



*Verderers of the New Forest  
Verderers' Grazing Scheme  
The Queen's House  
Lyndhurst  
Hampshire  
SO43 7NH*

*Official Verderer  
Lord Manners*

*Telephone: 023 8028 3134  
Fax: 023 8028 3101*

**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME CONSULTATIVE GROUP  
MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

Present:

Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mr Clive Chatters (CC)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr Dave Readhead (DR)	- Elected Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator
Adam Coutts (AC)	- CDA Representative
Tom Hordle (TH)	- Young Commoners Representative
Leanne Sargeant (LS)	- Forestry England Representative

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	Lord Manners (OV) – Official Verderer Charlotte Lines (CL) – CDA Representative Jenny Thomas (JT) – Natural England Representative	
2. Declarations of interest	RD, DR, TW, AC & TH 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, TW, AC, TH & LS are members of the New Forest Pony Breeders and Cattle Society. RD, DR, AC & TH are committee members of the CDA CC is secretary for HIWWT and Trustee and Council member of the NFA	
3. Future Commons contributions	TW and OV to open discussions with NT – concern that numbers of commons commoners will decline as not receiving any contribution towards their stock grazing and maintaining the habitats on the Commons. The payment rate for Commons Contributions has remained at £28 per hectare for the current life of the scheme. The agreement states this amount can be reviewed annually- The group agreed that an increase in contribution should be requested from NT, HCC, Wellow Parish Council and Minstead Manor. TW worked out the increase according to inflation since 2013 = £35.94 per hectare – it was discussed if this extra £12K should be applied directly to the Grazing Payment or distributed as a Small Grant Scheme for Commons Commoners as this option has not been available through the NFLAS in recent years? The committee agreed that the extra should be put into the grazing payment	Action TW & OV



	<p>pot rather than a small grant fund. TW to advise the commons owners of the increase to the bi-lateral grazing agreement contribution per hectare.</p> <p>TW is working with HCC on contribution towards the rebuild of Ogdens Pound</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>
4. Consultation with commoners	TW to organising the AGM for September 2023.	Action TW
6. Cattle incentive Grazing Scheme Payment V herd number payment	<p>The group discussed an option of making a retrospective payment to Forest cattle owners as an incentive to retain grazing cattle. TW supplied figures based on an additional £200K distributed to cattle owners by the VGS LU method with a cap of 40 applied as well as a model based on distribution by herd number.</p> <p><b>Examples</b></p> <p><b>A/</b> Forest Cattle based on VGS model</p> <p>2694 cattle LU's before capping at 40</p> <p style="text-align: right;">£200,000.00 split between 2506 LU's</p> <p>extra £79.80 per cow split between 102 people</p> <p>Total model = £153.81 LU per cow</p> <p><b>B/</b> Forest Cattle based on herds</p> <p>2506 LU's between 76 unique herd numbers</p> <p>£200,000 divided between 76</p> <p><b>£2631.58</b> each herd</p> <p>The Committee agreed on Example B – payment per herd – but would like the assurance that this incentive be repeated for the 5 year term of the current HLS Agreement. A one off payment had the support in principle of the HLS Board but the Board will need to review and approve the detailed proposal.</p>	Action TW
7. Cattle premium – forest run – judged by NFPB&CS	Option of additional support to Forest type cattle – TW to discuss with VGS committee about the possibility of sponsoring cattle classes at the Annual Breed Show.	Action TW
8. Encourage Pig owners	The group agreed that Forest commoners should receive additional support to enable them to keep pigs for mast. Changed VGS Terms to increase the 1 <sup>st</sup> 20 x pigs put out for pannage to 0.6LU – additional pigs to receive 0.3LU. TW to inform commoners via newsletter and VGS application form.	
9. Compensation for death on forest – disposal costs	A claim form must be submitted along with receipt of payment to chosen collection company. Form must be signed by Agister – TW to create form and inform commoners via newsletter	
10. New Forest Buying Group	TW to reported back to commoner.	



11. Annual Grazing Payment	TW ran the model showing the increase linked to inflation per annum. Agreed Increase from £462,000 to £592,957	
12. Date for next meetings	Committee to meet in 6 months or sooner depending on NT Discussions – TW to arrange dates – TW to include AC on mailing list as replacing CL as CDA representative.	
	Meeting closed 15.45	

T Woodley  
VGS Administrator

*T Woodley 19/6/23*

