



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

*Official Verderer
Edward Heron*

Telephone: 023 8028 3134

**MINUTES OF THE VERDERERS' GRAZING SCHEME MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON 22nd November 2023**

Present:

Mr Edward Heron (OV)	- Official Verderer
Mr R Deakin (RD)	- Elected Verderer
Mr Dave Readhead (DR)	- Elected Verderer
Mr Clive Chatters (CC)	- Natural England Appointed Verderer
Mr Mark Gammon (MG)	- Forestry Commission Appointed Verderer
Mrs T Woodley (TW)	- VGS Administrator

Item	Item	Action
1. Apologies	None	
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 CC is a committee member of HIWWT	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising	Minutes of the last VGS meeting were approved – TW to change OV on headed paper and reprint and sign	Action TW

<p>4. VGS Annual Grants 2023</p>	<p>The Committee studied the VGS annual grants table detailing the current year spend up to the middle of November 2023.</p> <p>The committee agreed that the Annual Grant award to the New Forest Land Advice Service could be made to HIWWT as the management of NFLAS is being overseen by HIWWT. HIWWT to send grant bid and invoice to HLS for April 2024. TW to inform Trace Cooper-Williams</p> <p>All VGS forms have been returned and entered onto Web CRM – The Cattle and pig declarations have been sent out and are to be returned by December 1st. TW can then start working out the calculations for 2023 Grazing Payments based on the inflation linked increased amount for 2023 (£592,957)</p> <p>All Increased Commons VGS Contributions have been received (£51,855.33) and the calculations and payments can be done at the same time as the Forest VGS.</p> <p>The Agisters 5 x Livestock trailers and 1 flatbed trailer have been upgraded to Nugent trailers – these were delivered last week – the old trailers were part exchanged – 7 x New Hitchlocks were also purchased to keep the trailers secure.</p> <p>The HLS AGM for outcomes achieved during 2022 took place at Minstead Village Hall on 19th September – All VGS project stakeholders were present and showcased their work. It was a very successful evening with over 100 attendees.</p> <p>The area of available grazing at Cadland has been reduced – an agreement has been signed to continue until the end of March 2024. TW & RD met with the NT earlier today and an agreement in principle has been agreed to take out a 5 year FBT for land at Mottisfont for the stallion grazing and potential for additional land for Futurity Colts and the opportunity to run another Bloodline Scheme.</p> <p>TW to write to Merrick Estate and thank them for their kind offers of accommodating the stallion grazing.</p> <p>The Welfare Scheme has had 90 claims for over age stock so far in 2023.</p> <p>The New Fallen Stock Scheme has had 7 claims so far since its start in June.</p> <p>No microchipping days are due to take place in 2023 due to an outbreak of Strangles in the vicinity of Beaulieu Road resulting in the cancellation of the pony sales in 2023.</p>	<p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p> <p>Action TW</p>
<p>5. Pound rebuilds 2023</p>	<p>The Pound projects completed in 2023 included</p> <p>Setley / Coxhill</p> <p>Warwickslade</p> <p>Ogden's Pound – Non HLS – Dual funded by HCC and Verderers</p> <p>Sluffers – Due to be built by end of Dec 2023</p> <p>Verderers Field – Non HLS – due to be built 2024 and funded by Verderers</p>	

	<p>This has now seen all the Forest Pounds replaced in hardwood and the annual budget reduced to £5000 for maintenance.</p>	
<p>6. Sightline Fencing/ Drift way Fencing</p>	<p>TW reported on the completed 2023 Drift fence & holding pen projects</p> <p>Repairs to HLS drift fencing completed at Boldrewood, Highland Water and Crabhat.</p> <p>Setley Drift fence and holding pen replaced.</p> <p>Withy beds Drift fence repairs – Rails have been sourced and the repairs will be done when the ground conditions allow</p> <p>RD & JRG are due to meet with FE on Friday to discuss the fencing that are deemed by the Verderers as essential for stock management (approx. 17kms) This will require a significant annual budget to maintain beyond the life of the current HLS agreement – The committee agreed this will need to be considered in any future scheme.</p>	
<p>7. Small grant applications</p>	<p>The committee discussed the VGS Small Grant Applications.</p> <p>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>£4400 awarded and not yet claimed - £2300 from 2022</p> <p>Grants of varying sums were approved to the following members of the VGS:</p> <p>Mrs J Theron Mr R Maton Mrs C Lines Mr & Mrs M Bright Mrs EM Gerrelli Mr L Jones Mrs S Bessant Mrs D Knight Mrs D Van Hennik Mr B Ingram Mrs J Potheary</p> <p>TW to write and inform the successful applicants</p>	<p>Action TW</p>
<p>8. VGS Rule Breaches</p>	<p>The Committee discussed a number of issues relating to over age bulls on the forest that have occurred over the last couple of years. It was noted that each case was looked at individually and based on the evidence available and the consequent remedying of the infringements it was deemed no further action would be taken. The Committee discussed the</p>	

	implementation of a fixed penalty for over age bull calves remaining on the forest but this was not deemed possible at this time due to being unable to collect firm evidence on the age of calves, especially if they have not been ear tagged or birth notified with BCMS. All future reports to be considered as they occur.	
9. AOB	<p>TW proposed that stallion owners who do not turn out any other stock and so do not qualify for VGS Grazing payments should receive a payment equal to twice the LU Unit paid by the VGS as an incentive for offering their stallions services to the Stallion Scheme for the following year.</p> <p>The board agreed to this proposal – TW to notify and remit to the 2 owners after the Forest VGS Calculations have been made.</p> <p>The Committee was asked if the VGS could pay towards the Speed Camera Van contribution – the proposal was discussed and rejected at this time – other projects such as Operation Mountie may be more effective schemes to support.</p>	Action TW
10. Date for next Meeting	<p>Wed June 12th 2024 2pm – Verderers Office</p> <p>Wed Nov 13th 2pm 2024 – Verderers Office</p>	
	Meeting closed 15.30	

T Woodley
VGS Administrator

