

	<p>been purchased and the old one traded in. Serial 16; CD confirmed that he has written to the owner of the bull calves that escaped onto the Forest last summer. Serial 17; The LAS has been informed that the priorities for 2014 are agreed. Serial 18; Any Other Business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant for leaflets for the ‘Pony – look but don’t touch campaign’ has not yet been be paid . Payment to be made before the end of the month. • A quote for £1,000 (to be paid by the Verderers, not VGS) for stripping and repainting the mobile crush has been accepted. • HM and AG have responded to the consultation on proposals to control the spread of bovineTB. Contingency planning for preventing the spread of bovine TB and other animal diseases on the Forest is on-going. • 7 more radios have been purchased; 2 have been issued to the FC Ranger team and the other 5 to the Agisters. 	<p>CD CD OV</p>
<p>4. Compliance checks</p>	<p>The result of compliance checks conducted by CD as directed at the last meeting, were noted. In 7 cases, the cattle entered by members in the Scheme are not recorded in their name in the animal passports. Condition 1.7 of the VGS states that members must own all the animals he or she enters in the Scheme. It is therefore not acceptable for members to enter animals in the VGS which are recorded in their passports as owned by another family member. Animal passports must clearly show if ownership is shared (eg ‘Name & Sons/partners’ or ‘Mr & Mrs Name’). Accordingly, it was decided that payments for those members who do not own the animals will not be paid. CD to inform those affected.</p> <p>Advice on this to be included in the next Verderers’ newsletter.</p>	<p>CD CD/LS</p>
<p>5. Byelaw/VGS Infringements</p>	<p>A list of byelaw infringements was considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of a 2 year old colt still out on the Forest past the 1 February deadline, it was noted that the owner has clearly made an effort to find the animal; the Agisters have also looked for it without success. It was therefore decided to withhold for the time being the sum of £400 (which is the penalty for allowing a 2 year old colt on the Forest after 1 February), pending review in due course either when the pony has been caught, or identified as dead, whatever the case may be. A decision on payment of the £400 will be made when all the facts are known. • In the case of a commoner with 2 pigs out on the Forest after the end of the pannage season, it was noted that the owner had removed 5 other pigs before the deadline but had been unable to find and catch the 2 in question which had been on private land. When found back on the Forest they could not be caught, so the owner arranged for them to be shot. It was decided that he should not be paid for those 2 pigs. 	<p>CD</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the case of a commoner with 10 pigs on the Forest after the end of the pannage season, it was decided that his payment should be withheld. • In the case of a commoner with 2 pigs on the Forest after the end of the pannage season, it was decided that his payment should be withheld. • In the case of a commoner whose pigs escaped briefly onto the Forest after the end of the pannage season, it was decided that this was unintentional and that, as the owner had informed the Agister immediately and caught them without delay, he should not be penalised. • In the case of a commoner with 5 pigs out on the Forest after the end of the pannage season, it was noted that these were a litter of pigs born on the Forest to one of his sows. They were not marked or 'ringed' and had caused damage to the Forest. It was decided that he should receive no payment for these or any of his other 9 pigs this year. <p>An article is to be added to the next Verderers' Newsletter highlighting the penalties for byelaw infringements by VGS members.</p>	CD/LS
6. 2014/15 Budget/Expenditure Programme	The budget was approved. It was decided that the Livestock Unit value should be revised upwards in light of the penalties deducted for non-compliance and byelaw infringements.	CD
7. Drift fencing. Proposals for new/replacement fencing	It was agreed that the drift fencing requested by the Agisters is essential to the drift programme; the proposed budget of £15,000 was approved.	CD/LS
8. Control of Bovine TB on the Forest/ Amendment of Terms & Conditions	Following a recent case of bovine TB (bTB) on the forest, and in light of discussions with Defra around control of bTB, an amendment to the VGS T&Cs was agreed. This requires members to allow the Verderers to be informed by the Animal Health & Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) or other government bodies, if they have information on animal diseases, including bTB, pertaining to an animal belonging to them. An amendment to the VGS application form, confirming acceptance of this requirement, was also agreed. Additionally, because the AHVLA manages disease using CPH numbers, it was decided that it should now be a requirement for members to provide their CPH number on the application form. Application forms for 2014/15, together with a copy of the revised T&Cs will be sent out shortly. It was agreed that a further form should be sent to all members later in the year requiring them to confirm the actual numbers of animals which qualify for payment.	CD/LS
9. Donkeys with overgrown feet	The Verderers viewed photographs taken by a member of the public showing 2 donkeys with overgrown hooves. It was decided that the owner should not receive payment for them. A reminder of the need for owners to	CD/LS

	ensure that donkeys' hooves are properly managed is to be included in the next Verderers' Newsletter with a recommendation that they should be trimmed at least twice a year.	
10. Use of unauthorised feeding area at Hatchett Green	The committee considered the case of a commoner who had temporarily used an unauthorised feeding area. This is a breach of the byelaws and it was decided that the commoner's payment for this year should be withheld. There followed a brief discussion about what can be fed to animals on feeding areas. LS was asked to investigate and report back on the ingredients of a cobnut.	CD/LS LS
11. Maintenance of 'Sightline' Fencing	A budget of £20,000 was agreed for the replacement with hardwood posts and rails of all the fencing on the Sightlines list. CD/LS to tender a contract for this work.	CD/LS
12. AOB	<p>Average speed cameras on the Forest. It was noted that the Commoners Defence Association (CDA) is considering bidding for funds to buy average speed cameras for hotspot areas where there is a high incidence of animal accidents. It was agreed that consideration would be given to a pilot scheme.</p> <p>Brand declaration forms. It was confirmed that everyone in the Scheme has now signed their brand declaration form.</p> <p>VGS support for non-New Forest ponies. The Verderers considered a query over whether, in light of the decision to exclude geldings from the VGS, the Scheme should continue to pay commoners for turning out non-New Forest ponies such as Shetlands. It was confirmed that, with the exception of geldings which are already excluded, non-New Forest ponies will continue to qualify for payment. In explanation it was noted that the principle reason for excluding geldings is not just that they don't contribute to the New Forest breed, but that they interfere with the stallions when these are turned out.</p>	

C F R DRAPER
VGS Manager

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VGS Management Committee
Advisory Group
Verderers