



*Verderers of the New Forest
Verderers' Grazing Scheme
The Queen's House
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All Verderers
Advisory Group Members

26th November 2014

**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 26th November 2014**

Present:

Mr D May (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs D Westerhoff (DW)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr A Gerrelli (AG)	- Elected Verderer
Miss L Sargeant (LS)	- VGS Administrator

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	Mr H Mills (HM) - Defra Appointed Verderer	
2. Declarations of interest	OV, RD and AG declared their membership of the VGS. RD is a member of the New Forest Livestock Society. OV, RD, & AG are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. OV declared an interest in New Forest Hunt. HM has a tenant who is in VGS. HM has an interest in NFLAS.	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
4. VGS Payments – due diligence checks	LS reported on her check of the cattle turn-out numbers with the Agisters. One cattle commoner was identified as not having turned out any animals this year, despite marking them. LS is to check how and where the animals were marked by Agister Naphthine. LS to ensure that the commoner knows about the new TB Control Plan. Another commoner's turn-out number of cattle could not be confirmed for this scheme year. LS is to ask Agister Naphthine to check more closely on this commoner next year. LS reported on her cross check with the Agisters, that those members who had lots of geldings last year have not entered them into the VGS this year.	LS LS

	<p>LS is confident we are not paying for any geldings by mistake this year.</p> <p>LS reported on her check of members that had a significant increase in stock numbers since last year. The Committee were happy that all increases in herds were justified.</p> <p>One commoner is parking on the Forest against VGS rules, so the Committee decided to withhold their VGS subsidy until this has been resolved.</p> <p>LS will check that the pre-populated forms sent out for the 2015 VGS Scheme are addressed correctly. There should not be an opportunity for two VGS entries, as an individual and as a partnership.</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>LS</p> <p>LS</p>
5. Small grant applications	<p>Grant request from Mrs Waite for trailer was not approved, as the scheme is unable to fund this purchase.</p> <p>Grant request from Ms Bates towards a barn construction was approved.</p> <p>Grant request from Miss Tillyer for fencing was not approved as there is no security of tenure.</p> <p>Grant request from Miss Stephens for fencing was not approved as the field is intended for cattle back-up grazing and it is outside the 1 mile TB Control zone.</p> <p>LS to inform all applicants.</p>	<p>LS</p>
6. VGS Rules for 2015	<p>Due to the change in the HLS financial year, the new VGS year will run from 1st January to 31st December.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the idea of only paying for registered New Forest ponies and not paying for any other breeds of ponies or donkeys. The arguments for and against were strongly put on both sides. The Committee did not reach a decision and have decided that this should be discussed further at the next Verderers' Court meeting.</p>	
12. AOB	<p>LS raised the requirement for a Farm Environment Plan (FEP) to enable us to re-enter land that had been removed from the HLS by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA). LS is to ask the New Forest Land Advice Service to carry out the FEP for these small pieces of land.</p> <p>Our appeal against the RPA fine for the HLS has been refused again. LS is to inform the RPA that we wish to continue to the next stage of appeal.</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>LS</p>

L Sargeant
VGS Administrator
Copy to:
VGS Management Committee
Advisory Group
Verderers