailer F Winter & Son – Livestock handling system Mr RG Mansbridge – Barn gates Miss C Taplin – Livestock handling system Mrs C Taplin – Mobile field shelter Mr & Mrs S Young – Livestock handling system Mr R Maton – Livestock handling system Mr P Butler - Roller Mr M Lovell – Replacement tractor Mr T Gould – Water trough installations Miss L Bow – Livestock handling system</p> <p>Referred until next committee meeting: Miss V Johnson – Concrete for barn floor</p> <p>Refusals: Miss R Spencer-Fleet – Field shelter Mr L Byford – Fencing & hedge work Mr J King – Concrete base TW to inform applicants of results.</p>	TW
8. Sightline Fencing/ Driftway Fencing	<p>TW reported on the completed driftway fencing projects for 2016. Latchmoor drift fence is due to be finished next week due to the delay in site clearance and winter weather.</p> <p>2017 driftway and sightline fence projects have been quoted for and various permissions/ service checks are being sought before acceptance. Proposed projects are Pilley Allotment, Sheepwash, Hatchet Mill and Verderers field at Boltons Bench. The committee discussed the need for the agisters to monitor the maintenance of the existing driftway and sightline fencing. Agisters to be asked to compile a list of existing fences for TW to create an inspection list.</p>	TW

9. Verderers' Water Troughs	A quotation has been accepted from R Stride for restoration to the bases of the 8 water troughs. Matt Bright has installed a new trough at Ashurst and will work with R Stride to replace the trough at Canterton. TW confirmed the Canterton trough is on Crown land and within the HLS area.	
10. Incinerator Grant application	TW informed the committee that the new incinerator has been commissioned this week and the £15,000 VGS grant has now been released to the New Forest Hunt.	
11. VGS Rule Breaches	Nothing to report for 2017	
12. Purchase of Agisters' Trailers	TW reported the replacement trailers were delivered and paid for in February 2017 at a total cost of £15190. DR advised that the agisters' trailers should look to be replaced every 5 years.	
13. AOB	DR reported to the committee on the current status of the micro-chipping law change and its effect on the New Forest's derogation. Foals up to 12 months old can still be issued rump stickers, but anything over 12 months old sold at the next Beaulieu Road Sale will now be required to be micro-chipped although DR is still pursuing the possibility of a derogation. DR proposed the VGS fund the chipping cost of any forest stock brought forward for sale at the upcoming Spring sale. The cost of the vet is approximately £110 per hour and each microchip approximately £4. The committee agreed with the proposal. DR to forward invoice to TW for payment. The latest correspondence received from Mrs J Tillman was the subject of a separate discussion.	DR
14. Date for next Meeting	The next VGS meeting will be Wednesday 22 nd November 2017. Time TBA	

T Woodley
VGS Administrator



Copy to:
VGS Management Committee
Verderers

