



Official Verderer
 Dominic May

30th June 2014

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 30th June 2014

Voting Members		
Dominic May	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Jane Smith	JS	Head of Planning & Environment - Forestry Commission standing in for Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest
Non-Voting Members		
Hannah Thacker	HT	Standing in for Jenny Thomas, Natural England (NE)
Graham Ferris	GF	Chairman – CDA
In Attendance		
Leanne Sargeant	LS	VGS Administrator taking minutes

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Apologies for absence	Mike Seddon, Deputy Surveyor of the New Forest Jenny Thomas, Natural England	RESUME
2. Declarations of Interest	OV is a commoner & a member of the VGS; & is Chairman of the VGS Management Committee, and a member of the VGS Advisory Group. GF is a commoner & a member of the VGS and a member of the VGS Advisory Group. AB declared an interest in all Wetland Restoration projects because of the NPA's responsibilities as local planning authority.	RESUME
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting	Item 5 – AP2 payment has not arrived. HT to find out progress and what is happening about our AP2 payment. LS to also enquire with the RPA. Each golf course has a management statement, which details how the golf course should be managed to reflect the SSSI status. Is mowing of fairways allowed under these agreements? HT to send copies of agreements for all 3 golf courses to LS. LS to forward to Julie Melin-Stubbs. The £1500 for historic aerial photos still needs to be added to the Programme Register. Item 6 – Queen's Meadow drain. The FC had a site visit to look at this issue. The drain in question is outside the enclosure. The work has been scheduled under Line 48 of the Programme Register.	RESUME HT LS HT LS LS

	<p>The FC has let a contract to find the solution for the track at Queen's Bower.</p> <p>Item 8 – AB to talk to Sarah Kelly re Hampton Ridge. AB looked at the submarine pen recently and felt that the vegetation is recovering. This is a WW2 historic monument, not a Scheduled Ancient Monument, so should be treated differently to the treatment of SAMs. AB to ask Sarah Kelly to add a column to the Historic Monuments work list which highlights the visual impact of the proposed works to the landscape.</p> <p>Holmsley airfield works description is still outstanding, Lawrence Shaw to give an update.</p> <p>Item 9 – LiDAR data storage and exhibition costs need adding to the Programme Register.</p> <p>Item 10 – Nightjar survey: LS to send electronic copy of the report to HT and JS. Print out executive summary for Board members.</p> <p>Item 17 – Dual-use. HT to find out if there are any updates.</p>	<p>AB</p> <p>LSh/SK</p> <p>LSh</p> <p>LS</p> <p>LS</p> <p>HT</p>
4. Approve HLS Accounts 2013/14	AB proposed the accounts, JS seconded, OV signed.	DISMISS
5. 2013/14 Programme Register	<p>Line 3 – pay VGS members in December, so add in the cost of the scheme.</p> <p>Line 74 – should read 'Gate 10 to Holmsley'</p> <p>Line 69 – should read 'trials' not survey.</p> <p>Line 67 - should read 'trials' not survey.</p> <p>Line 90 – Stag beetle survey is likely to roll into 2015 now. Update register.</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>LS</p> <p>GH</p> <p>GH</p> <p>GH</p> <p>GH</p>
6. Wetland & Terrestrial Restorations	<p>The SLA between FC & NFNPA for archaeology has been agreed and the FC is finishing the last job with AC Archaeology before starting the new one with the NFNPA. AB to ensure enough resources are in place to deliver this SLA.</p> <p>Sluffers planning result is due on 15th July. OV has written a letter of support to the planning committee. OV wants to attend the meeting to voice his support. GF is going to write a letter of support.</p> <p>Can we make use of the results from the Nightjar, Southern damselfly, Fairy shrimp and Small fleabane surveys to demonstrate good news stories? Did the results all show positive outcomes?</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>AB</p> <p>OV</p> <p>GF</p> <p>HM</p>
7. Historic Environment	Any historic items that are not SAMs cannot be funded from the SAMs budget.	RESUME
8. LiDAR	<p>The Board would like the LiDAR report to give a clearer indication of progress each quarter. The following statistics should be included in future reports:</p> <p>Total area to be surveyed</p> <p>Area in ha & % surveyed to date</p> <p>Quarterly target in ha & % of remaining surveying to be done</p> <p>Area in ha & % of surveying done in previous quarter.</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>LSh</p>
9. Bird Surveys	The payment for this year's bird surveys needs to be claimed by the NFNPA before the end of December 2014 to align with the new financial year end.	RESUME IB

	<p>Ian Barker will look at a new proposal for 2015 to develop the survey in order to be able to assess likely reasons for success and failure of nests.</p> <p>It was felt that a better method should be put in place of sharing data between groups. There have been other surveys undertaken within the New Forest by groups that could enhance our results or lead our surveys, such as the assessment of the impact of car park closures on ground nesting birds.</p>	<p>IB</p> <p>IB</p>
10. Land Advice Service update	<p>LAS needs to clarify which courses they are offering funded through the VGS; it was felt the VGS should not be paying for hedgelaying & coppicing courses, or managing the land with heavy horses. It should be supporting the cross compliance courses. LS to meet with Julie Melin-Stubbs to design 2015 LAS objectives including training programme.</p> <p>Jenny Thomas is doing the condition assessments at the moment and may have ideas as to which courses would be useful. It is important to liaise with the CDA as they are going to be running courses for commoners as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund project.</p>	<p>RESUME</p> <p>LS</p> <p>JM-S</p>
11. NFLAS future funding	The future funding needs approval from the VGS Management Committee	OV/LS
12. Measurement of wetland restoration	No report was received. GF to find out what is happening with Alex Lovegrove.	RESUME GF
13. RPA Inspection	The Board agreed that we should go to the next stage of our appeals process regarding our cross compliance breach. The basis of appeal should be that the land area affected is Permanent Ineligible Feature (PIF) and also <i>de minimis</i> , therefore the fine is not commensurate with the total area.	RESUME LS/OV
14. Change of HLS financial year	The EU has imposed a change to all HLS financial years. To bring our scheme year into line, 2014 will be a short year of 10 months March - December. From 2015, the new financial year will run from 1 st January to 31 st December.	DISMISS
15. Mapping requirement	The Board agreed to the proposal to budget for £2,000 per year for mapping.	DISMISS LS
16. Risk Register	The Board proposed that the question could be put to the VGS Advisory group as to what it thinks are the key risks.	RESUME OV
17. Communications	<p>Each of the organisations is to provide to Leanne clear criteria for press releases.</p> <p>Any success stories, such as the results from surveys highlighted in Item 6, should be followed up with a press release.</p> <p>The success of our first 5 years of the scheme could be turned into a press release. JT to follow up.</p>	<p>RESUME ALL</p> <p>JS</p> <p>JT</p>
18. AOB	None raised.	RESUME
19. Confirm Dates for Future Meetings	<p>List of future meeting dates: LS to email possible dates for next year's meetings</p>	LS

Delegated Actions to		
Lawrence Shaw	LSH	Heritage Mapping and Data Officer, NFNPA
Grace Herve	GH	HLS Administrative Officer, FC
Ian Barker	IB	Ecologist, NFNPA
Hilary Makin	HM	Communications Manager, NFNPA



Dominic May
Official Verderer

18th August 2014