



*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

7 May 2014

**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON 7 May 2014**

Present:

Mr D May (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mr A Gerrelli (AG)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs D Westerhoff (DW)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr H Mills (HM)	- Defra Appointed Verderer
Miss S Westwood (SW)	- Clerk to the Verderers
Miss L Sargeant (LS)	- VGS Administrator

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	None	
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. HM declared an interest with one of the commoners tendering. RD & AG both have stallions in the Stallion Scheme.	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Matters arising: LS was asked to find out what was in a cobnut. There are many different products on the market and none are specifically called cobnuts. LS to ask Clive Maton what he feeds and find out ingredients. BovineTB: there is another meeting on 16 th May to discuss this with Defra.	LS
4. Compliance checks	7 commoners were asked for evidence to demonstrate their ownership of the cattle they were claiming for under the VGS. The Committee reviewed the evidence provided and decided that 5 of the commoners had provided sufficient evidence to demonstrate genuine shared ownership. These 5 commoners were then paid their grazing payments. The 2 remaining commoners will be asked to provide evidence of ownership: LS to write to them.	LS

5. Trailer training for young commoners	The VGS Management Committee will continue to offer £3,500 per year to support trailer training by young commoners. It was not felt appropriate to increase the individual ceiling of a maximum contribution of £700 per person towards training costs. In fact, the meeting was of the view that the CDA, which is administering the support, may like to consider more training and less support per person.	LS
6. Infringement of byelaws SB letter of appeal	The issue of an infringement of byelaws through feeding on an unapproved feeding area was discussed again due to a letter of appeal, asking to review the withdrawal of all of the member's grazing payment. In view of the new information, the Committee decided to pay the member 50% reflecting the fact that the commoner contravened the byelaw, but taking into account the mitigating circumstances. LS was asked to send a copy of the byelaws to the commoner.	LS
7. Infringement of byelaws CH letter of appeal	The 2 year old colt, for which payment was withheld, was confirmed to have been removed off the forest before the deadline, and as such the Committee agreed to now pay the previously withheld £400 of the grazing payment.	LS
8. Infringement of byelaws AB letter of appeal	The appeal against withholding the grazing payment for pigs being out after the end of pannage was discussed, but the Committee found that this is not the first year in which the owner's pigs had been out after the end of pannage. It was decided to uphold the Committee's original decision that no grazing payment will be made. LS to reply.	LS
9. Sightline fencing	The Committee were asked to review which type of fencing should be used for the Sightline fences. Originally we had asked for tenders for both chestnut mortice fencing as well as standard post and rail. The Committee decided on standard post and rail, as the mortice fencing is much more difficult to repair.	LS
10. Jack Donkey Scheme	The Jack Donkey scheme was agreed that it should be part of the VGS. There will be a meeting on 28 th May for jack donkey owners.	SW
11. Donkeys with overgrown feet	The Committee viewed photographs taken by a member of the public showing a donkey with overgrown hooves, which is an animal welfare issue, and therefore contravenes the byelaws. This is not the first time that this owner's donkeys have been reported to the office for overgrown hooves. LS to write to the commoner to send them copies of the photos and to inform them that grazing payments may be withheld at the end of this scheme year.	LS
12. Small grant applications	These were deferred to a future meeting to allow the Committee to examine the applications in detail.	ALL
13. AOB	<p>A letter was received in the office disputing that geldings should no longer receive a grazing payment. The issue was discussed again, but the Committee did not change its previous decision that geldings will not attract a grazing payment. LS to write a reply.</p> <p>Geldings will continue to qualify for the Pony Welfare payment, and VGS members should be reminded that they should list ALL their animals on the VGS application forms (including geldings). LS to do a spot check on application forms to ensure members are listing all the animals they turn</p>	

	<p>out, including geldings.</p> <p>There were some good young stallions that came forward for inspection and were passed this year. There was a discussion over lowering the upper age limit for stallions to remain in the scheme, which would mean approximately seven stallions coming out this year. The Committee agreed Retiring Stallion Payment of £150 to the owner for each stallion removed from the Stallion Scheme. LS to draft Terms and Conditions for approval by RD and OV.</p>	LS
--	--	----

L Sargeant
VGS Administrator

Copy to:

VGS Management Committee
Advisory Group
Verderers