



Verderers of the New Forest
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Official Verderer
 Dominic May

12th January 2017

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 11th January 2017

Voting Members		
Dominic May	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Bruce Rothnie	DS	Deputy Surveyor – Forestry Commission
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Non-Voting Members		
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Adviser New Forest - Natural England (NE)
Andy McDonald	AM	Team Leader – Natural England
Sonia Lorenzo-Martin	SLM	Head of Planning and Environment – Forestry Commission
Graham Ferris	GF	Commoners Defence Association Representative
In Attendance		
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All in attendance

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OV is a commoner & a member of the VGS; & is Chairman of the VGS Management Committee.

GF is a commoner & a member of the VGS.

AB declared an interest in all Wetland Restoration projects because of the NPA's responsibilities as local planning authority.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESUME

Tarmac and Concrete on Open Forest

RESUME

SLM had asked the FC keepers to include areas of tarmac and concrete on their reports. Lucy Andrews is compiling a list of sites and will forward to Lawrence Shaw for surveying.

Public Disclosure of Complete List of Future Wetland Restorations

DISCHARGE

SLM reported that the HLS website had now been updated with a complete list of future restorations.

Work in Progress

DISCHARGE

AB reiterated the importance of following the approved plans. SLM agreed on the importance of constant communication about the work sites with the planning officers. OV commented

budgeted costs for Wootton and Pondhead and asked if they were correct. SLM confirmed they were correct. GF noted that the actual amount of pre and post monitoring only equated to two thirds of the budget for 2016. SLM replied that the newly appointed Monitoring Officer will be working hard to increase this ratio. JT reported that NE are agreeable to the increase in budget for monitoring. DS asked if previous LIFE projects could be included for monitoring. JT answered they could as long as they are not within the inclosures.

FC UPDATE

RESUME

Verge Restoration Officer

SLM reported that an officer has not yet been recruited.

RESUME

Stumps and Ridge and Furrow removal

OV felt strongly that this was an excellent initiative to restore grazing area. The board agreed to support the project. SLM to produce a list of sights and report back with costs at the next meeting to agree a budget. OV noted that Newlands would need to be removed as this is National Trust land. DS asked JT if HLS funds could be used to restore to grazing the unused access tracks in these opened up felled areas. JT responded that it could be included. OV thanked SLM for the FC update stating it was very useful.

RESUME

Action SLM

HLS MONITORING OFFICER

SLM reported that the position of HLS Monitoring Officer has now been filled by Gemma Stride who has a lot of experience in engaging with people and a good knowledge of the forest.

RESUME

VERGE RESTORATION PROJECT

RESUME

Broomy Plain

The board examined the proposal for the verge restoration project working jointly with HCC Highways. The board agreed the principal of the project. JT said to ensure that the HLS only paid for verge restoration costs and no others. TW to liaise with JT on reducing the cost of fees for the project as NE may already have done some of the studies required. The cost given from HCC for the verge protection was based on their contractor doing the work whereas it is envisaged that the FC would carry out the verge protection work. JT asked to ensure that all the appropriate species checks are done prior to the works starting. DS requested TW to ask HCC and to clarify what consultations with businesses and residents are planned and report back to the board. OV asked the FC to supply an estimate of cost for removal of the tarmac/concrete from the mitigation/compensation laybys.

Action TW

Action TW

Action LB

AB requested that Lawrence Shaw survey the proposed laybys.

Action LSh

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

The board studied the report supplied by the E&I Officer. GF asked what the plan for exploiting the videos etc. AB responded that Matt Stroud would be able to report the strategies to convey these good news stories.

The board requested Matt Stroud produce a report for the April HLS meeting

Action MS

LiDAR WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

The LiDAR officer supplied a written report of the work completed in 2016. JT invited TW to attend the Historical meeting.

HIWWT WRITTEN UPDATE

RESUME

OV commented on the continued good works and thorough report from Catherine Chatters.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

5th April 2017 at 2pm followed by AGM at 5.30pm

Delegated Actions to		
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Advisor New Forest, NE
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive, NFNPA
Sonia Lorenzo -Martin	SLM	Head of Planning and Environment, FC
Lawrence Shaw	LSH	LiDAR Officer, NFNPA
Matt Stroud	MS	Engagement and Interpretation Officer, NFNPA
Lyndsay Borthwick	LB	Civil Engineer, FC
Tina Woodley	TW	Verderers' Grazing Scheme Administrator



Dominic May
Official Verderer