



*Verderers of the New Forest
Verderers' Grazing Scheme
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**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON 14th June 2023**

Present:

Mr R Deakin (RD) - Elected Verderer
Mr Dave Readhead (DR) - Elected Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW) - VGS Administrator

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	Mr Edward Heron Mr Clive Chatters (CC) - Natural England Appointed Verderer	
2. Declarations of interest	RD & DR declared membership of the VGS. RD & DR are members of the New Forest Livestock Society. RD & DR are members of the New Forest Stallion Syndicate RD & DR are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. RD & DR are committee member of the CDA	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Minutes of the last VGS meeting were approved Also approved were the minutes from the two VGS Consultative panel meetings Matters Arising CDA Correspondence – all the issues raised within the CDA correspondence have been covered during the consultative group meetings, at which representatives from the CDA were present. VGS Consultative Group – 2 meetings have taken place – details of outcomes below. Another meeting will be scheduled for 6 months time. Livestock trailers - The Agisters new livestock trailers and flatbed trailer are ordered and awaiting delivery. VGS Sponsoring of Cattle Classes at Annual Breed Show – TW to discuss with breed society.	Action TW

<p>4. Outcomes of the VGS Consultative Group and VGS Report</p>	<p>Following the VGS Consultative Group meetings, several new projects and initiatives have been adopted for inclusion into the VGS.</p> <p>These include the paying of an additional supplementary payment to Forest cattle herds that fulfilled their grazing commitment in 2022 as an incentive to retain their cattle during difficult times. This was based on £200,000 divided between 73 unique holding numbers and resulted in a supplementary payment of £2,739.72 – this was paid into the nominated VGS account of the person listed on BCMS for each holding number. Provided that there is a continuing need for additional support for those depasturing cattle the HLS Board is willing to make similar financial support available annually during the life of the existing HLS.</p> <p>The VGS Consultative Group agreed that forest commoners should receive additional support to enable them to keep pigs for mast. The VGS terms and conditions have now changed to increase the 1st 20 x pigs put out for pannage to 0.6LU – additional pigs to receive 0.3LU.</p> <p>The VGS Consultative Group agreed to a Fallen Stock Programme to claim £100 towards collection costs for non-RTA deaths of animals entered on their VGS forms.</p> <p>TW informed all commoners of these new projects via the Spring Newsletter and the application forms are on the website.</p> <p>The HLS AGM for outcomes achieved during 2022 is due to take place at Minstead Village Hall on 19th September – TW has requested all VGS project stakeholders to be present to showcase their work.</p> <p>The National Trust have committed to contributing to the VGS for the next two years at an increased rate of £45,000 per annum This will result in an increase to the adjacent commons contributions to £32.68 per hectare. TW is awaiting a purchase order number from NT before requesting that the other adjacent commons match the increase.</p> <p>This will be HCC, Wellow Parish, and Minstead Manor.</p>	
<p>5. VGS Annual Grants 2023</p>	<p>The Committee studied the VGS annual grants table detailing the current year spend up to the end of May 2023. Many of the projects annual grant awards have been increased in 2023 in line with inflation as they have not changed since the start of the HLS.</p> <p>All annual grants were paid out at the beginning of April.</p> <p>All VGS forms have been sent out with the Spring Newsletter – they are due to be returned by June 30th.</p>	
<p>6. Pound rebuilds 2023</p>	<p>The Pound projects for 2023 include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sluifers – Due to be built June 2023 Setley / Coxhill – Due to be built June 2023 Warwickslade – Completed May 2023 Verderers Field – need plan from Agisters and Verderers consent Ogden's Pound – HCC claiming for under CS Capital grant – awaiting confirmation of project approval. 	

7. Sightline Fencing/ Drift way Fencing	<p>TW reported on the status of the 2023 Drift fence & holding pen projects</p> <p>Withy beds Drift fence repairs – Awaiting additional rails</p>	
8. Small grant applications	<p>The committee discussed the VGS Small Grant Applications. The grants awarded from now on are to come with a stipulation that purchases must be made within 6 months of the award with the exception of buildings.</p> <p>£5100 awarded and not yet claimed - £5100 from 2022</p> <p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>A Theron J Pullen M Bright D Wilding K Dovey K Smith C Duell L Suter J Gerrelli D Bessant J Bessant</p> <p>TW to write and inform the successful applicants</p>	Action TW
9. VGS Rule Breaches	<p>2 x VGS rule breaches were discussed – both were for failing to get poor cattle off the forest when requested by the Agister and requiring warning letters to be sent threatening byelaw prosecution would follow if the animals were not removed. In both cases the animals were eventually removed but delay in remedying the issue has been classed as an infringement of the VGS terms and Conditions 1.5; 1.10; 6.2; 6.3 and 6.4;</p> <p>Recommendation was made that both offending herds would not receive the 2022 cattle supplement payment but would be allowed to enter the 2023 VGS scheme. TW to draft letters and circulate to the committee for approval before sending.</p>	Action TW
10. AOB	<p>Fallen Stock Programme</p> <p>A commoner has asked if sheep deaths can be included in the fallen stock programme – the committee agreed that as sheep were not included in the VGS and most sheep were commons sheep – the forest VGS could not include them in the fallen stock programme.</p> <p>Stallion Grazing – RD updated the committee on the options available to relocate the stallions when Cadland is no longer available.</p>	

11. Date for next Meeting	November 2023 – WED Nov 22 nd 2pm	
	Meeting closed 15.30	

T Woodley
VGS Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Woodley', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.