



Verderers of the New Forest
THE QUEEN'S HOUSE
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Official Verderer
 Lord Manners

14th July 2017

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 12th July 2017

Voting Members		
Lord Manners	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Non-Voting Members		
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Adviser New Forest - Natural England (NE)
Robert Stride	RS	CDA Representative
In Attendance		
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager
Tina Woodley	TW	VGS Administrator

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies from Bruce Rothnie, Deputy Surveyor
 Sonia Lorenzo-Martin, Head of Planning and Environment

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OV is Chairman of the VGS Management Committee.
 AB declared an interest in all Wetland Restoration projects because of the NPA's responsibilities as local planning authority.
 RS is a member of the VGS and a committee member of the CDA.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESUME

Tarmac and Concrete on Open Forest

RESUME

The board discussed the Archaeological report on Stoney Cross Airfield that had been commissioned by the NPA as a pilot for the recording of archaeology on New Forest airfields. AB approached the board for approval to commission reports on several other airfield sites. JT commented that the study on Stoney Cross was a very good report and served two purposes, it gave an excellent "potted" history of the site as well as identifying concrete/tarmac that could be removed. OV requested AB bring proposals and figures for the other airfields to the next board meeting for consideration. JT remarked that this project fulfilled both the historic and restoration elements of the HLS agreement. NW informed the board that the concrete/tarmac

Action AB

removal at Stoney Cross had not yet been started.

CPRE

AB reported that a possible meeting with the CPRE still needs to be followed up.

RESUME
Action AB

NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE INQUIRY

JT updated the board that NE has responded to the NAO's correspondence and the inquiry is still on-going.

RESUME

PROGRAMME REGISTER AND SUMMARY

The board studied the updated programme register. NW informed the board that the upcoming quarter was due to be very busy with the estimated costs being updated as projects are completed and that the figures include the proposed ridge and furrow project. Monitoring serials have been updated to include monitoring pre and post project. JT asked for the work of HLS and HLF to be kept separate

RESUME

HLS PRESCRIPTION REVIEW

JT informed the board that the OV has signed the revised management plan and it has now been submitted to NE for amendment. A new agreement will be issued once the amendments have been made. AB raised concern that the reduction in funding for the educational visits would have a negative effect on the NPA and the Visitor centre's plans for the year as the work plans were already in place and this amendment came after the start of the financial year. AB commented that not enough was being done for education and a discussion should be had on how to approach the education element across the whole HLS scheme. JT explained that the amendment was necessary as it was a mandatory prescription but she would continue to look into it.

RESUME

Action JT

FC UPDATE

NW gave an update on the FC projects, reporting that these were running on time with August and September being a critical time for works to be completed although it is always weather dependant. Rhododendron work is on-going.

RESUME

VERGE RESTORATION OFFICER

NW gave the board an update on the recruitment of a Verge Restoration Officer. An offer has now been made to an internal candidate who it is hoped will be in post by the end of the Summer.

STUMPS AND RIDGE AND FURROW REMOVAL

E&I Officer to produce a press release on the ridge and furrow work once completed to highlight the positive restoration of heathland from plantation. OV suggested it was a good opportunity for a CDA led story.

STUDY INTO THE PONIES EATING THE BARK OF BEECH TREES

NW reported that the study is on-going. It was noted that any activity would be likely to appear in the Autumn. RS commented that he hoped the issue has been eradicated since the removal of the ponies. OV noted that the study would highlight whether it was a localised or forest wide problem.

LAND ADVICE SERVICE WRITTEN UPDATE

The board studied the latest update from the NFLAS They concurred how happy they were with the services supplied by the NFLAS, they had been a massive help to commoners with their 2017 BPS applications and issues with the RPA. The courses put on by the LAS have been very successful and their services have had a wide

impact across the forest. The board offered a big thank you to the NFLAS team for all their hard work and dedication.

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER WRITTEN REPORT

NW commented that it is proving successful having Matt Stroud visit Queens' House regularly. AB noted the reliance of any communications person being fed information to release.

LIDAR WRITTEN UPDATE

The board were supplied with an update on the Lidar analysis to study. AB asked about the possibility of a second flight at the end of the agreement term to analyse and monitor the progress of the projects undertaken. JT commented it would need to demonstrate value for money. AB noted its uses around ecology are still being revealed and that it would help with future decisions. JT said it needs to fit to the objectives of the agreement but agreed that the information from the first flight had been invaluable. OV asked if it could be included as monitoring. AB felt it would help towards future schemes. AB said she would bring more information to the next board meeting.

SAMS WRITTEN UPDATE

The board studied a short update on the Monument Conservation. It was confirmed that the SAMs is now managed internally at the FC and no further reports are required by the board.

HIWWT WRITTEN UPDATE

The update was read by the board. The board again thanked Catherine Chatters and her team for all their hard work battling against non-native species.

AOB

Prior to the meeting the board carried out a site view of Millersford and decided more preparatory work needed to be undertaken before any decision could be made.

RESUME

Mr Pasmore had requested the consideration of fixed point photography as a tool to monitor receding heather. NW informed the board that fixed point photography would not be the most effective method of recording. OV asked if LiDAR would show the heather. AB offered to find out if it could. JT & NW agreed to look at on-going monitoring studies if Mr Pasmore was able to supply the areas of concern.

Action AB
Action JT &
NW

The board were asked to consider a bid for part funding towards Social Media training. The board asked for more information to be supplied to JT outlining how the need for this training would comply with HLS objectives. TW to request information from Lyndsey Stride.

Action TW

Meeting closed at 2.15pm

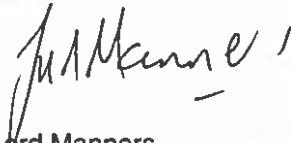
DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

4th October 2017 at 9am – Queens House, Lyndhurst

10th January 2018 at 9am – Queens House, Lyndhurst

4th April 2018 at 2pm – Queens House – followed by HLS AGM 5.30pm

Delegated Actions to		
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Adviser New Forest - Natural England (NE)
Tina Woodley	TW	Verderers' Grazing Scheme Administrator
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager



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