



Verderers of the New Forest

Verderers' Grazing Scheme

The Queen's House

Lyndhurst

Hampshire

SO43 7NH

Official Verderer

Dominic May

Telephone: 023 8028 3134

Fax: 023 8028 3101

All Verderers
Advisory Group Members

6 March 2013

MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 MARCH 2013

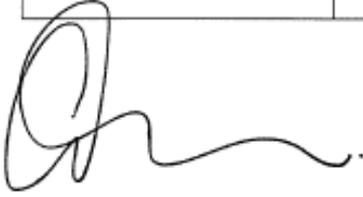
Present:

Mr D May (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr A Pasmore (AP)	- Elected Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mr A Gerrelli (AG)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs P Thorne (PT)	- Defra Appointed Verderer
Mr C Draper (CD)	- VGS Manager

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	All members present	
2. Declarations of Interest	All members declared their membership of the VGS. RD is a member of the Livestock Society. RD & AG are members of the Stallion Scheme. All members declared an interest in Item 7 Small Grant Application; D Readhead & Son	
3. Approve, subject to any necessary amendment, the Minutes of the last VGS Management Committee Meeting held on 23 January 2013	The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.	
4. Review of the VGS Terms & Conditions	Members reviewed the Terms & Conditions for the VGS, to decide whether existing rules for year one should be amended in any way now that the Scheme is starting year two. The following arrangements were agreed: The application form should ask for colour and haunt of each pony	

	<p>entered, as requested by the agisters.</p> <p>The minimum qualifying period for membership was reviewed, and it was agreed to leave the rule unchanged. For clarification, new entrants must have turned out for the previous three years, with the first payment from the VGS in their fourth year.</p> <p>1.8 was modified as follows: Have a valid Equine or Bovine Passport, or entry in the Verderers' List, for all their ponies and/or cattle that are depastured – regardless of whether or not they qualify for the scheme's payment.</p> <p>It was agreed that no payment will be made for sheep. A deadline of 30 April was agreed for the return of applications.</p> <p>CD was directed to send out VGS application forms for 2013/14 next week, and to include a remittance advice to members for their 2012/13 payment.</p>	CD
5. To consider a request for a funding contribution towards the New Forest Back-up land strategy project	<p>The bid was rejected. The Verderers hold detailed information on actual back-up grazing for VGS members, but the information is data protected and cannot be made available to this study, so members did not consider that the project would be able to reach valid conclusions. Members also expressed doubts over the practical benefits of another study. It was agreed that CD should respond accordingly.</p>	CD
6. To consider the provision of funding for a programme to rebuild pounds during the remaining 7 years of the VGS, with Puckpits and Amberwood Pounds a priority for 2013/14	<p>OV introduced this Item which he identified as a legacy project which would benefit commoning for many years at a relatively modest cost, and proposed funding for up to 4 Pounds per year. It was noted that, historically, the building and maintenance of Pounds has been carried out by local commoners with materials provided at little or no cost, but that tradition has gradually been eroded with the Verderers taking on some responsibility, and materials now only available at commercial rates. The VGS provides the opportunity to rebuild most of the pounds over the next 7 years. Members supported the proposal; it was stressed that this is only because the money is available and should not be regarded as a precedent, post HLS. The Verderers' Staff Committee will determine which Pounds should be rebuilt. A sum of £12,000 per annum was approved for this project up until the end of the HLS.</p>	RD
7. To consider 2 'Small Grant' applications	<p>1. Mr D Readhead and Son; grant towards the cost of an agricultural building to provide storage for hay and agricultural implements. The requirement has arisen because of the potential loss of an existing facility; the new building is essential to their commoning business. As the members had all declared an interest, CD was asked for a recommendation based on the policy for 'small grants'. CD confirmed that the application met the requirements for a small grant and was virtually identical to a grant application that was approved for another commoner at the last meeting. On that basis he recommended approval,</p>	CD

	which was agreed. CD to inform the applicant 2. Miss K Brown; grant towards the cost of fencing on back-up grazing land at East Boldre. Members deferred a decision on this application, pending written confirmation of (i) long term tenancy for the land and (ii) confirmation that it is used for back-up grazing. CD to inform the applicant.	CD
--	---	-----------



C F R DRAPER
VGS Manager

Copy to:

VGS Management Committee
Advisory Group
Verderers