



Verderers of the New Forest
 THE QUEEN'S HOUSE
 LYNDHURST
 HAMPSHIRE
 SO43 7NH

Telephone: 023 8028 3134
 Fax: 023 8028 3101

Official Verderer
 Dominic May

5th August 2016

MINUTES OF THE HLS BOARD MEETING HELD ON 3rd August 2016

Voting Members		
Dominic May	OV	Official Verderer – Verderers of the New Forest (Chairman)
Alison Barnes	AB	Chief Executive – New Forest National Park Authority
Bruce Rothnie	BR	Deputy Surveyor – Forestry Commission
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
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contract Manager – Forestry Commission
In Attendance		
Samantha Luther	SL	VGS Administrator taking minutes

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Graham Ferris CDA

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

OV is a commoner & a member of the VGS; & 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.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

LiDAR Analysis of Tarmac and Concrete on Open Forest.

AB has not yet received the LiDAR analysis of the tarmac and concrete on the open forest. SL to contact LSh to get an update.

Action SL

Sports Clubs

Paul Grugeon has not yet met with the sports clubs which failed to attend the previous cross compliance training. BR to chase PG.

Action BR

Bracken Management

OV reiterated GF's request for a report showing target and actual figures for 2014 and 2015.

Action SLM

HLS Archaeology

The Parliamentary Ombudsman has not upheld the complaint regarding the methods the FC used to protect archaeology during HLS work.

LiDAR exhibition underspend

At the last board meeting, a LiDAR exhibition underspend of £1,100 was discussed. Lsh would like to use the underspend to create two more 3D prints. JT agreed that this is a valid use of HLS funds, and the board approved the funding.

Dates for future meetings

BR requests to move the October board meeting forward by one week. Dates to be discussed.

Action SL

Latchmoor Railway Embankment

Following the site visit, the board agreed that the area would benefit from being returned to Open Forest. Unfortunately the area has been missed off the mapping for the HLS scheme area. JT and AMcD to investigate as to whether it is possible to add this to the HLS.

Action JT
and AMcD

BR and Lucy Andrews to generate costing's for fence clearance. The FC will clarify with the golf club their responsibility, and survey the condition of the golf club fence to ensure it is stock proof.

Action F
and LA

Public Disclosure of HLS accounts.

Following a request from a member of the public for a copy of the HLS accounts, the OV suggested to the board that they should be published on the website for the public record. Members of the board were in agreement that the accounts should be published on the website to show transparency, and it was decided to upload all accounts back to year one 2010/11.

Public Disclosure of a Full List of Wetland Restorations.

Following a discussion in the Verderers' Court, a suggestion was put forward to make available a full list of wetland restoration sites. JT explained that the sites are assessed annually, and that depending on condition, proposed works may be deferred or cancelled. Sometimes sites are found not to be eroding as rapidly as initially thought, or they may be found to be recovering without intervention.

JT commented that she has received funding to create a Wetland Restoration Strategy. The funding will be passed to SLM to carry out the work.

JT added that the strategy would explain the reasons behind which sites are chosen for wetland restoration.

OV suggested a short form list, by year with site names listed, with a caveat that sites are inspected annually, and subject to condition. The site restoration may be deferred or cancelled as appropriate.

Action SLM

Latchmore Wetland Restoration

A planning application has been submitted for the full catchment at Latchmore.

EA and NFDC have written with their full support. JT commented that Latchmore Shade is currently very species poor, but ironically is also the most objected part of the project. It would be unfortunate not to complete this element of the project as so much gravel is being washed away, that in places it is so shallow that fish are compromised. NW will be hosting a site visit with Hyde Parish Council, at which Sarah Young will explain the EIA.

Holly Management Trial

SLM put forward a proposal for a further holly management trial to compare pollarding and coppicing at a further 6 sites, following a successful trial at two sites in 2015. The board

agreed to fund the trial. The proposal should be presented to the September Court to request Verderers' consent. BR to confirm who will undertake the monitoring of the trial. JT would be interested to see if pollarding or coppicing is more successful.

Action BR

FC UPDATE

Crockford

The timber is still on site at Crockford. Contract is being drawn up to clear the timber. Clearance has been delayed due to ground conditions and ground nesting birds.

Specialist Survey Contract

OV has asked that on the programme register each species survey is displayed on a separate line.

Action SLM

Terrestrial Restoration Plan

JT comments that Pikes Hill is full of Sweet Chestnut, which is non-native, and needs removal in order to return the pasture woodland to a favourable condition

Action JT and SLM.

Verge Restoration

JT asks that verge restoration projects be cleared with NE as some verges may contain rare species.

Ditching at Beaulieu Road

The ditching alongside Beaulieu Road is not to proceed, as the contractual obligation has passed.

Action NW

SSSI Units

SLM to clarify to JT and OV if the inclosures named are included in the HLS area, and prepare an updated list excluding those areas outside of the HLS area.

Action SLM

Model to Represent Wetland Restoration.

The board agreed that they were favourable to the Tweed Forum model rather than the Ribble Rivers Trust model. The Tweed Forum model is more professional, would be a bespoke design and seems more robust. As the cost is significantly higher by comparison to the other model, JT has asked that references are sought from other users. The board feels a schedule should be devised with the Communications team to ensure the model is used and displayed.

Action SLM

Swan Green Cricket Pavilion

The board agreed funding of the restoration to Open Forest post demolition.

Study into the Ponies Eating the Bark of Beech Trees.

GF has suggested a study to understand why the ponies are eating the bark off of the beech trees. JT confirmed the study can be funded with HLS money as it is in the interests of protecting the SSSI. The study needs to be completed by an external provider to the Forest in order to be objective. It should identify whether the problem is behavioural or related to a nutritional deficiency. BR commented that the FC now has maps detailing where the damaged trees are.

Action SLM

VERGE RESTORATION PROJECT

OV asked AB to point out to SK that the HLS Verge Protection Project is focussed on protecting over run by vehicles on narrow roads on the Open Forest.

Hale and Hyde are owned by Hampshire County Council and National Trust. Could those verges be restored by HCC and NT from their HLS funds? JT will check if those verges are in HLS.

Action JT

OV had a meeting and a site visit to the road across Bloomy Plain from Milkham to the Red Shoot with Cllr Humby and Tim Lawton of HCC. HCC have an interest in improving the road, and Cllr Humby agreed to design a scheme. To re-create the single track road, with passing places and dragon's teeth, much like at Emery Down. But with longer passing places to allow lorries and trailers to pass. The design of the road will include stepping at the edges, which will then be overlaid with verge. This will aid recovery of the verge whilst supporting the road. JT to consider the materials to be used for the stepping at the side of the road. JT to consider if the passing places could be Tarmac or must they be gravel as they will be on SSSI.

Action JT.

PROGRAMME REGISTER AND SUMMARY

Revised forecast to be completed on the VGS serials. All years of the programme to be included in future meeting papers.

Action SL

ENGAGEMENT AND INTERPRETATION OFFICER REPORT

The proposal for next year from MS included a request for an increased budget. The board agreed to continue funding as per 2016 at £21,700 for 2017. The Board requests that MS regularly visits Queens' House to work more closely with the FC HLS team.

Action AB

AOB

UK leaving the EU

Currently there is no Natural England policy for the HLS once the UK has left the EU. The OV has asked for an update so that he can make an announcement it at the September Court.

Action JT

New Forest Wetland Restoration Review

Bruce Rothnie informed the board that at the last Consultative Panel meeting Richard Clarke expressed an interest in a meeting to discuss the New Forest Wetland Restoration Review, written by The River Restoration Centre and Jonathan Cox Associates in July 2015. The document details the success of Wetland Restoration Schemes. AB suggested inviting a guest speaker from another catchment restoration, such as the River Avon, Test or Itchen, to share its positive experience too. The board agreed that such a discussion would be helpful.

DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- 5th October 2016 at 9am
- 11th January 2017 at 9am
- 5th April 2017 at 2pm followed by AGM at 5.30pm

Delegated Actions to		
Dominic May	OV	Official Verderer.
Sonia Lorenzo-Martin	SLM	Head of Planning and Environment, FC
Nick Wardlaw	NW	HLS Contracts Manager, FC
Bruce Rothnie	BR	Deputy Surveyor, FC
Jenny Thomas	JT	Lead Advisor New Forest, NE
Andy McDonald	AMcD	Team Leader, NE
Matt Stroud	MS	Engagement and Interpretation Officer, NFNPA
Lucy Andrews	LA	HLS Works Supervisor, FC
Samantha Luther	SL	VGS Administrator, Verderers'

Dominic May
Official Verderer